Wawona Hotel Complex

Yosemite National Park

Cultural Landscape Report



August 2012

Part 1 and Part 2

National Park Service, Yosemite National Park
Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

MUNDUS BISHOP

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MUNDUS BISHOP

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CLR Executive Summary

CLR Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The Wawona Hotel Complex in Yosemite National Park is the largest existing late-Victorian hotel within a national park, and continues to provide the same visitor services it has for the last 100 years. Located near the south entrance into the park, Wawona Hotel is a picturesque historic resort destination consisting of seven Victorian buildings oriented along the four cardinal directions, and a formal landscape nestled into a mountainous setting. The complex includes two landscape character areas—Wawona Hotel and its grounds, and the Wawona Golf Course.

This Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is the primary document that will be used to guide management and stewardship of the cultural landscape of the Wawona Hotel Complex study area (Figure 1-2). This CLR presents detailed documentation of the Wawona Hotel Complex's historical development, evaluation of existing conditions (good, fair and poor), analysis and evaluation of landscape characteristics, and recommendations for treatment.

The Wawona Hotel Complex is within the broader landscape of the Wawona Basin, which has historically attracted people for its spectacular natural setting, protected valley, and abundance of water and natural resources. One early homesteader, Galen Clark, built the first simple hostelry / stage stop in 1857, strategically located along the stage road into Yosemite Valley, near the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, and adjacent to the South Fork of the Merced River. By 1875, the property was sold to Henry Washburn, who with his family transformed the stage stop into a hotel resort destination over the next 40 years. The Washburn family built the characteristic hotel, buildings, and grounds beginning in 1875. By 1917 Clarence Washburn (Henry's nephew) had transformed the complex into a hotel resort, adding the luxurious Hotel Annex, tennis court, croquet area, fountains and swimming tank, and the 18-hole golf course in a portion of the Wawona Meadow. The resort had become a destination as the trip to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias could be made in one day (versus the several day trip required with stage coach travel). The Washburn's sold Wawona Hotel to the National Park Service in 1932, and the lands were included in the Yosemite National Park boundary the same year.[1] By 1939, the Wawona Road was asphalt-paved, popularizing the south entrance to the park and providing easy access to the hotel.[2]

The Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio is a designated National Historic Landmark district (1987 NHL), and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1975 NRHP). The district is nationally significant in the area of art, regionally significant in the areas of commerce, conservation, and transportation, and of local significance in the area of exploration and settlement. Although changes have occurred over time, those characteristics that shaped the complex historically are present today in much the same way as they were originally. The complex's contributing materials, features and spaces are essentially intact. As such, the Wawona Hotel Complex retains integrity of

[1] Sargent, Shirley. 2008. *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*. Yosemite, CA: Flying Spur Press, 69.
[2] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1940. *Annual Superintendent Report Yosemite National Park Fiscal Year 1940*. Yosemite National Park; Mariposa County; California, 11.

location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and is important to American architecture as one of the few remaining complex's in the United States with a high level of integrity.[3]

The recommended period of significance for the Wawona Hotel Complex spans from 1876 to 1939, and captures its transformation from stage stop to a destination resort hotel within a national park.

The beginning date of 1876 captures construction of the first extant building–the Long White Building, built by Henry Washburn. This period includes the construction of the buildings and landscape as a unified architectural complex, including the development of the hotel as a resort between the years of 1917 and 1920. The initial 1917 construction of the golf course is included, as are subsequent improvements to the course undertaken by the NPS and the Washburn family in the 1930s. The recommended period of significance includes the transfer of the property to the United States Government (1932), and other improvements made by the NPS during the 1930s such as the new Wawona Road, tennis court, and grading and erosion control. The recommended period of significance concludes in 1939 with the completion of Wawona Road (bituminous paving) through the Wawona Hotel Complex, creating the defining spatial organization.

Preservation is the treatment approach for the buildings, and cultural landscape of the Wawona Hotel Complex. This approach is well-suited, as the complex is a cultural landscape that has a continuity of use with few modifications since the end of the recommended period of significance (1876 to 1939). Preservation of the complex is appropriate as it concurs with the 1980 GMP for Yosemite National Park and NPS-28, Cultural Resources Management Guideline (CRMP1997), and is consistent with NPS policies, NPS director's orders, NPS guidelines and other existing park planning decisions.[4] Preservation is "the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and material of the historic property."[5]

Treatment under the preservation approach will include measures to protect or stabilize the property, and will focus on maintenance and repair of contributing features or spaces rather than extensive replacement or new construction. Preservation will also allow for "the limited and sensitive upgrading" of utility systems (mechanical, electrical and plumbing), and other code-required work to ensure the historic property is made functional.[6]

Preservation of the cultural landscape will be undertaken holistically with a full understanding of the complex and the inter-relationship of its features. Individual contributing features and spaces will be preserved, as will landscape characteristics that have been instrumental in shaping the land including land use, and patterns of spatial organization and circulation. This treatment approach will enable the NPS and concessionaire to preserve contributing

[3] Chappell, Gordon. 1975. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form for the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion*. San Francisco, CA: National Park Service, Western Regional Office.

[4] Each of these documents presents preservation as the most universally appropriate treatment.

[5] Robert R. Page, Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Polan. 1998. *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes and Techniques*. Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 82.

[6] Adapted from: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1995. *The Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, as amended and annotated 1995.

resources while accommodating continued use and related operations, as well as protecting natural systems.

Treatment recommendations for the Wawona Hotel Complex's landscape include preservation of archeological sites, spatial organization, views and vistas, circulation, topography and landform, buildings and structures, small scale features, and vegetation. Treatment recommendations are specific to each landscape characteristic. In general, treatment recommendations focus on the following.

- Preserve those features that contribute to the significance of the Wawona Hotel Complex, including archeological sites, buildings, structures, circulation, small scale features and vegetation through preservation, stabilization, restoration, and repair.
- Preserve the land use, topography and landform, spatial organization, and arrangement of the Wawona Hotel Complex as these qualities contribute to its historic character.
- Preserve natural systems and their associated cultural resources including tributaries of the South Fork of the Merced River, and the Wawona Meadow and Wawona Golf Course ditches.
- Provide an authentic experience with ease of access to historic buildings, parking and pedestrian circulation, and with greater connectivity to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, and the greater Wawona historic context.
- Preserve Wawona Golf Course as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, in a manner that preserves it as a cultural landscape.
- Address operational needs and code deficiencies such as accessibility, utility system and distribution, and fire and life safety in a manner that preserves the cultural landscape.

The striking character of the Wawona Hotel Complex landscape provides an unparalleled glimpse into this late-Victorian hotel resort. Continued maintenance and preservation will protect the historic landscape character, and continue to foster understanding and appreciation of the cultural landscape.

CLR Introduction

CLR Introduction

Introduction

This document presents the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Wawona Hotel Complex, which includes the hotel grounds and the Wawona Golf Course. This CLR presents detailed documentation of the Wawona Hotel Complex's historical development, evaluation of existing conditions (good, fair and poor), analysis and evaluation of landscape characteristics, and preparation of treatment recommendations.

This CLR builds upon the numerous studies, investigations, and documents that exist for the Wawona Hotel Complex as a significant component of Yosemite National Park. These studies include the 1975 National Register of Historic Places district nomination (NRHP),[1] 1978 National Register of Historic Places for the Wawona Archeological District nomination form,[2] 1987 National Historic Landmark nomination (NHL),[3] 1980 General Management Plan for Yosemite National Park,[4] 1983 Historic Structures Report for Wawona Hotel,[5] and 1998 Wawona Hotel Complex: Landscape Assessment[6] amongst others.



The CLR is the primary document used to guide management and stewardship of the cultural landscape, and to inform treatment and maintenance of the grounds associated with the Wawona Hotel Complex. Treatment recommendations provide guidance related to repair and preservation as well as to remedy code deficiencies associated with ADA compliance, utility upgrades, and fire and life safety issues.

The CLR is funded by Delaware North Companies (DNC), the park concessionaire; however, it represents a joint effort between the National Park Service (NPS) and DNC. This CLR is for the use of the NPS and the park concessionaire (current and future). The intent of the CLR is to provide a holistic and integrated guidance document that addresses the operational needs of the concessionaire while also recognizing that the mission of the NPS, as the owner of the Wawona Hotel Complex, is to ensure that long-term preservation and stewardship objectives are met to the maximum extent practicable.

[1] Laura S. Harrison. 1975. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form for the Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio*. Santa Fe, NM: NPS – Southwest Regional Office.
[2] Keith Anderson and Nancy S. Hammack. 1977. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form: Wawona Archeological District.* San Francisco, CA. NPS –Western Regional Office.
[3] Chappell, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory* (NHL).
[4] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. September 1980. *General Management Plan: Yosemite National Park*. Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS.
[5] Anthony Crosby and Nick Scrattish. 1983. *Historic Structure Report, Design and Installation of a Fire Detection and Suppression System: Wawona Hotel*, Yosemite National Park, California. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Publishing Library.
[6] Carey & Co. Inc. Architecture. February 1998. *Wawona Hotel Complex Condition Assessment, Wawona Hotel Complex: Landscape.* Yosemite, CA. U.S. Department of Interior, NPS.



Figure 1-1. The Wawona Hotel Complex is the largest extant Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with a high level of integrity (MBD).

Project Summary

The Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio is a designated National Historic Landmark (1987 NHL). It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1975 NRHP) as nationally significant in the area of art, regionally significant in the areas of commerce, conservation, and transportation, and of local significance in the area of exploration and settlement.

It is important to American architecture as the largest existing Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with a high level of integrity.[7]

The purpose of this project is the preparation of a comprehensive Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the historic Wawona Hotel Complex, located within the Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio National Historic District in Yosemite National Park. The CLR identifies landscape characteristics and features that convey the historical significance and character of the district, and provides holistic and integrated guidance for the long-term preservation and stewardship of the cultural landscape.

The necessity for a CLR for the Wawona Hotel Complex is mandated under the directives of the NPS Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management (DO 28). According to both federal law and NPS *Management Policies*, historic landscapes in which the National Park Service has a legal interest are to be managed as cultural resources, and every landscape feature is to receive full consideration for its historical values whenever a decision is made that might affect its integrity. Chapter Seven of the DO 28 document deals with the Management of Cultural Landscapes such as the Wawona Hotel Complex, and identifies a Cultural Landscape Report as the primary guide to treatment and use of a cultural landscape.[8]

[7] Chappel, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory*.

[8] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1998. *Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management.* DO 28 notes that a CLR shall be prepared for a landscape that is managed as a cultural resource, and that in no case should restoration, reconstruction, or extensive rehabilitation of any landscape be undertaken without at least Part One of a CLR being prepared and approved by the NPS.

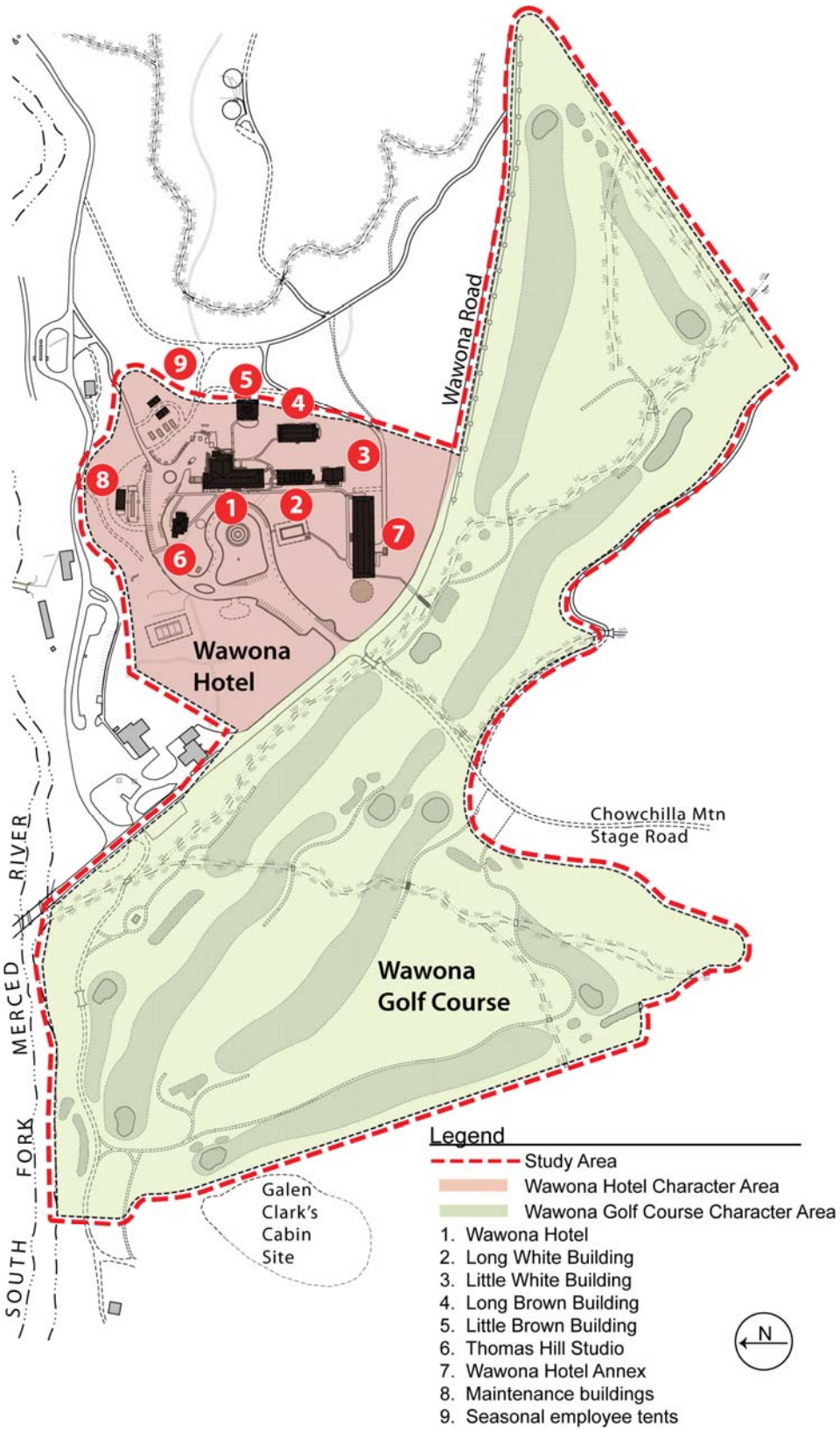


Figure 1-2. The Wawona Hotel Complex study area corresponds to the management boundary operated by the concessionaire, and consists of two landscape character areas–Wawona Hotel and Wawona Golf Course (MBD).

Study Area and Landscape Character Areas

The Wawona Hotel Complex is a nationally significant late-Victorian resort located in the southern portion of Yosemite National Park (Figure 1-3). The complex is part of the greater Wawona community. Set within the u-shaped bowl known as Wawona Basin, the complex is sheltered from the region's extreme climatic conditions, and is located adjacent to the South Fork of the Merced River. The abundant water supplied by the river, combined with the sheltered landscape of Wawona Basin, historically attracted people to the area, as it does today.

The Wawona Hotel Complex is a popular resort destination, providing similar visitor services for more than 100 years. The study area is characterized on the north by the formally arranged hotel grounds that are set on a natural plateau above the river, and nestled into a sloping hillside. To the south and across Wawona Road, is the Wawona Golf Course that is set within the gently sloping terrain of the Wawona Meadow.

The boundaries of the study area (Figure 1-2) correspond to the management boundary operated by the concessionaire. The north boundary extends along the South Fork of the Merced River at the Wawona Golf Course, until it reaches Wawona Road, where it follows the road to the east side of Wawona Gas Station. At that point, the boundary follows the top of the ridge above the South Fork of the Merced River. The east boundary extends along a line located just east of the Little Brown Building until it reaches Wawona Road. At that point the boundary follows Wawona Road to the east and along the fence that separates the Wawona Golf Course from the Wawona Meadow. The south boundary generally follows the southern edge of the golf course, and the west boundary generally follows the west edge of the golf course.

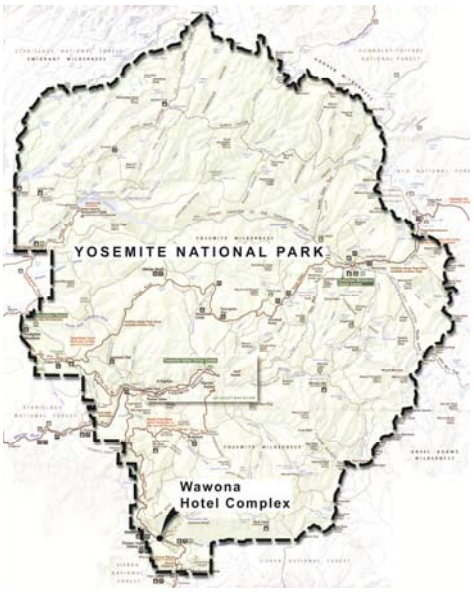


Figure 1-3. Wawona Hotel Complex within Yosemite National Park.

The Wawona Hotel Complex is organized into two landscape character areas—Wawona Hotel and Wawona Golf Course (Figure 1-2). Each landscape character area is defined by its physical qualities and land use.

Wawona Hotel

Wawona Hotel is the largest intact late-Victorian hotel within a national park, and continues to serve travelers seeking a quieter, more subdued atmosphere and simpler accommodations than offered within Yosemite Valley. The Wawona Hotel landscape character area comprises the north portion of the study area, and is located north of Wawona Road overlooking the Wawona Golf Course. This landscape character area encompasses all the buildings, structures, features and landscape associated with the hotel and resort accommodations including lodging, and recreational amenities.

Wawona Hotel is a formally arranged site where buildings and landscape create a unified architectural complex. The hotel grounds consist of seven buildings set into the sloping terrain and arranged along the four cardinal directions to provide a formal setting consistent with the hotel's historic character. The circulation system of the hotel grounds, along with its structures and features support this formal arrangement, and provide Wawona Hotel with its unique character.

The Wawona Hotel landscape character area's buildings include Wawona Hotel, Long White Building (Clark Cottage), Little White Building (Manager's Cottage), Long Brown Building (Washburn Cottage), Little Brown Building (Moore Cottage), Thomas Hill Studio (Hill Studio), and Wawona Hotel Annex (Hotel Annex). Ancillary buildings include maintenance buildings and seasonal employee tents.

The cultural landscape includes the formal entrance drive with central fountain, walkways throughout the hotel grounds, structures such as the swimming tank and tennis court, and vegetation.

Wawona Golf Course

The Wawona Golf Course is the south portion of the study area, and continues to serve as an active course and an integral experience of the hotel resort as it has since 1917. The golf course is located south of Wawona Road adjacent to the Wawona Meadow on the east, and to the South Fork of the Merced River on the west.

The Wawona Golf Course is an Audubon-certified nine-hole golf course, consisting of greens, fairways, and tees integrated into the natural topography of Wawona Meadow. Long open, level fairways, are defined by rolling topography and evergreen tree massings, which also frame views of the surrounding mountain peaks, and Wawona Hotel.

The Wawona Golf Course landscape character area includes all features of the golf course as noted above as well as structures, golf cart paths, bridges, culverts, ditches and tributaries, and portions of Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road.

Report Methodology

This CLR is conducted at a thorough level of investigation and documentation for historical research, existing condition assessment, landscape analysis, and treatment recommendations. The thorough level research methodology, as defined by the National Park Service (NPS), focuses on the use of select documentation of known and presumed relevance, including primary and secondary sources that are easily available.[9]

The thorough level existing conditions investigation for the Wawona Hotel Complex is conducted according to best practices. A review of readily available documentation was undertaken, and included information from Delaware North Companies (DNC), National Park Service (NPS), and National Park Service's Technical Information Center (TIC). This review included planning documents, administrative reports, technical reports, and natural resource studies and guidelines. Review of historical documentation included the NRHP and NHL nominations for the Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio District as well as historic drawings and photographs available from primary and secondary sources. Archival research was undertaken at the Yosemite Archives in El Portal, and the Yosemite Research Library in the Yosemite Valley on select topics.

Background information provided by DNC and NPS was used to prepare the CLR drawings. This information included the 1983 Wawona Group Site Plan, topographic GIS PDF information, GIS database, and NPS current AutoCAD data. Archeological research included review of archeological reports, site records, and monitoring and test excavation reports documenting investigations performed in and around the Wawona Hotel Complex.

Site investigations occurred in March, April, and June 2011 to document existing conditions of the Wawona Hotel and Wawona Golf Course. Investigations did not include archeological techniques to locate buried ruins or artifacts.

Management Summary

Management

The Wawona Hotel Complex is owned by the National Park Service (NPS), and managed through a concessionaire contract. The current concessionaire is the Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc. (DNC), who provide daily operations and maintenance for the Wawona Hotel and Wawona Golf Course. NPS provides utilities for water and sanitary sewer, and maintenance for these utilities.

Current management goals include maintaining the Wawona Hotel Complex as a nineteenth-century Victorian hotel for visitors and multi-generational families. This experience encourages visitors to sit on the veranda, walk the grounds, and meet other guests as you would if visiting during the historic period. The knowledgeable staff shares the history of the hotel with guests, which is an important experience. Other experiences include easy access to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, Glacier Point, and Badger Pass Ski Area.

The management of the Wawona Hotel Complex is generally guided by the 1980 General Management Plan for Yosemite National Park (1980 GMP), and the 1992 Concessions Services Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (1992 Plan and EIS). Additional guiding documents include the Archeological Synthesis and Research

[9] Page et al. *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes and Techniques*.

Design for Yosemite National Park (1999 ASRD).[10] In addition, the NPS is undergoing planning for the Merced River, which was designated a Wild and Scenic River in 1987, requiring that management within this planning area must take this designation into account.[11]

- The 1980 GMP's goal for cultural resources is to: "Preserve, restore, or protect significant cultural resources (historic and prehistoric)," and the objective for meeting this goal is "to provide for the preservation, restoration, or protection of these significant cultural resources."[12] For the Wawona Hotel Complex, the 1980 GMP emphasized the site's historic mountain resort character, serene atmosphere, friendly people, and gracious service, noting "the historic hotel complex provides an experience available nowhere else in the Sierra Mountains."[13] Recommendations from the 1980 GMP included increasing accommodations to 145 overnight units by utilizing historic structures and adding a new structure compatible with the historic district. The1980 GMP recommended retaining the Thomas Hill Studio, golf course, YP&CC stables, tennis court and swimming pool, building a 145-car parking area north of the complex, removing parking from the front of the hotel, and providing 50 day use parking spaces.
- The 1992 Concessions Services Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (1992 Plan and EIS) stated "concession action items of the 1980 General Management Plan would be implemented with certain revisions… the 1980 GMP plan would be amended for concession services action items only."[14] The 1992 Plan and EIS amended the 1980 GMP with recommendations to primarily preserve the Wawona Hotel Complex, emphasizing that no expansion of rooms or parking at the Wawona Hotel would occur, and accommodations would remain at existing levels.
- The 1999 Archeological Synthesis and Research Design (1999 ASRD) is the guiding document for archeological resources within Yosemite National Park. The document includes both a synthesis of archeological knowledge, and recommendations for future research. Comprising the research design portions of the document are domain-specific interpretations of data suggestions for future research topics and methods. The synthesis and critical evaluation provide a basis for proposing new and refined research problems, questions, and methods to guide future archeological studies in the park.[15] The report includes known archeological resources/sites within the Wawona Hotel Complex and recommendations of additional research and methods for handling these archeological sites in the future.[16]
- In 1987, the U.S. Congress designated the Merced River a Wild and Scenic River. The Merced River and its tributaries through and below Wawona are included in this designation. As such, the NPS is preparing the Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan/EIS for

[10] Kathleen Hull and Michael Moratto. 1999. *Archeological Synthesis and Research Design, Yosemite National Park, CA.* Yosemite Research Publications in Anthropology No. 21, CA: National Park Service, xi.
[11] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2011b. *Yosemite National Park: Merced River Plan*. http://www.nps.gov/yose/naturescience/mrp.htm.
[12] U.S. Department of the Interior, *GMP: Yosemtie National Park*, 8.
[13] Ibid, 55-60.
[14] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. August 1992. *Final Concession Services Plan Environmental Impact Statement: Supplement to Final Environmental Impact Statement for General Management Plan.*
[15] Hull et al. *Archeological Synthesis and Research Design, Yosemite National Park, CA.*
[16] Ibid.

the 81miles of the river within Yosemite National Park.[17] Once completed, the plan will guide future management of activities in the river corridor, which may influence planning within the Wawona Hotel Complex.

Several other planning directives influence the management of the Wawona Hotel Complex, including the 2010 Scenic Vista Management Plan for Yosemite National Park (2010 SVMP), and the 2010 Invasive Plant Management Plan Update (2010 IPMP).

- The purpose of the Scenic Vista Management Plan (2010 SVMP) for Yosemite National Park is the protection of the park's scenic vistas. The plan's goals are to document, protect, and reestablish Yosemite's important viewpoints and vistas "consistent with the natural processes and human influences that created them."[18] The plan identifies five alternatives for addressing the encroaching vegetation that is obscuring many vistas within the park. The plan states how to treat and prioritize vistas, and the extent and intensity of treatment each vista should receive. While the plan does not single out vistas important to the Wawona landscape and notes the area as a low priority view, it does acknowledge the importance of views significant to the Wawona Hotel Complex as a cultural resource.[19] In the majority of the alternatives, an annual work plan would outline the year's goals for reestablishing and protecting views. The annual work plan would review and identify views to be restored, taking into consideration cultural resources. The annual work plan would provide a framework to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential adverse effects to historic structures and cultural landscapes that might occur due to view reestablishment. If adverse effects could not be avoided or mitigated, the vista would not be managed.[20]
- The 2010 Invasive Plant Management Plan Update (2010 IPMP) was developed in response to threats from non-native invasive species in Yosemite National Park's natural resources, and sought to control the encroachment of non-natives. The purpose of the 2010 IPMP was to provide resource managers greater flexibility in responding to threats by non-native invasive plants. The new program, outlined by the 2010 IPMP, will employ an integrated pest management approach to detect, control, and prevent invasive plants from spreading into un-infested areas.[21] Treatment methods are primarily manual and mechanical, including hand pulling and cutting using non-motorized equipment. However, the 2010 IPMP allows for the use of two herbicides, glyphosate and aminopyralid, to be used as necessary to control the highest priority invasive plant populations.[22] Species targeted for control include velvet grass, bull thistle, mullein, yellow star thistle, spotted knapweed, perennial pepperweed, purple vetch, rose and burr clovers, himalayan blackberry, white and yellow sweet clover, non-native wildflowers, and escaped ornamental plants.[23] The 2010

[17] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. *Yosemite National Park: Merced River Plan.*
[18] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2010d. *Scenic Vista Management Plan for Yosemite National Park: Environmental Assessment*, v. Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS.
[19] Ibid, v.
[20] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Scenic Vista Management Plan for Yosemite National Park: Environmental Assessment*, Table III-1, 67.
[21] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2010b. *Invasive Plant Management Plan Update: Environmental Assessment.* Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS.
[22] Ibid.
[23] Ibid.

IPMP does not state specifically any plans for Wawona; however, work to control invasive plants has been undertaken within the Wawona Hotel Complex and adjacent meadow. Where hydrologic conditions permit its use and cover is less than 50%, herbicide has been used on velvet grass; in other locations weeds have been pulled by hand.

Management Issues

The following summarizes management issues identified as part of the research, inventory and evaluation of the Wawona Hotel Complex's cultural landscape. Treatment recommendations to assist in addressing these management issues are presented in CLR Part 2. Treatment.

Loss of Spatial Relationships and Views Diminish the Historic Setting

The historic setting of the Wawona Hotel Complex included several views and vistas that have deteriorated over time. These include views between the hotel and golf course, and from the hotel grounds to surrounding peaks and the larger Wawona area. Views have diminished due to vegetation overgrowth and encroachment into areas that were historically open.

Specifically, the growth of vegetation has obscured views between the hotel and golf course, and of the mountain peak, Wawona Dome, east of the Wawona Hotel. The north edge of the grounds was historically more open with views between Wawona Hotel and Wawona Covered Bridge. Today, the north edge is dense evergreen trees and understory plantings (particularly on the slope), a condition that was not present historically. Vegetation within the forecourt and courtyard has grown and matured, obscuring views between the buildings.

Vehicular Circulation and Parking Detract from Historic Setting

Parking has been a component of the hotel grounds since automobiles were allowed into Yosemite National Park. However, certain areas of parking occur where there was not parking historically, and in some cases detracts from Wawona Hotel's historic character as they occur within historic views and vistas. These areas include portions of the entrance drive, especially along the west loop, where parking interrupts the historic sequence of views towards the hotel, and the views between the hotel and golf course.

Circulation on the north edge of the hotel grounds generally follows the historic routes and road alignments. However, parking for visitors and staff is ill-defined and confusing, especially near the hotel, and in the area of the demolished Sequoia Hotel. Existing on-site parking is provided for hotel guests and staff, which park visitors also use at times. Guests and visitors sometimes park in areas not designated for parking. The additional use of the parking areas by those not associated with the hotel reduces the ability of the hotel to provide for guests. The current number of parking spaces should remain with some relocated to preserve Wawona Hotel's historic character, and for use only for hotel guests and staff. Parking for park visitors should be accommodated elsewhere at appropriate park trailheads, and within designated parking for Yosemite National Park facilities.

Security Lighting

Lighting is minimal throughout the site which adds to the ambience of the resort. However, adequate levels of lighting for pedestrian safety are necessary. Lighting in the parking areas currently provides a level of safety and security. Other portions of the site are lit by buildings and a few light posts. A dark area of the grounds occurs at the service area where guest and employee parking is located.

The 2010 Lighting Guidelines Final Draft 100% (2010 Lighting) considers parking areas and accessible paths of travel at the hotel to be high activity areas where adequate lighting is desired.[24] However, the use of lighting was limited historically. The addition of lighting may obstruct historic view corridors, and could negatively impact the historic character of the hotel.

Accessibility and Pedestrian Routes

The ABA (Architectural Barriers Act of 1968) requires universal access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with Federal funds. The 2004 ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines (ADA-ABA) should be utilized when undertaking alterations to the Wawona Hotel Complex as they are the most current standards. [25] The 2010 California Historical Building Code (CHBC) should also be utilized where appropriate to protect the integrity of the cultural landscape. The CHBC allows for variations in the accessibility guidelines that protect the historic fabric while achieving accessibility goals.[26]

The 2005 and 2008 Wawona ADA Transition Plan and Update (2005 ADA) provided recommendations for access to the buildings and features of the Wawona Hotel Complex. Some recommendations were completed, however, many were not. A few recommendations for the hotel grounds are still needed, particularly in providing accessible parking and pedestrian routes. Currently accessible parking spaces are provided at the hotel's front door, service area, and near the Hotel Annex. The current accessible pedestrian routes occur along the Main Walkway, connecting to the rear porch of the hotel, and connecting to the Hotel Annex at its northeast corner. To comply with ADA-ABA, accessible parking spaces and pedestrian routes should provide access to the hotels' main spaces and accessible rooms. In addition, stairs and ramps should meet current accessibility guidelines. Measures to provide accessibility should be undertaken in a manner that protects historic fabric.

[24] Benya Lighting Design. 2011. *Yosemite National Park Lighting Guidelines*. Yosemite National Park, CA.

[25] U.S. Access Board. 23 July 2004. *Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines.* Washington D.C. The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and establishes design requirements for the construction or alteration of facilities. In 1991, the Board (ADA) published the *ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)*, which served as the basis for enforceable standards. The ABA also maintained a set of guidelines which served as the basis for enforceable standards. In 2004, the ADA and the ABA jointly updated the guidelines for ABA facilities and ADA guidelines so a consistent level of accessibility was specified for both laws.

[26] California Building Standards Commission, 2010. *California Historical Building Code*. Washington, D.C.: International Code Council.

Underutilized Service Area Detracts from Historic Setting

The existing service area is on the north edge of the hotel grounds, adjacent to the kitchen and the hotel's rear entrance. A portion of this area was historically used for service, and a portion is within the area of the demolished Sequoia Hotel. The service area currently includes parking spaces, storage containers, trash and recycling dumpsters, an employee area including seasonal employee tents, and utilities: refrigeration, electrical distribution, fuel storage, and propane tanks. The existing condition detracts from the historic setting, as the current use extends into historically open areas, obscuring the historic form and topography that remains. The extents of the former Sequoia Hotel is underutilized due to vegetation encroachment that has reduced the size of the historically cleared area, and the installation and disorganization of equipment and storage.

Historic Recreational Facilities Need Repair

The swimming tank and tennis court serve as important recreational facilities to the complex. However, the condition of each is fair to poor, requiring measures to retain these as functioning, contemporary amenities as well as to protect them as cultural resources.

Protection, Preservation and Interpretation of Archeological Features

The Wawona Hotel Complex lies within a large prehistoric and historic landscape of archeological resources. It is important for protection, preservation and interpretation of these archeological resources to be part of any ground disturbing activities. Research design recommendations have been identified specific to the Wawona Hotel Complex.[27] "The research design identifies the range of cultural deposits and feature types likely to be present, and identifies areas where archaeological remains are most likely to be preserved. Regular use of the research design will ensure that project results are organized and reported logically and consistently, important research potentials are identified, recovery techniques are standardized, and data analysis methods are consistently applied to archaeological collections from the complex."[28]

Need for Code Compliant Utilities

Portions of the existing utility infrastructure do not meet current codes or have been damaged. The electrical system needs upgrading to be code compliant as does the sanitary sewer connection to the swimming tank. Overhead phone lines between buildings remain, although they are no longer in use, and a centralized heating system is needed.

[27] Research design recommendations related to the Wawona Hotel Complex can be referenced in the following documents:
Mary Clark Baloian, Douglas R. Harro, Wendy M. Nettles, and Randy Baloian. 2007. *Late Prehistoric Adaptations in Wawona: Archeological Data Recovery at CA-MRP-173/327/H, Yosemite National Park, California.*. Fresno, CA: Applied Earthworks, Inc.
and
Mary Clark Baloian, Wendy M. Nettles, Barry A. Price, and Dina M. Coleman. April 2004. *Archeological Investigations at the Wawona Hotel Complex, Yosemite National Park, California*. Fresno, CA: Applied Earthworks, Inc.

[28] Baloian et al. *Archeological Investigations at the Wawona Hotel Complex, Yosemite National Park, California*, 3.1.

Historic Plantings

Vegetation management for the hotel grounds requires a balance between preservation of historic vegetation and the maintenance or removal of vegetation that threatens the buildings or is considered to be invasive. The use of non-historic planters and placement of ornamental foundation plantings in areas not historically planted is common. Several historic trees are close to historic buildings and may need to be removed and replaced to protect building foundations.

Site Drainage

The hotel complex is on a steeply sloping site. Recent drainage improvements and foundation upgrades have directed drainage away from the buildings. However, additional drainage improvements may be necessary near some building foundations. Drainage improvements are also necessary on the southeast edge of the hotel grounds near the Long Brown Building and Little White Building, to divert drainage away from the buildings.

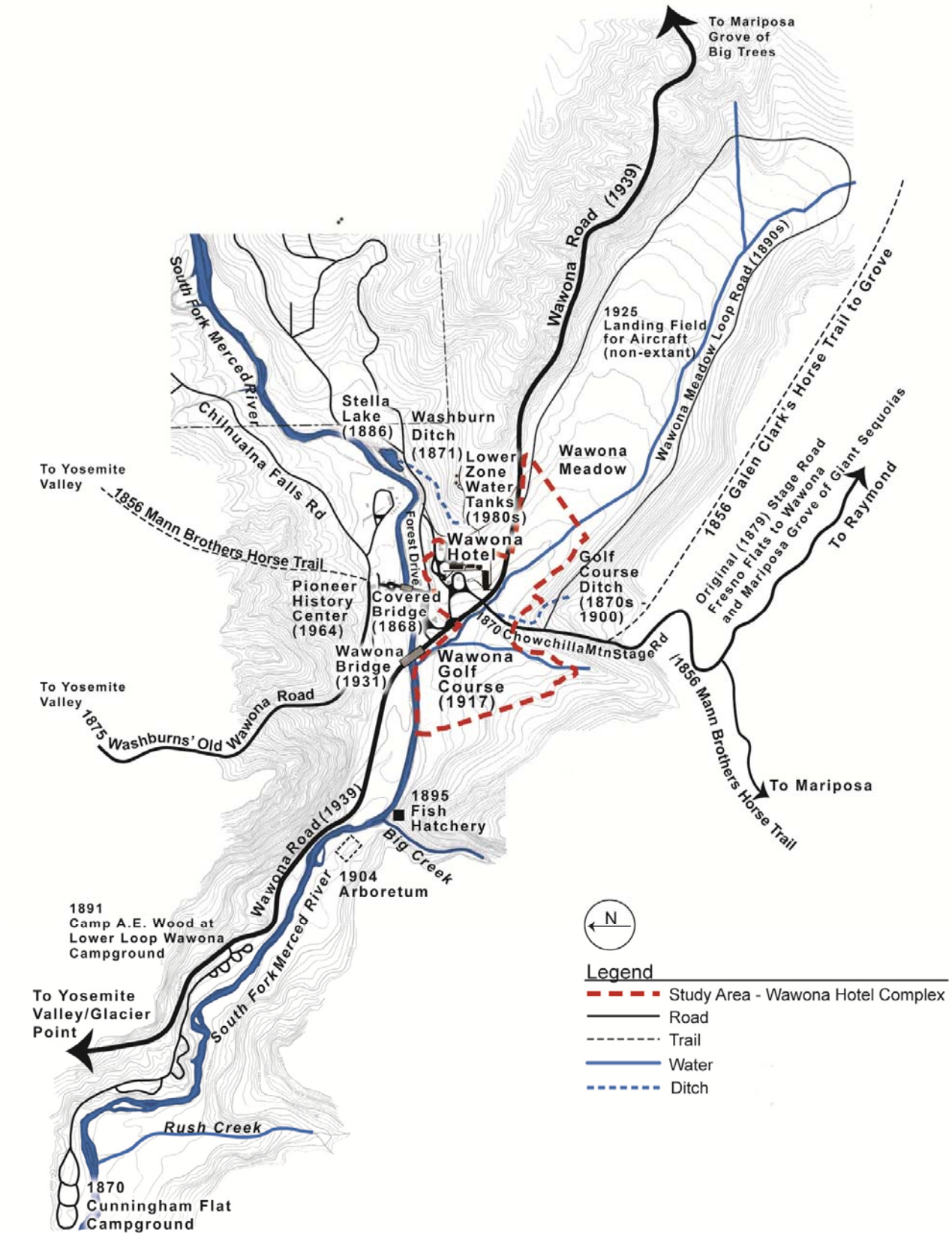


Figure 1-4. Wawona Historical Context.

Historical Overview

The historical overview provides a broad understanding of the influences of historical events of the Wawona Valley and Yosemite National Park that were influential in the development of the Wawona Hotel Complex.

The Wawona Hotel Complex occurs within the broader Wawona Basin and Yosemite National Park (Figure 1-4). Throughout its history, people have been attracted to the Wawona Basin, which has lead to its development– including homesteads, roads and trails, and the use of the South Fork of the Merced River and the Wawona Meadow for various activities. The neighboring attractions of the park, including the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, brought visitors to Wawona in increasing numbers throughout history, leading to the hotel's expansion and improvement.

The Wawona Hotel Complex is situated within the Wawona Basin, a geological form that anchors the southern end of Yosemite National Park. The Wawona Basin is bisected by the South Fork of the Merced River and is surrounded by verdant meadows and prominent ridges. The topography, forest, and riparian vegetation create a feeling of enclosure and protection. The Wawona Hotel Complex is situated within a meadow near the river, a location that has historically served as a convenient stop for visitors arriving to witness the spectacular scenery of the nearby Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and the Yosemite Valley.

Prior to Euro-American settlement, Wawona was inhabited by native peoples for several millennia. Native people from the Southern Miwok, North Fork Mono and Chukchansi groups claim historical and traditional associations with the Wawona area.[29]

The *Sequoia gigantea* in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, five miles southeast of the Wawona Hotel Complex, attracted visitors to the area which influenced the development of the hotel. By 1851, the initial Euro-American incursions into the area discovered the grove, and soon other rugged travelers arrived, attracted by the descriptions of the place.[30] The terrain into Yosemite challenged early visitors. The first major route into Wawona was the Mann Brothers Horse Trail, completed in 1856. It was the only trail into the Wawona Basin and the Yosemite Valley from the south and provided access to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.

One of the earliest settlers in the area was Galen Clark, who made a land claim in the Wawona Meadow in 1856. The open character of the meadow influenced Clark's decision to settle, for it provided sweeping views of the surrounding forests and mountain tops. The meadow was an ideal area for grazing pack animals and livestock, and the higher elevations were ideal for growing fruit trees and vegetables. Clark's settlement was situated along the Mann Brothers Horse Trail at its crossing of the South Fork of the Merced River.[31]

Clark established the first stage stop and hotel, named Clark's Station, at the present hotel site in 1857, and with the Mann Brothers began to explore and publicize the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.[32] In its convenient location, visitors stopped overnight at Clark's Station which, travel-wise, was about halfway from the

[29] Hull et al. *Archeological Synthesis and Research Design, Yosemite National Park, CA.*
[30] Carl P. Russell. 1959. *100 Years in Yosemite*, Yosemite National Park, CA: Yosemite Association, 40.
[31] Ibid, 6.
[32] Ibid, 7.

town of Mariposa on the only trail into the Yosemite Valley from the south and close to the giant sequoias.[33]

To provide a fully functioning stage stop and hotel, Clark surveyed and built a gravity flow ditch (Washburn Ditch), accessing water from the South Fork of the Merced River and transporting it to use for irrigation. [34] The ditch carried the water 1-1/2 miles northeasterly of Clark's Station (now the Wawona Hotel) to the hostelry/stage stop.[35]

Others were also settling within Wawona Basin and the Yosemite Valley at this time. Stephen Mandeville Cunningham, who in the 1870s filed numerous mining and grazing claims, catered to the increasing visitors by selling curios at the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, and offering tourists shelter in his cabin at the junction of the South Fork of the Merced River and Rush Creek, the current location of the Cunningham Flats Campground.[36,37]

The Yosemite Grant was established as a California State Park in 1864 to protect the natural wonders of the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.[38] From 1864 to 1905 these two uniquely grand areas, encompassing 20,000 acres, were administered and protected for the enjoyment of the people.[39] Galen Clark became the first guardian of the Yosemite Grant and served as protector for thirteen years.[40] Wawona was not yet included in the boundaries of the new park.

In 1868, Clark built an open log bridge over the South Fork of the Merced River, north of his hostelry/stage stop along the Mann Brothers Horse Trail.[41] The bridge (today's Wawona Covered Bridge) was built to facilitate wagons crossing the river. The completion of the bridge provided a better connection between the Yosemite Valley and accommodations at Wawona. The Mann Brothers Horse Trail was realigned south of Wawona by 1870. It was improved at the same time for stagecoach travel and renamed the Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road.

Galen Clark sold his land and buildings to Henry Washburn and partners in 1875. Henry began transforming the stage stop into a Victorian hotel, and by 1912 the hotel grounds consisted of six buildings arranged in a formal pattern on the gently sloping lawn above the Wawona Meadow. Between 1876 and 1912, the Washburn family improved the adjacent area as well, expanding the water system and establishing an orchard and garden to allow for a self-sustaining complex. Clark's irrigation ditch was improved by the Washburns to irrigate the garden and generate electricity for the hotel.[42] Water diverted from the river was moved through a series of flumes to the ditch and diversion boxes directed the water to either the hotel or meadow. [43] A tank approximately 1/2 mile above the hotel held spring-fed drinking water. Clark's improved ditch became known as the Washburn Ditch. [44] To add to the resort's self-sufficiency and recreational amenities, Stella Lake was constructed in 1886. The lake was created 1/4 mile upstream from the

[33] Sargent, Shirley. 1961. *Wawona's Yesterdays*. Published online at: http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/wawonas_yesterdays/. Accessed between July 9 to July 13, 2011.
[34] Crosby, *Historic Structure Report*, 363.
[35] Ibid, 365.
[36] The Washburns bought his land after his death in 1899 and held it until 1932. The site is today's Cunningham Flat campground.
[37] Sargent, Shirley. *Wawona's Yesterdays.*
[38] Russell, *One Hundred Years in Yosemite*.
[39] Sargent, Shirley. *Wawona's Yesterdays.*
[40] Ibid.
[41] Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). 1991. *Wawona Covered Bridge Yosemite National Park HAER No. CA-106*. Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 2.
[42] Carey & Co., *Wawona Hotel Complex Condition Assessment*, 7.
[43] Crosby et al, *Historic Structure Report*, 363.
[44] Linda Greene. 1987. *Yosemite: The Park and its Resources.*Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS, 363.

bridge by damming and diverting the South Fork of the Merced River. During winter months, ice was harvested from the lake and used by the hotel throughout the summer. During the summer months, Stella Lake provided recreation for the hotel guests.[45] Several years later, in 1916, a boathouse was built at Stella Lake.[46]

By the 1870s most Yosemite traffic was funneled through Wawona and several routes were improved for stagecoach travel.[47] In 1875, Henry Washburn and associates completed the old Wawona Road from the north end of Clark's log bridge and carried visitors from Wawona into Yosemite Valley (Figure 1-4). In 1879, the Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company completed a stage road along the south side of Wawona Meadow connecting to Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road south of Wawona Hotel. It allowed for easier access to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and Fresno Flats (present-day Oakhurst).[48] Today's Wawona Road follows this original alignment from the South Entrance of Yosemite National Park to Raymond, California; however, the old Wawona Road between Wawona and Yosemite Valley was removed and the stage road that connected to Chowchilla Mountain Road was converted into a trail. In 1878, the Washburn brothers transformed Clark's open bridge across the South Fork of the Merced River into a New England-style covered bridge.[49]

The Wawona area grew in popularity in the late 1880s, and other physical changes were made in the area. In 1895, the Yosemite-Raymond Stage Line established a fish hatchery at the confluence of Big Creek and the South Fork of the Merced River. [50] It was operated by the State of California and each spring for ten years the U.S. Army distributed thousands of trout from the fish hatchery into the streams, rivers, and lakes of Yosemite National Park.[51]

Yosemite National Park was established in 1890. The State of California continued to manage the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and Yosemite Valley, while the remainder of the new park was governed by the U.S. Department of the Interior with the help of U.S. Army cavalry units.[52] Troops from the Presidio of San Francisco were dispatched in May 1891 to patrol the park. They patrolled from May to October, counting on winter conditions to deter trespassers the remainder of the year.[53] Wawona, which was private property at the time and was surrounded by state and national park lands, became U.S. Army headquarters.

Captain A.E. Wood established the first park headquarters (eponymously named Camp A.E. Wood), on the north side of the South Fork of the Merced River at the present-day site of the Lower Loop Wawona Campground. [54] As officer-in-charge of the troops, Captain Wood became the first acting superintendent of Yosemite National Park. The troops patrolled the park, built trails and roads, and protected the park's natural resources by limiting poaching and monitoring grazing.

In 1904, the U.S. Army established an arboretum in the Wawona Basin at the confluence of Big Creek and the South Fork of the Merced River. The arboretum was built by African American troops of the 9th Cavalry, and included a main trail that extended 1300 feet to a bridge

[45] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 41.
[46] Greene, *Yosemite*, 131.
[47] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays.*
[48] Ibid, 5-6.
[49] HAER *Wawona Covered Bridge*, 3
[50] Greene, *Yosemite*, 376.
[51] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays.*
[52] Ibid.
[53] Harvey Meyerson. 2001. *Nature's Army: When Soldiers Fought for Yosemite*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 33.
[54] Greene, *Yosemite*, Ixxvi.

crossing of the South Fork of the Merced River to Camp A.E. Wood.[55,56] The arboretum was abandoned in 1905 as the site was patented land and not within the boundaries of the park. California ceded the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and Yosemite Valley to the nation in 1905. As a result Camp A.E. Wood was moved in 1906 to the new park headquarters in Yosemite Valley.[57]

The turn of the twentieth century brought changes to the Wawona Basin. The area was altered to accommodate new methods of travel, and hotel lodgings and attractions were upgraded to appeal to the discerning tastes of visitors. Park administration also changed; in 1916 congress designated the National Park Service which assumed administration of Yosemite National Park; however, it would not acquire the area in which the Wawona Hotel Complex is located until 1932.[58] By 1900 the first automobile arrived in the park and in 1914 the park opened to general automobile traffic, replacing horse drawn carriages within the year. Once the 1907 to 1913 ban on automobiles within Yosemite National Park was lifted, automobiles became the primary transport. Clarence Washburn transformed the Wawona Hotel Complex into a modern hotel resort, adding the luxurious Hotel Annex, and amenities such as the swimming tank and golf course. By 1918, Clarence's resort had become a destination, as the trip to Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias could be made in one day (versus the several day trip required with stage coach travel).

The Wawona Golf Course on the west portion of the Wawona Meadow, and was the first mountain course in California. The course was designed by Walter Fovargue, an accomplished player, teacher, architect, and salesman, and Fovargue laid out on the site. [59] The manicured fairways produced a striking visual contrast to the surroundings. While the golf course may appear odd to modern sensibilities, Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, found the idea of golf at Yosemite so appealing that he intended to create a similar course in Yosemite Valley.

In 1925 an air landing strip was built in the Wawona Meadow. Modifications to the meadow included filling irrigation ditches and grading the topography. The first airplanes landed on December 8, 1925.[60] In 1926, the Wawona Road inter-bureau agreement for reconstruction was completed, and reconnaissance and location surveys commenced. Between 1928 and 1939, construction of the new Wawona Road occurred along the north edge of Wawona Meadow, and included a new bridge (Wawona Bridge) across the South Fork of the Merced River.[61] It became the primary route through Yosemite National Park, and its construction substantially modified the area, changing the physical relationship between the hotel and golf course. The old Wawona Road was removed and the 1879 Fresno Flats route was converted into a trail.

In 1932, the United States Government acquired 8,875 acres of the Wawona Basin, which

[55] Charles Palmer, Robin Pam, and Brenda Hanley. 2008. *"Wawona's Lost Garden:" Buffalo Soldier Arboretum Feasibility Study*. Yosemite National Park: Division of Resources Management and Science, 2.
[56] The main trail extended to the opposite direction to the Wawona Hotel, passing the fish hatchery and crossing Big Creek with a small footbridge. The arboretum covered 75 to 100 acres of hilly timbered land and had one main trail and several branch trails. At one time, 56 trees were labeled. Plans were made to transplant many other specimens from the park to arboretum.
[57] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays*.
[58] Ibid.
[59] Anthony Pioppi. 2006. *To the Nines*. Sports Media Group, 120-123.
[60] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 63.
[61] T.M. Roach. 1939. *Final Construction Report, Post Construction Work, Route 2, The Wawona Road*. Yosemite National Park, Mariposa County, CA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Public Roads, 2.

included the Wawona Hotel Complex. The NPS also purchased the Wawona Hotel from Clarence Washburn. During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established camps in Wawona. Their work focused on filling gullies, restoring drainage ditches, repairing golf course fairways and greens, clearing and thinning vegetation along the Meadow Loop Road, and the removal of the fish hatchery. Refrigeration replaced the need for ice from Stella Lake, which fell into disrepair after 1934. In 1934, the CCC constructed a water treatment plant near the South Fork of the Merced River. The plant included a pump house and sewage pond on flat ground and a spray field on the slope above.

The 1940s through the 1960s brought a series of planning initiatives by the NPS. In the 1950s, the NPS initiated MISSION 66, a planning effort to master plan the entire system. For Wawona, this resulted in the construction of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in 1964.

CLR Part 1.
Site History, Existing Condition and Analysis

Site History

Introduction

The Wawona Hotel Complex is the largest extant Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park.[1] The hotel has been in continuous operation as a hostelry / hotel since 1857, when Galen Clark built a hostelry / stage stop near the South Fork of the Merced River in the u-shaped bowl of Wawona Basin.[2]

Even before 1857, the Wawona Basin had a long history of human habitation. The area of present-day Wawona, including the verdant Wawona Meadow, was home to native inhabitants for millennia. In 1851, the Mariposa Battalion entered the Yosemite area through Wawona, forever changing the lives of the native people.

By 1856, the Mann Brothers Horse Trail provided a route from Mariposa into the Yosemite Valley and Wawona. The same year, Galen Clark built simple accommodations in the area for visitors to the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Clark established two sites, a cabin near the present-day seventh green (Galen Clark Cabin Site), and one overlooking the Wawona Meadow and in sight of the Mann Brothers Horse Trail (later the Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road in 1870) on the site of the present-day Wawona Hotel.[3] It is unclear which site was established first, as historical sources conflict.[4] In 1875, Clark sold the property and buildings to Albert Henry Washburn and his partners.

By the 1870s stage roads were developed to ease access into Wawona. The natural terrain of the Wawona Basin, level topography of the Wawona Meadow, and proximity of the South Fork of the Merced River provided an ideal area for human settlement. Clark's station was situated about halfway along the only trail between the town of Mariposa and the Yosemite Valley, making it a convenient overnight stop.[5] In 1875 Henry Washburn and associates completed the old Wawona Road, a stage road connecting Wawona with Yosemite Valley. In 1879, Washburn's newly formed Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company completed the stage road that connected to Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road. It was located along the west side of the Wawona Meadow, and allowed easier access to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and Fresno Flats (present-day Oakhurst).[6]

By 1912, the Washburn family had transformed the hostelry into a hotel complex with the addition of six buildings, giving it the formal arrangement and Victorian character that exists today. Once the 1907 to 1913 ban on automobiles within Yosemite National Park was lifted, and automobiles became the primary transport, Clarence Washburn transformed the complex into a hotel resort. He added the luxurious Hotel Annex, tennis court, croquet area, fountains, and swimming tank, and built the 9-hole golf course in a portion of the Wawona Meadow. Clarence's resort had become a destination by 1918, as the trip to Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias could be made in one day (versus the several day trip

[1] Chappell, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form for the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion*, 8.
[2] Shirley Sargent. 2008. *Galen Clark: Yosemite Guardian*. Yosemite: Flying Spur Press, 13.
[3] Tom Bopp email (Appendix D).
[4] Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). 1991. *Wawona Road Yosemite National Park HAER No. CA-148*. Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 3.
[5] Sargent, *Wawona Yesterdays.*
[6] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 5-6.

required with stage coach travel). The Washburn's sold Wawona Hotel to the NPS in 1932, and the lands were included in the Yosemite National Park boundary the same year.[7] Wawona Road near the Wawona Hotel Complex was asphalt-paved by 1939, popularizing the south entrance to the park and providing easy access to the hotel.[8]

Statement of Significance

The Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP 1975),[9] and is designated as a National Historic Landmark district (NHL 1987) as part of the "Architecture in the Parks" multiple property nomination. The district meets NHL Criterion 4 for its exceptional significance as an intact example of a Victorian era hotel complex in a national park.[10] The complex has provided the same visitor experience for more than one hundred years, and is still frequented by visitors seeking a quieter, more subdued atmosphere than that offered elsewhere in Yosemite National Park.

The nucleus is the Wawona Hotel, which is comprised of late-nineteenth century buildings and the associated formal landscape. The NHL 1987 identified seven buildings and approximately fifteen acres of the immediate surroundings including the Wawona Golf Course, which is an integral component of the historic property that contributes to its significance. Historically, the golf course was an important recreational amenity as it is today.

The recommended period of significance for the Wawona Hotel Complex is 1876 to 1939. The beginning date is the year the earliest extant building in the hotel complex was built—the Long White in 1876 by Henry Washburn, which also represents Wawona Hotel's beginning role as a destination. Included within this period are extant features that pre-date 1876, namely archeological remains of the original Clark's Station, and extant giant sequoias.

This period includes the construction of the buildings and landscape as a unified architectural complex occurring over a forty-year period, including the development of the hotel as a resort between the years of 1917 and 1920. This period captures the initial 1917 golf course construction, and the subsequent 1930s improvements made to the course by the NPS and the Washburn family. It also includes the sale and transfer of the property to the NPS in 1932, as well as other NPS improvements made to the landscape during the 1930s such as the new Wawona Road, tennis court, and grading and erosion control.

The end date of 1939 reflects the completion of Wawona Road (bituminous paving) through the complex, and its connection to the park's south entrance and Yosemite Valley. The completion of Wawona Road gave the complex its characteristic spatial organization, and ushered in a new era of tourism post-World War I. The road, along with the completion of a section south of the new park entrance that

[7] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 69.
[8] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *1940 Superintendent Report*, 11.
[9] Harrison, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory*. The NRHP nomination for the Wawona Hotel and Hill Studio district includes eight buildings and the immediate area of the Wawona Hotel. The Sequoia Hotel, which burned in 1977, is included in the nomination. The Hotel is listed as nationally significant in the area of art, regionally significant in the areas of commerce, conservation, and transportation, and locally significant in the area of exploration and settlement.
[10] Chappel, *National Register of Historic Places*.
The National Park Service is currently involved in an amendment to the NHL and preliminary findings support a boundary that includes the Wawona Golf Course and Wawona Meadow and a period of significance of 1876 – 1939.

eliminated a winding route, increased the automobile travel through the south entrance.[11]

Periods of Landscape Development

Seven periods of landscape development describe the physical evolution of the Wawona Hotel Complex's cultural landscape from pre-1856 through present day. The beginning and end of each period corresponds to, and documents, points of major physical change.

Three periods of landscape development are within the recommended period of significance of 1876 to 1939 (highlighted in bold italics).

Pre-History (pre-1856)

Clark's Station (1856 to 1875)

Washburns' Wawona Hotel (1876 to 1912)

Clarence Washburn's Wawona Hotel Resort (1913 to 1927)

National Park Service Wawona Development (1928 to 1939)

National Park Service Master Planning (1940 to 1964)

Modern Day Wawona (1965 to present day)

The following narrative text, photographs, drawings and illustrations present the seven periods of landscape development.

[11] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *1940 Annual Superintendent Report,* 11.

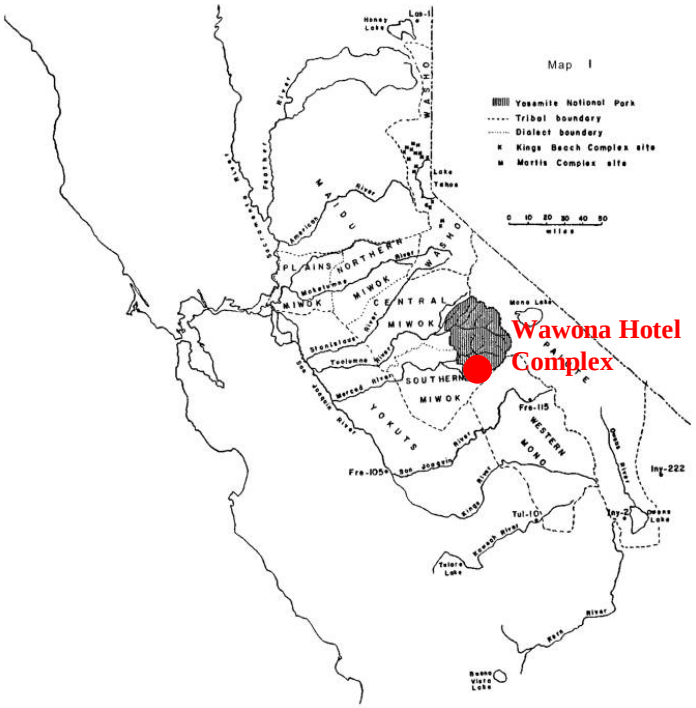


Figure 1-5. Location of Indian Tribes in California. The Central and Southern Miwoks constituted the primary inhabitants of Yosemite National Park (shaded area).[12]

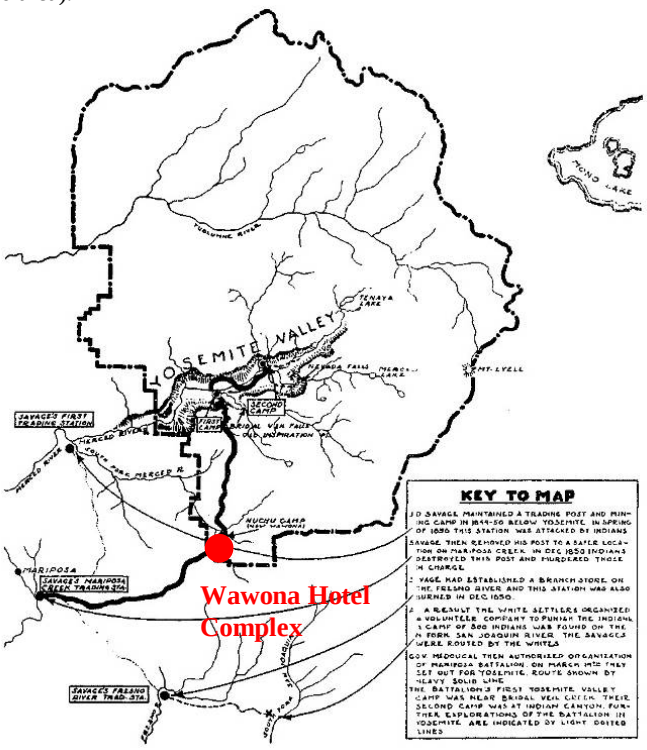


Figure 1-6. The Mariposa Battalion in Yosemite Valley (First Expedition, March 1851) established a camp in 1851 in the Wawona Meadow. The route of the Battalion is noted above.[13] The camp essentially displaced the Nutchu Camp.

[12] Greene, *Yosemite*, 4-5.
[13] Ibid, 20-21.

Pre-History (pre-1856)

This period of development captures the early human habitation of the Wawona Basin prior to the mid-1850s, and prior to the area being settled for agricultural, military, and tourism uses.

The Wawona area is situated within the Wawona Basin, on a relatively broad level floodplain of the South Fork of the Merced River. The formation of this broad section of floodplain can be attributed to Pleistocene glaciation (1.8 million to approximately 10,000 years ago), which gouged the valley to a point just upstream of the Cunningham Flat Campground.[14]

Through prehistoric times and extending into early historic times Wawona was inhabited by native peoples. Native people from the Southern Miwok, North Fork Mono and Chukchansi groups claim historical and traditional associations with the Wawona area.[15]

By the 1850s, Euro-American travelers had discovered the natural wonders of the Yosemite Valley. Early trails into the area "followed Indian trails, which were not recorded but memorized by all who needed them and rerouted periodically."[16] This early network included paths over the mountains from the south toward the Yosemite Valley. The earliest European American path, the Mann Brothers Horse Trail, was built in the 1850s and crossed the South Fork of the Merced River.[17] In 1851, the Mariposa Battalion was sent by the governor of California to remove the native population to foothill reservations. The natives surrendered to the Battalion in the area of Wawona Meadow.[18]

BC 1500 to AD 1850

Archeological investigations suggest 3,000 years of occupation for the Wawona Basin, spanning three different periods: Crane Flat (BC 1500 – AD 500), Tamarack (AD 500 – 1200), and Mariposa (AD 1200 – 1850).[19] Wawona Basin was used as a seasonal hunting ground and gathering area for acorns, and archeological sites include residential base camps where acorns were processed into flour by pounding them with pestles and mortars.[20] Evidence suggests that people lived in the Wawona Meadow in seasonal camps, arriving in the summer following game and seeking the cooler temperatures of the mountains, and lived at lower elevations the remainder of the year. Seasonal movement between the high country and the plains facilitated trade of food and goods between neighboring peoples.

Data presently available from sites in the Wawona vicinity suggest that the area was first occupied intensively circa 1500 B.C. and continued to be a favored location for settlement into historic times. All three phases of Bennyhoff's Yosemite cultural sequence have been identified in the Wawona vicinity, and the prospect of even

[14] Richard G. Ervin, 1984. *Test Excavations in the Wawona Valley, Report of the 1983 and 1984 Wawona Archeological Projects*, Yosemite National Park, California. Western Archeological and Conservation Center: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 11.
[15] Baloian et al., *Late Prehistoric Adaptations in Wawona: Archeological Data Recovery at CA-MRP-173/327/H, Yosemite National Park, California*, 19.
[16] Greene, *Yosemite*, 10-11.
[17] Ibid, 36.
[18] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 12.
[19] Hull, Kathleen. 1989. *The 1985 and 1986 Wawona Archeological Excavations*. Yosemite Research Center, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 12.
[20] Ibid, 13.

BC 1500 to AD 1850, continued

earlier occupation has been advanced.[21] The majority of the prehistoric sites in the area consist of bedrock mortars with associated midden deposits and surface scatters of lithic debitage. Assemblage characteristics are similar to those found elsewhere in the central Sierra Nevadas, indicating that lithic tool manufacture, interregional travel and exchange, and processing of vegetal food were common activities. Unfortunately, little is known about changes in settlement patterns, site function, or social structure over time.[22]

No date

Indians' name for Wawona area – Pallahchun (a good place to stop).[23]

1849 to 1857

Several hundred giant sequoias (now known as the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias) were discovered near Wawona. The discovery was first recorded in 1851 in an account of a laborer who had seen them in 1849. Stephen F. Grover noted the giant trees in 1852 when he was in the area as part of a prospecting party.[24] Galen Clark built a horse trail to the grove in 1856.[25]

Pre-1851

Nutchu Camp is located in the Wawona Meadow.[26]

1851

Wawona Meadow becomes the site of the 1851 camp of the Mariposa Battalion who were sent to capture and relocate the Nutchu Indians to foothill reservations.[27] The Nutchu Indians were displaced by the Battalion (from the Wawona Meadow) after this date.

[21] James A. Bennyhoff. 1956. *An Appraisal of the Archaeological Resources of Yosemite National Park*. Berkeley: University of California Archaeological Survey Reports 34.
[22] Baloian et al. *Late Prehistoric Adaptations in Wawona*, 16.
[23] Sargent, *Galen Clark: Yosemite Guardian*, 11.
[24] Russell, *100 Years in Yosemite*, 40.
[25] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 2.
[26] Greene, *Yosemite*, 19.
[27] Greene, *Yosemite*, XXV.

Clark's Station (1856 to 1875)

This period of development begins with the initial Euro-American settlement of the Wawona Hotel Complex which began as Galen Clark's homestead and evolved into a well-used hostelry / stage stop.

This period marked the beginning of visitors traveling to experience the Yosemite Valley's grandeur, and the initial provision of travel routes, accommodations, and recreation for these visitors at Wawona. The end of this period corresponds with Clark's sale of his property and buildings to Henry Washburn and his partners in January 1875,[28] a date that also corresponds to the completion of the Mann Brothers Horse Trail, which improved access between Wawona and Yosemite Valley.

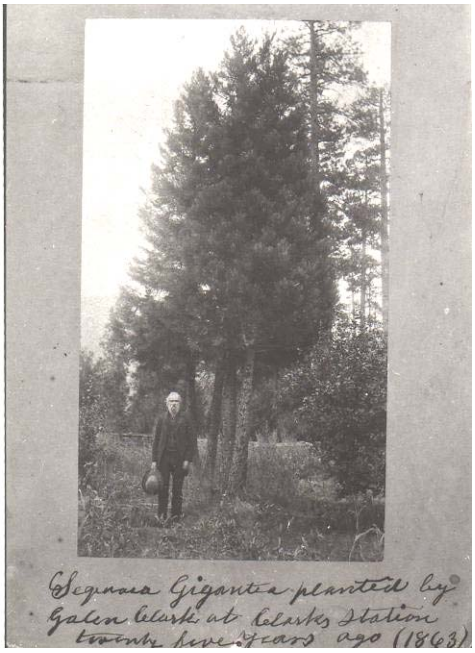


Figure 1-7. Handwriting on photograph notes *Sequoia gigantean* planted by Galen Clark twenty-five years ago (1863), refers to the date of the tree planting. These extant sequoias are located in the open area of Galen Clark's Cabin, west of the present-day seventh green (source: Yosemite Research Library).

After visiting the area in 1855 while traveling with a tourist party, Galen Clark filed a claim in 1856 for 160 acres near the 1851 camp of the Mariposa Battalion at the South Fork of the Merced River (west end of Wawona Meadow).[29] Clark had been plagued by tuberculosis his whole life and sought to cure his poor health by settling in Wawona where the clean mountain air was abundant. After the discovery of the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, five miles southeast of the present-day Wawona Hotel Complex, Clark built a simple cabin as a rest stop mid-way along the route to Yosemite Valley from the south. This route was known as the Mann Brothers Horse Trail and later became the Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road. The stop was known as Clark's Station, and accommodated travelers visiting Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Big Trees.

In 1868, Clark built a bridge over the South Fork of the Merced River to improve the route and was permitted to collect tolls for one year, although he continued to do so until 1873.[30] In 1869 Edwin Thomas Moore became Clark's partner, allowing Clark to avoid bankruptcy and the station was renamed Clark and Moore's. [31] Beginning in 1870, the station expanded into a hostelry offering more comforts.[32]

In 1864 the Yosemite Grant was administered to protect the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, now known as the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.[33] The Wawona area was not part of this original land grant, and was not added to Yosemite National

[28] Copy of Deed, Galen Clark and Edwin Moore to A.H. Washburn, E.W. Chapman, and WM. F. Coffman, January 6, 1875.

[29] Sargent, *Galen Clark: Yosemite's Guardian*, 12.
[30] HAER, *Wawona Covered Bridge*, 2-3.
[31] HAER *Wawona Road*, 3.
[32] Sargent, *Galen Clark: Yosemite's Guardian*, 34-35.
[33] Russell, *100 Years in Yosemite*, 214. (Russell cites: United States Congress. Chap. Clxxxci of the statutes at large, passed at 30th Congress, Session I, 1864, p3444).

Park until 1932. Clark continued to improve the station and the access between the station and the Yosemite Valley. Galen Clark became the guardian of the Yosemite Grant in 1866.[34] With the demands of his position as guardian and his financial struggles associated with the hostelry, Clark sold his land and buildings in 1875 to Albert Henry Washburn and Washburn's two partners.

1856

Galen Clark filed a claim for 160 acres "on the site of the 1851 camp of the Mariposa Battalion at the South Fork of the Merced River." [35] Clark provided lodging and provisions to travelers at Clark's Station.

The Mann Brothers (Houston, Milton, and Andrew) completed the trail / toll road for horses and foot traffic (Mann Brothers Horse Trail), which they had begun in 1855.[36] The route followed existing Indian trails from Mormon Bar on Mariposa Creek (west of Wawona by approximately twenty miles) as far as present-day Wawona. It then followed another trail along Alder Creek towards the rim of the Yosemite Valley at or near Old Inspiration Point before dropping to the floor near the base of Bridalveil Fall. The present Alder Creek and Pohono trails roughly follow much of this route.[37] The Mann Brothers Horse Trail was completed in August 1856 as a toll road and continued as such until 1860 when Mariposa County purchased the trail as a 'public highway.'[38] The route was one of seven routes into Yosemite Valley.[39] The portion of the Mann Brothers Horse Trail from Mariposa to present-day Wawona accessed the Wawona Meadow. It would later be improved as a stage route to Wawona and be re-named Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road in 1870.[40]

Clark settled along the Mann Brothers Horse Trail at its crossing of the South Fork of the Merced River in the present-day Wawona Hotel Complex.[41]

Clark built a horse trail (Clark's Horse Trail) from the Mann Brothers Horse Trail into the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.[42] Clark is credited for the original name of the grove, the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, using the name Mariposa because the grove was located in Mariposa County.[43] The close proximity of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias to Clark's Station, and later to the Wawona Hotel Complex, linked the giant sequoia grove with the development of tourist accommodations.

1857

Clark "built a 12' by 16' cabin on west end of Wawona Meadow."[44] The "(c)rude hostelry functioned as a stop for travelers journeying from Mariposa to Yosemite Valley."[45] The cabin site has been documented as archeological site CA-MRP-1721.

[34] Sargent, *Galen Clark: Yosemite's Guardian*, 20.
[35] Ibid, 12.
[36] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 2.
[37] Ibid, 2.
[38] Ibid.
[39] Greene, *Yosemite*, 40.
[40] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 3.
[41] Ibid.
[42] Ibid.
[43] Sargent, *Galen Clark: Yosemite's Guardian*, 15.
[44] Ibid, 13.
[45] Ibid, 22.

1858 to 1864

Clark planted an orchard around his cabin near today's seventh green containing apple and pear trees. Sixteen trees remain today, including fifteen apple trees and one pear tree.[46]

ca. 1859

Clark moved the hostelry / stage stop to the east side of the meadow (the location of the present-day Wawona Hotel Complex). His initial construction included modest accommodations—a tent tavern and an area where guests slept around an open fire. Later he added a log cabin for use as a dining area and tents that provided accommodations.[47]

1863

Clark planted giant sequoia trees (Figure 1-7), likely near his cabin west of the present-day seventh green.[48]

1864

Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Big Trees constitute the original Yosemite Grant set aside and administered by the State of California.[49]

1866

Galen Clark was appointed the guardian of the granted land for Yosemite.[50]



Figure 1-8. Clark and Moore's Station was a simple wood structure, but known to provide good accommodations and food, 1870. A fire in 1878 destroyed this building (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1868

Clark built an open log bridge over the South Fork of the Merced River, north of his hostelry / stage stop along the Mann Brothers Horse Trail.[51] The bridge (today's covered bridge) was built to facilitate wagons crossing the river. Clark collected tolls for passage until 1873.[52] The bridge measured 15 feet wide by 125 feet long, and consisted of an open framed structure built of hand-hewn ponderosa pine logs.[53] The completion of the South Fork of the Merced River toll bridge facilitated a better connection to the Yosemite Valley and accommodations at Wawona.

1869 to 1870

To avoid bankruptcy, Clark partnered with Edwin Thomas Moore, and (Moore's) wife Huldah, who acquired one-half interest in the land, buildings, and South Fork of the Merced River toll bridge. The station was

[46] Skach, Sky, Brian Chilcott, and Daniel Schaible. 2011. *Orchard Management Guidelines*. Yosemite National Park, CA: Division of Resources Management and Science. Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 85.
[47] Greene, *Yosemite*, 41; Tom Bopp email (Appendix D).
[48] 1888 Historic photograph from the Yosemite Research Library Collection.
[49] Russell, *100 Years in Yosemite*, 214 (Russell cites: United States Congress. Chap. Clxxxci of the statutes at large, passed at 30th Congress, Session I, 1864, p3444).
[50] Sargent, *Galen Clark: Yosemite's Guardian*, 20.
[51] HAER *Wawona Covered Bridge*, 2.
[52] Ibid, 2-3.
[53] Greene, *Yosemite*, 41.

1869 to 1870, continued

appropriately renamed Clark and Moore's and was expanded to include additional comforts for travelers.[54]

Clark and Moore built a water-powered sawmill, located between the river and the present-day hotel.[55]

1870

Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road was completed, following the earlier Mann Brothers Horse Trail from Mariposa to Clark and Moore's Station. The road cost $12,000, half provided by Clark and $2,000 by Edwin Moore, with the balance from a mortgage on their holdings. On June 10, 1870, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors authorized the builders to collect tolls from travelers. The first stagecoaches, owned by Henry Washburn of Mariposa and his two partners, began carrying passengers over the road.[56]

The 1.9-mile Foot Trail to Lower Chilnualna Falls was built, providing access from the hotel to the lower cascade on Chilnualna Creek. The trail was built by Albert Bruce, John Washburn, and two Chinese laborers, and included a small development at the base of the falls, with tables, benches, and a footbridge. A large portion of the trail was destroyed ca. 1930 for construction of the Chilnualna Falls Road, however part of the trail and associated dry-laid stone masonry remains.[57]

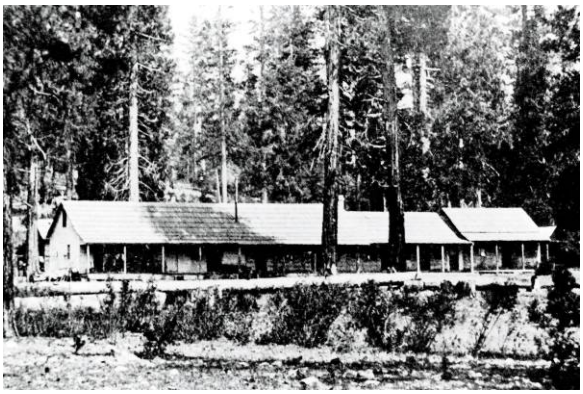


Figure 1-9. Clark and Moore's expanded lodgings (1870) consisted of the low profile station building. Photograph is likely taken from the bridge looking toward the station (source: Sargent, *Galen Clark – Yosemite's Guardian*, 44).

ca. 1870s to 1900

A ditch was built along the south side of Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road, bisecting the meadow. This ditch is currently known as the Golf Course Ditch.[58]

1871

Clark surveyed and built a gravity flow ditch, bringing water from the South Fork of the Merced River and transporting it to the hostelry / stage stop for irrigation and power generation. The ditch connected to the river at a point 1-1/2 miles northeasterly of Clark and Moore's Station, and was located on the slope above the current day Wawona Hotel. The ditch was later improved by the Washburns, and became known as Washburn Ditch.[59]

1873

Clark sought to have a wagon road built from the South Fork of the Merced River to the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, roughly following the route of his previous horse trail (1856). In December 1873, R.B.

[54] Sargent, *Galen Clark: Yosemite's Guardian*, 34-35.
[55] Greene, *Yosemite*, 130.
[56] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 3.
[57] Kirn, Laura, Review Comments, 2 / 2012.
[58] Daniel Schaible and Erica Owens. 2010. *Draft Wawona Basin Cultural Landscape Inventory*. Yosemite National Park, CA:
[59] Crosby et al., *Historic Structures Report*, 363 - 365.

1873, continued

Thomas of Mariposa provided Clark with a $3,500 estimate to build a road connecting the South Fork of the Merced River with the west boundary of the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, and $2,500 for an extension through the grove.[60] The work on the wagon road was completed by Chinese laborers, yet was not undertaken until the Washburn's extended the stage route from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road into the grove in 1879.[61]

1873

The Mariposa Big Tree Grove and Yo Semite Turnpike Company, lead by Clark, planned to extend a stage road from the South Fork of the Merced River to Yosemite Valley. By 1874, they were authorized to collect tolls on the new road as soon as it was completed. The new road was built by Chinese laborers. Clark and his partners were already under financial strains, and were unable to complete the road.[62]

1874

The firm of Washburn, Coffman, and Chapman, which had operated stagecoaches over Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road since 1870, was issued a permit for the construction of a toll road from the South Fork of the Merced River to the Yosemite Valley by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors.[63]

1875

Albert Henry Washburn, along with his two partners, E.W. Chapman and W.M.F. Coffman, purchased Clark and Moore's Station on January 6, 1875. The station included 1200 acres, the station, four small structures used for lodging, barn, blacksmith shop, sawmill, the ditch and water rights (originally appropriated and acquired by Galen Clark in 1871), the bridge, and Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road. After settling a $20,000 debt owed to Washburn, the final purchase price was $1,000.[64]

Washburn and his partners completed the stage road (old Wawaona Road) from the South Fork of the Merced River to the Yosemite Valley.[65]

Henry Washburn renamed Clark and Moore's Station the Big Tree Station.[66]

[60] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 4.
[61] Greene, *Yosemite*, Ixxv.
[62] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 4.
[63] Ibid, 5.

[64] Copy of Deed, Galen Clark and Edwin Moore to A.H. Washburn, E.W. Chapman, and WM. F. Coffman, January 6, 1875. The ditch and water right were deeded solely to A. H. Washburn. Sargent, *Galen Clark: Yosemite's Guardian*, 52;
Reynolds, Annie, and Albert Gordon. 1994. *Stage to Yosemite: Recollections of Wawona's Albert Gordon.* El Portal, CA: Big Tree Books,13;
Russell, *One Hundred Years in Yosemite*, 216.
[65] HAER *Wawona Road*, 5.
[66] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays*.



Figure 1-10. The view from Meadow Loop Road across Wawona Meadow (now part of the Wawona Golf Course) to the Wawona Hotel ca. 1900 (source: University of Southern California).

Washburns' Wawona Hotel (1876 to 1912)

This period of development begins with the initial construction undertaken by the Washburn family that led to the transformation of the hostelry / stage stop into a Victorian hotel. Henry Washburn (with his two partners) purchased Clark and Moore's Station in 1875, and began to make physical changes of which the first was completed in 1876. The construction of the Long White (Clark's Cottage) in 1876, built by local carpenter Joseph Shelly, is the first major modification and marks the beginning of this period. This period extends to 1912 and includes the development of the site into a Victorian hotel, arranged in a formal pattern on the gently sloping lawn above the meadow.

Between 1876 and 1912, Henry, with the help of his brothers Julius, Edward, and John, expanded Clark's simple hostelry into a hotel as the demand to visit Yosemite National Park increased. The Washburns improved and added new buildings for better guest accommodations, enhanced the grounds, expanded the water system, and established orchards and gardens to allow for a self-sustaining complex. The long axis of the buildings was oriented to be visible from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road. This orientation also provided views towards the meadow and its forested backdrop. During this period, accommodations were a necessary part of the long journey from the Yosemite Valley to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. The Washburns built five cottages and rebuilt the hotel during this period. By 1912, stagecoaches were becoming obsolete with the increased popularity of the automobile, and with the lifting of the park's ban on automobiles in 1913.[67] This period ends in 1912, the year before automobiles were permanently allowed in Yosemite National Park.

A fire destroyed many of the original Clark buildings in 1878; however, the Long White and the barn (non-extant) survived and archeological remains exist of other former Clark buildings in the vicinity of the hotel. The Washburns immediately began rebuilding and expanding within the hotel grounds and within Wawona to provide access to the area's attractions. In 1868 the Washburn brothers built a cover over Clark's bridge at the South Fork of the Merced River.[68] By 1879, they had completed the stage road into the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (one of Clark's goals).[69] This same year, the new Wawona Hotel was completed as a two-story structure, and set north of the Long White following the same north south orientation. In 1884, the Washburns built the Little White (Manager's Cottage), followed by the construction of the Little Brown (Moore Cottage) in ca. 1894 and Long Brown (Washburn Cottage) in ca. 1899 to 1900.[70] The grounds also included the 1884 Pavilion, a summer studio built and used by the painter Thomas Hill, known today as the Thomas Hill Studio.[71]

The hotel continued to provide accommodations for visitors to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias who primarily arrived by stagecoach. Daily hotel operations were sustained by a large garden, apple orchard, and the livestock that grazed in the Wawona Meadow. In 1886, Stella Lake was built about 1/4 mile upstream

[67] HAER *Wawona Road*, 9. Automobiles were banned in Yosemite from 1907 to April 1913.
[68] HAER *Wawona Covered Bridge*, 3.
[69] Greene, *Yosemite*, Ixxv.
[70] Harrison, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory*, 5.
[71] Patrick Chapin and George S. Jaramillo, 2011. *Historic Structures Report Thomas Hill Studio*, Washington D.C.: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 40.



Figure 1-11. Washburn's Wawona Hotel was oriented towards Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road, an arrangement that also afforded a view of the Wawona Meadow (Wawona Golf Course), post 1879 (source: Yosemite Research Library).

along the South Fork of the Merced River. This lake was important to daily operations of the hotel. The ice that was harvested in the winter months was used for refrigeration.[72]

As the Washburns were establishing and improving their hotel complex, nearby lands were being set aside for protection as important resources, and for public use and enjoyment. Between the years of 1890 and 1914 the park was administered by the U.S. Army, who established a camp near the hotel.[73] U.S. Army Troops stationed at Wawona included Buffalo Soldiers of the 24th Infantry and 9th Cavalry who worked on trails and roads, built an arboretum, and protected the park's natural resources by limiting poaching and monitoring grazing. By 1912, the Washburn family had transformed the hostelry into a hotel complex, giving it the characteristic formal arrangement and character that exists today.

1876

The extant Long White was the first building built by the Washburns, and was wood-framed on a wood foundation (approximately 24 feet by 80 feet) with sixteen rooms. The exterior was weather-boarded and painted white with a veranda on all sides. Footpaths linked the building to the hotel. [74]

1877

E.W. Chapman and W.F. Coffman deeded their interest in the hotel to A.H. Washburn (Henry Washburn).[75]

Henry Washburn incorporated the Yosemite Stage & Turnpike Company to carry passengers and freight from Merced to the Big Tree Station, Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point, Nevada Falls, Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, Fresno Grove of Big Trees, Fresno Flats, and Madera. They looked to acquire, build, and maintain a wagon and turnpike road on these routes. [76]

Washburn's Chinese hotel staff raised most of the food provided to guests in a nearby twelve acre garden, apple orchard, dairy, and chicken coop.[77] The Chinese also worked as chefs in the hotel kitchen, and in the gardens and laundry. The most famous Chinese was Chef Ah You, who worked for Wawona Hotel for 47 years, beginning in 1879.[78]

Water was provided by the Washburn Ditch, originally built by Clark and improved by the Washburns. The water was first moved through a flume system, and then to the ditch, which had boxes to direct the water to either the hotel or to the meadow for irrigation. The water from the ditch was only used for irrigation and electricity. A tank, approximately 1/2 mile above the hotel, held water from springs for use as drinking water.[79]

1878

Washburn brothers built a cover over Clark's bridge at the South Fork of the Merced River.[80]

Washburn brothers built another sawmill south of the Wawona store that operated until fall of 1883.[81]

[72] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 41.
[73] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays*.
[74] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 28.
[75] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 6.
[76] Greene, *Yosemite*, 156.
[77] Ibid.
[78] Guerra, Stephanie. "Piecing Together the Past: Chinese Immigrants in Yosemite." *Yosemite Science* 1, no. 1 (2011): 14-16.
[79] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 363.
[80] HAER, *Wawona Covered Bridge*, 3.
[81] Greene, *Yosemite*, 130.

1878, continued

Fire destroyed the original low-profiled Clark's Station structure, laundry, and four small lodging buildings.[82]

The stage road (Big Tree Road) was built by Chinese laborers into the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, connecting Chowchilla Mountain Road Stage Road and Wawona Hotel with the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.[83]

1879

Wawona Hotel was built and opened. Washburn hired Joseph Shelly to build the two-story hotel north of the Long White after the 1878 fire. In the spring of 1879, the *Mariposa Gazette* reported that the 32-by-140 foot building would be the "grandest hotel in the mountains of California."[84] Elevated walks connected the hotel to the buildings.[85]

Washburn's Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company completed the stage road (Old Wawona Road) between Fresno Flats (present-day Oakhurst) and Wawona.[86] This road converged with the Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road above the Wawona Meadow on its south edge. Washburn's road later continued on to Madera, and was completed in 1881.[87]

On October 2, 1879, General Ulysses S. Grant visited the Big Tree Station. Henry Washburn met him at Madera to accompany him on the twelve-hour stage trip to the hotel where local residents, guests, and the Mariposa Brass Band greeted General Grant. The San Francisco *Chronicle* reported the "grounds were set with evergreens, and in the center an improvised fountain threw a stream of water 40-feet in height."[88]

1879, continued

Four giant sequoias were planted on the west side of the Wawona Hotel (one for each Washburn brother).[89]

ca. 1880s

A barn was built near the present-day Hotel Annex.[90] A review of historic photographs indicates the barn was demolished ca. 1899.[91]

The Washburn garden was planted.[92]



Figure 1-12. The Washburn's built a cover over Clark's bridge in 1878. The bridge provided access between the hotel grounds and the route (old Wawona Road, 1875) to the Yosemite Valley (source: *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*).

[82] Reynolds et al., *Stage to Yosemite*, 15.
[83] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 26.
[84] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 16, 17.
[85] 1890s Historic photograph.
[86] HAER *Wawona Road*, 6.
[87] Ibid, 6.
[88] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 34.
[89] Carey & Co., *Wawona Hotel Complex*, 16.
[90] Historic photographs, Yosemite Research Library.
[91] Californnia Historical Society: TICOR/Pierce, CHS-1145 (ca. 1900), Digitally reproduced by the USC Digital Archive (ca. 2004).
[92] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 37.



Figure 1-13. Thomas Hill Studio, ca. 1886, was north of the stage route, and separated by a low wooden picket fence (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1879 to 1885

The Washburn Orchard was planted.[93] The extant apple trees near the first fairway in the Wawona Golf Course are remnants of this orchard.

1882

The Big Tree Station was renamed to Wah-wo-nah by Jean Bruce Washburn.[94] The etymology of this name is unknown but is likely a European American translation of an unknown native word or phrase.

1883

Telegraph lines connected Wawona Hotel to the Yosemite Valley.[95]

1884

Thomas Hill built the Pavilion (later known as Hill's Studio) as a summer studio where he painted and displayed his work until his death in 1908.[96]

1884

Little White (Manager's Cottage) was built by the Washburns.[97]

1885

Henry Washburn convinced the Southern Pacific Railroad to extend service beyond Madera. The new terminus, Raymond, became the main departure point for the Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company.[98] This stage line (originally built in 1879 to Fresno Flats, present-day Oakhurst) played a prominent role in the development of the Wawona area until about 1914.[99]

John Washburn married Thomas Hill's daughter Estella.[100]

1886

Stella Lake was excavated on the south bank of the South Fork of the Merced River.[101] The lake was located 1/4 mile upstream from the Wawona Covered Bridge, where the land was dammed and river water diverted to an artificial pond 100 to180-feet wide and 1000-feet long.[102] The lake was named for John Washburn's wife Estella, and was important for daily operations; providing ice for refrigeration.[103] The lake also provided recreational opportunities for ice-skating, fishing, swimming, boating, and picnicking by Wawona guests and other Yosemite visitors.[104]

[93] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 91, According to the Guidelines, the dates for the Washburn Orchard are uncorroborated.
[94] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 14.
[95] HRA Inc. 2000. *DRAFT Wawona Hotel Site History*. California, 7.
[96] Chapin et al., *Historic Structures Report Thomas Hill Studio*, 40.
[97] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 43.
[98] Ibid, 43.
[99] Greene, *Yosemite*, 156.
[100] Ibid, 39.
[101] Ibid, 131.
[102] Carey & Co., *Wawona Hotel Complex*, 22.
[103] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 41.
[104] Greene, *Yosemite*, 131.

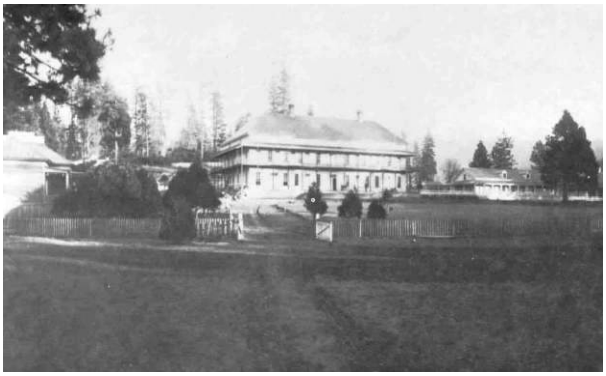


Figure 1-14. In 1886, the stagecoach route was a dirt drive, lined with wood fences that separated the stage route from other portions of the hotel grounds. The stage accessed the hotel's main entrance until the 1910s (source: Yosemite Research Library).

late 1880s

The first ornamental fountain was built as a centerpiece at the front of Wawona Hotel, on the west side. The fountain included a pedestal structure with a surrounding pool. The fountain was inspired by an 1886 Thomas Hill sketch of the complex, showing non-existent fences, and a spouting fountain which appeared in James Hutchings' book, *In the Heart of the Sierras*.[105]

1890s

Wawona Meadow Loop Road was built.

1890

Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park were established by the U.S. Congress. At the time, there was not a system that could accomplish the protective goals identified in the act. To solve this, the secretary of the interior recommended—and Congress approved—the stationing of U.S. Cavalry troops in Yosemite National Park to aid in administrating the park. California continued to manage the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and Yosemite Valley while the remainder of the new park was governed by the U.S. Department of the Interior with assistance from the Army Cavalry units.[106]

1891

Wawona Hotel Company was incorporated.[107]

U.S. Army Troops were dispatched in May 1891 from the Presidio of San Francisco to patrol the park, May to October, counting on winter conditions to deter trespassers the remainder of the year.[108] These troops included Buffalo Soldiers of the 24th Infantry and 9th Cavalry and former Civil War veterans.[109]

Captain A.E. Wood established the first park headquarters at the South Fork of the Merced River. [110] The soldiers built Camp A.E. Wood at the site of the current lower loop of the Wawona Campground as a seasonal headquarters. As officer-in-charge of the troops, Captain A.E. Wood became the first acting superintendent of Yosemite National Park. The U.S. Army worked on trails and roads, and protected the park's natural resources by limiting poaching and monitoring grazing. The camp remained until 1906, when park headquarters moved to Yosemite Valley. The park was administered by the U.S. Army from 1891 to 1914, followed by civilian rangers until the creation of the National Park Service in 1916.[111]

[105] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 41.

[106] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays*.
[107] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 50.
[108] Meyerson, *Nature's Army: When Soldiers Fought for Yosemite*, 33.
[109] Shelton Johnson. 2010. *Invisible Men: Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierra Nevada*. Unpublished monograph, 8; Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays*, 49.
[110] Greene, *Yosemite*, lxxvi.
[111] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays*.

1892
Captain A.E. Wood initiated a study to determine the feasibility of the federal government purchasing the four toll roads that accessed the park. This was due to visitor complaints about the high rates charged by the toll operators as well as the incongruity of having to reach a public national park over a privately held road. [112]

1895
Fish hatchery was built and was operated by the State of California on the south bank of the South Fork of the Merced River, where Big Creek joins the river.[113]

ca. 1895
Reflecting pool built at Thomas Hill Studio.[114]

ca. 1894
Little Brown (Moore Cottage) is built by the Washburns.[115]

1899
Congress authorized a new study (as petitioned by Captain Wood), noting the advantages of the federal government owning all entry roads (to control traffic, etc.). The study authorized additional roads be built to ease patrol work.[116]

ca. 1899
Barn near present-day site of Hotel Annex was no longer extant.[117]

ca. 1899 to 1900
Long Brown (Washburn Cottage) was built by the Washburns.[118]

1900
First motorized vehicle arrived at Wawona Hotel.[119]

1902
The irrigation ditch built by Clark becomes known as the Washburn Ditch. It was also known as the Brookwalk, used by guests who followed "a path to the right-hand side of the brook walk (ditch). . .which was lined with ferns and flowers, such as woodwardia, violets, columbines and tiger lilies." [120]

1904
Arboretum was established at Wawona by the U.S. Army.[121] Built by African American troops of the 9th Cavalry, the arboretum was on the South Fork of the Merced River west of its confluence with Big Creek. The arboretum included a main trail that extended 1300-feet to a bridge crossing of the South Fork of the Merced River at Camp A.E. Wood, now the lower loop of the Wawona Campground.[122] Acting Sergeant Major John Bigelow, Jr. commanded troops K and L of the 9th Cavalry to build the 'first national park arboretum.'[123] Bigelow assigned Assistant Sergeant Henry F. Pipes to oversee the work, and provided him with a noncommissioned officer and a Private, both African Americans,

[112] Greene, *Yosemite*, 342-343.
[113] Ibid, 376.
[114] Chapin et al., *Historic Structure Report Thomas Hill Studio*, 42.
[115] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 149.
[116] Greene, *Yosemite*, 344.
[117] Historic photograph, Yosemite Research Library.
[118] Harrison, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form*, 5.
[119] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 53.
[120] Greene, *Yosemite*, 363; Wawona Washburn Hartwig, Wawona Notebooks, VRL, Yosemite National Park Archives.
[121] Greene, *Yosemite*, Ixxvi.
[122] Palmer et al., *Wawona's Lost Garden*, 2.
[123] Ibid, 7.



Figure 1-15. The original Wawona Fountain within the forecourt, ca. 1890s. The circular fountain basin and surrounding path are similar to the current fountain (1918). The small trees in this photograph are extant, but have matured (source: The Yosemite Collections).



Figure 1-16. An elevated walkway connected the Wawona Hotel with the Long White, ca. 1890s. Picket fences defined the Old Wawona Road (1875) that extended as a loop road to Wawona Hotel's front door. From there it extended down the hillside to the north to connect to the Wawona Covered Bridge (1868), (source: Yosemite Research Library).



Figure 1-17. Wawona Hotel, between 1887 and 1902. Elevated walkways connected Little White to Long White, and Long White to the Wawona Hotel, (source: Colorado Historical Society, Denver Public Library).



Figure 1-18. Wawona Hotel, looking south–southeast, ca. 1910s. The original stage route accessed the front door of the Wawona Hotel. The front steps were modified when they were no longer used to access stagecoaches, and when automobiles became the primary mode of transportation into the park (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1904, continued

to perform the work. Major Bigelow described the arboretum in 1905: "The arboretum covers 75 to 100 acres of hilly timbered land, and has one main trail and several branch trails crossing it. Thirty-six trees and plants have already been labeled, twenty more have been identified and will be labeled soon, and plans have been made to transplant and plant many of the more familiar trees and plants of the park that are not already found there."[124] The main trail connected the Wawona Hotel with the arboretum along the south bank of the South Fork of the Merced River, past the State Fish Hatchery to Big Creek where it crossed the creek with a small footbridge.[125] The arboretum was abandoned in 1905 as the site was patented land and not within the boundaries of the park at the time. An electric railroad was being considered along the South Fork of the Merced River at the time, but was never built.[126]

1905

The State of California formally re-ceded the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and Yosemite Valley to the federal government in 1905.[127]

1906

The U.S. Army moved its headquarters from Camp A.E. Wood at Wawona to the Yosemite Valley.[128]

1907 to 1913

Automobiles were banned in Yosemite National Park.[129]

1908 to 1948

Hydroelectric power was produced with water diverted from the Washburn Ditch. The hydroelectric power system was abandoned when electric power lines were extended to Wawona in 1948.[130]

[124] Palmer et al., *Wawona's Lost Garden*, 8.
[125] Ibid, 16.
[126] Palmer et al., *Wawona's Lost Garden*, 8.
[127] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays.*
[128] Ibid.
[129] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 9.
[130] Greene, *Yosemite*, 131.

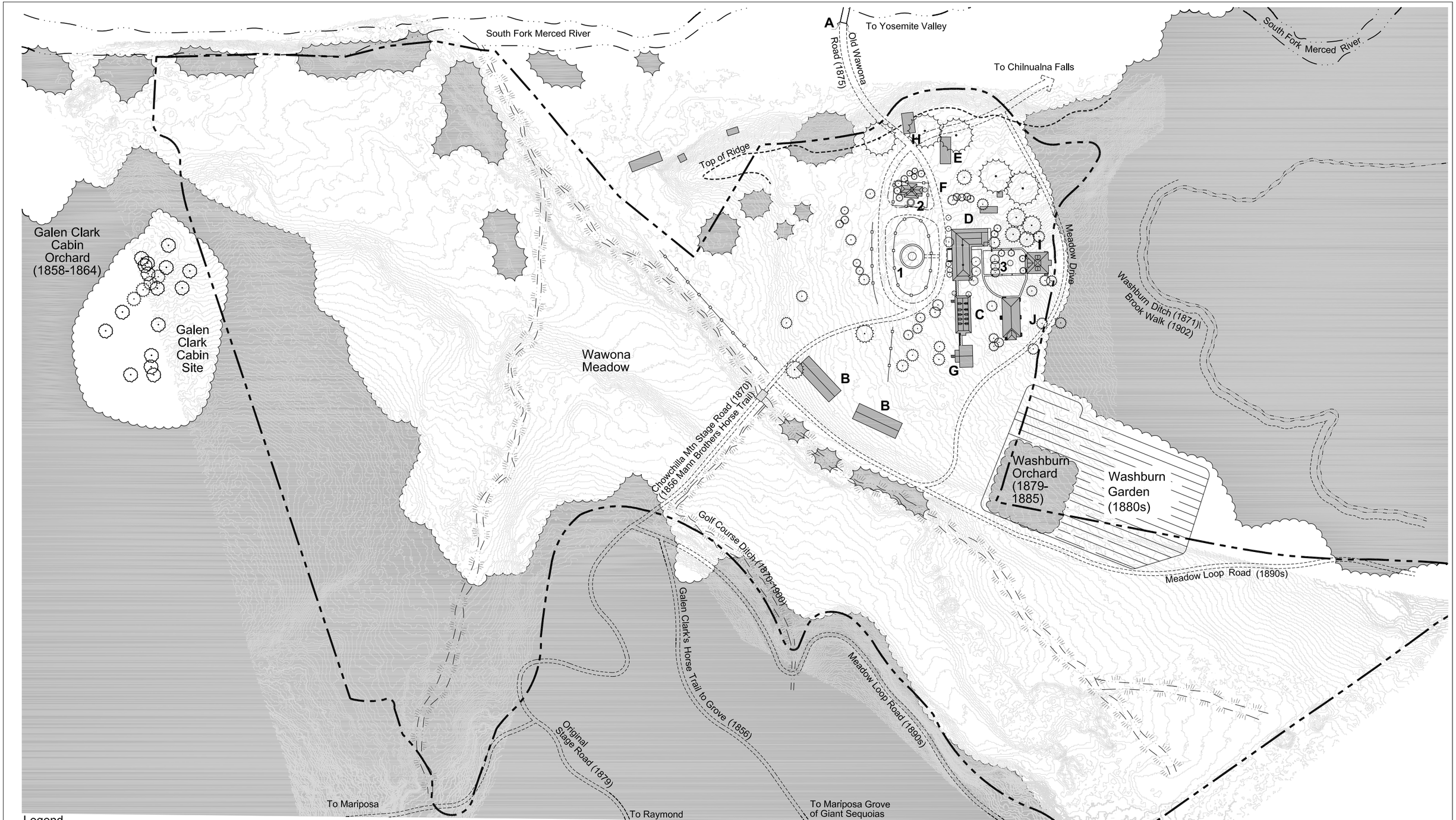


Figure 1-19. Little Brown, looking east, August 9, 1909, was accessed by a series of wood edged soft surface walkways with wood steps. These walkways provided pedestrian connections to Wawona Hotel, Long Brown and Long White. An octagonal fountain (non-extant) occurred on level topography (extant) to the west of Little Brown (source: Yosemite Research Library).

ca. 1909

The grounds west of Little Brown (Moore Cottage) were landscaped around an octagonal fountain (non-extant) with three ascending walkways (non-extant) approaching the building at three stepped intervals.[131] These walkways provided pedestrian connections to Wawona Hotel, Long Brown, and Little White.

[131] 1909 Historic Photograph of Little Brown, Yosemite Research Library Historic Photo Collection.



Legend

- A Wawona Covered Bridge (1868)
- B Barns (1880s)
- C Long White Building (Clark Cottage) (1876)
- D Wawona Hotel, Main Building (1879)
- E Wawona Store (1879)
- F Thomas Hill Studio (1884)
- G Little White Building (Manager's Cottage) (1884)
- H Dance Hall (1892)
- I Little Brown Building (Moore Cottage) (ca 1894)
- J Long Brown Building (Washburn Cottage) (1899-1900) 2nd Story (1914)
- 1 Original Wawona Fountain (late 1880s)
- 2 Thomas Hill Studio Fountain (ca 1895)
- 3 Little Brown Fountain (ca 1909)

Study Area Boundary

Wood Fence (ca 1890s)

N W E S

0 230 460

FIGURE 1 - 20

August 2012

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX

TITLE OF PROJECT
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

TITLE OF DRAWING
Washburns' Wawona Hotel
1876-1912 Period Plan

NAME OF PARK
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

REGION: PACIFIC
COUNTY: MARIPOSA
STATE: CALIFORNIA

Clarence Washburn's Wawona Hotel Resort (1913 to 1927)

This period documents the development of the Wawona Hotel Complex as a first-class Victorian resort in the mountains of California. The beginning of the period is 1913, the year the automobile ban (1907 to 1913) within the park was lifted, allowing automobiles in Yosemite National Park and permanently changing the way travelers experienced the park. This period was a time of great change, resulting in modifications to the Wawona Hotel Complex that formalized its characteristic setting. New buildings as well as aesthetic and recreational amenities were added, resulting in the site coalescing into a distinct resort complex. The Chinese staff was an integral part of this transition, being part of the hotel operations, visible to the public, with a subtle impact on the landscape. This period ends in 1927, the year before construction began on the new Wawona Road.[132]

The new mode of automobile travel inspired Clarence Washburn, the son of John Washburn and the hotel's primary operations manager, to improve and modernize the guest experience. Clarence transformed the Wawona Hotel into a resort complex to attract visitors for an extended stay. Between 1914 and 1920, the hotel complex was improved as a first-class resort. Enhanced guest accommodations included the Hotel Annex (1918) and employee housing for women at the Sequoia Hotel (1920). By 1918, the grounds had been improved, providing additional recreational activities. Amenities included a tennis court and croquet area, a golf course in the western third of Wawona Meadow, a swimming tank, and a new central fountain—the present-day Wawona Fountain (1918). Nearby, an air landing strip was built in the Wawona Meadow. By 1918, Wawona Hotel was a resort destination as the trip to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias could be made in one day (compared to the several day trip required with stage coach travel).



Figure 1-21. The Wawona Hotel deck has been extended to the north since 1915. The walkway and staircase in the center lead from the Wawona Hotel to the Little Brown. Young trees in the foreground are extant and have matured (source: Wawona Washburn Hartwig Collection).

In the 1920s Clarence Washburn successfully lobbied to bring the new Wawona Road closer to the hotel with the donation of a right-of-way that separated the Wawona Hotel from the Wawona Golf Course. Clarence hoped the re-alignment of Wawona Road would contribute to an increase in hotel visitors. An Inter-bureau Agreement was signed in 1926 for the construction (and re-alignment) of Wawona Road and survey work began in 1926. This period ends in 1927, the year before construction on the new Wawona Road began.

1913

Automobile ban (1907 to 1913) was lifted within Yosemite National Park, permanently allowing cars within the park. The first year after the ban, cars were restricted to Coulterville Road, which accessed Yosemite Valley from the west. After local pressure, the NPS agreed to open other roads into the park.[133]

[132] Roach, *Final Construction Report, Post Construction Work, Route 2, The Wawona Road*, 2.

[133] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 9.



Figure 1-22. Looking south with Long Brown (Washburn Cottage) in foreground, the Wawona Meadow and Washburn orchard in the background. Temporary tents are set up in the open courtyard between the Long Brown and Little White, ca. 1914 (source: Yosemite Research Library).

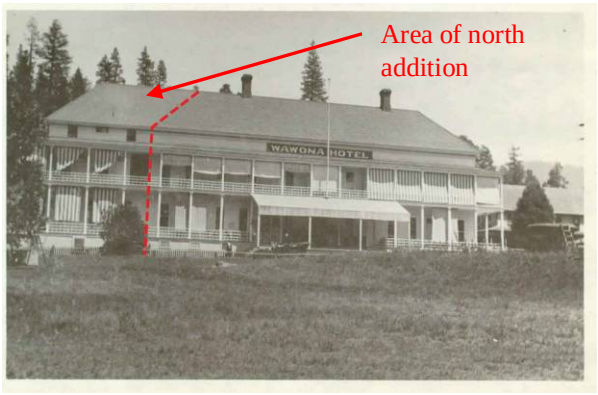


Figure 1-23. Wawona Hotel with the north addition, with the Original Wawona Fountain on level topography and slope (both extant) to the right, ca. between 1914 and 1917 (source: The Yosemite Research Library).

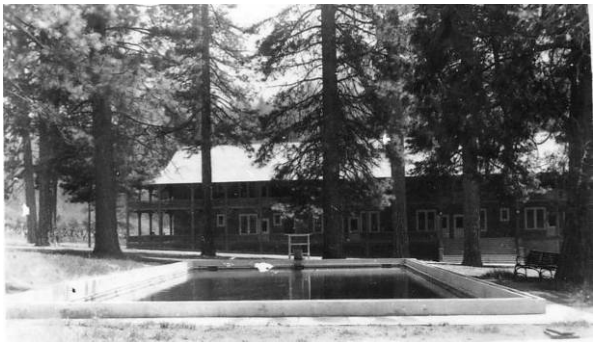


Figure 1-24. The addition of the swimming tank was one of the amenities that transformed Wawona into a resort, ca. 1920s (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1914

North addition to Wawona Hotel included a larger more modern dining room and more guest rooms.[134]

[134] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 73.

Old Wawona Road was repaired, and opened to automobiles in August 1914.[135]

The second story to Long Brown was built.[136]

The croquet area was built, located on the west side of the hotel slightly down the sloping lawn.[137]

Tent platforms built in the southern section between the Little White and Long Brown.[138]

1915

On June 1st, the Washburn's Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company replaced its horse drawn stages with an automotive service.[139]

1916

The National Park Service Organic Act was enacted, establishing the NPS as a federal agency.[140]

Clarence Washburn modified the Thomas Hill Studio, expanding it with the addition of a veranda on the south, west, and north facades.[141]

Boathouse was built at Stella Lake.[142]

1917

Clarence Washburn, son of John Washburn, became the hotel's primary operations manager (he had served as assistant manager since 1907).[143]

[135] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 9.
[136] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 164.
[137] Ibid, 220.
[138] Greene, *Yosemite*, 218.
[139] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 10.
[140] Greene, *Yosemite*, xli.
[141] Chapin et al., *Historic Structures Report Thomas Hill Studio*, 47.
[142] Greene, *Yosemite*, 131.
[143] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays*.

1917, continued

The Wawona Golf Course was built, completed in August. The course was designed by Walter Fovargue, an accomplished player, teacher, architect, and salesman.[144] Fovargue laid out the course in the field, and work began immediately to grade the land and remove trees. By September, 674 trees had been removed to build the seventh fairway alone.[145] Wawona Golf Course was the first mountain course in California. The development of the course included rail-fencing to keep out deer. The course was part of a $40,000 improvement program.[146]

The 30 by 70 foot swimming tank was built.[147]

The first tennis court (non-extant) was built, located on the west side of the hotel entrance drive, slightly down the sloping lawn.[148]

The Chinese laundry building (later the plumbing shop and the present-day carriage shop) was built.[149]

The majority of old Wawona Road became part of Yosemite National Park.[150]

The Annex Boiler House was built, located west of the present-day Annex.[151]

1918

The Wawona Hotel Annex was built as a state-of-the-art resort facility.[152] Concrete walks on the north and east connected to the Main Walkway, and a manicured lawn was adjacent to the building's foundation on the north side.

The original fountain was demolished and replaced with the extant Wawona Fountain.[153] The new fountain was built in the same location, constructed of river rock cobble from the South Fork of the Merced River. The style and aesthetic of the fountain emphasized stone construction, an aesthetic that would be extended to other new site features.

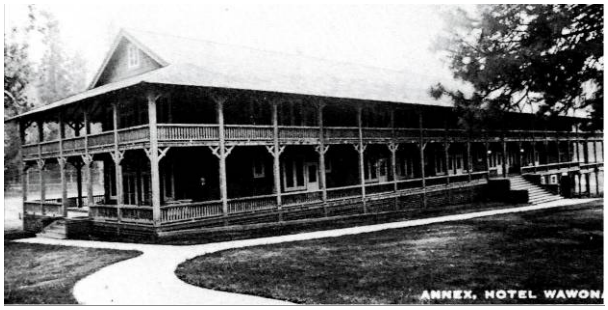


Figure 1-25. The new Hotel Annex was completed in June 1918. Concrete walks were on the north and east sides of the building, and a manicured lawn was adjacent to the building foundation (source: *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, Postcard from SS Collection, date of photo unknown).



Figure 1-26. The entrance drive and loop road was graded and lined with a cobble edge, ca. 1920s (source: TIC).

[144] Pioppi, *To the Nines*, 120-123.
[145] Ibid, 118.
[146] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 31.
[147] Carey & Co., *Wawona Hotel Complex*, 8.
[148] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 220.
[149] Greene, *Yosemite*, lxxvii.
[150] Ibid.
[151] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 196.
[152] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 31.
[153] Ibid, 85.



Figure 1-27. From parades to rodeo and fireworks, July 4th was traditionally a gala day at Wawona Hotel. Tom Gordon and Clarence Washburn are the men on the driver's seat. The stone light posts, Wawona Fountain, and entrance drive are extant. The flagpole was removed and reconstructed in 1987 in a similar location (source: *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*).



Figure 1-28. Hill Studio was converted to a club house by Clarence Washburn and the Thomas Hill Studio Fountain was utilized as a planter, surrounded by a soft surface path, ca. 1920s (source: *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*).



Figure 1-29. Wawona Hotel, post 1918. The front staircase had been modified from a stage stop to accommodate the automobile, and included stone walls and light poles (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1918, continued

A flagpole, set in a stone base, was built west of the fountain.[154] Pre-1918 historic photographs of the hotel indicate the original flagpole was on the top of the second-story porch. The original stone flagpole is non-extant, but was reconstructed in 1987 using similar masonry, with the addition of a NHL plaque on the base.

The entrance drive was graded and lined with a cobble stone edge. [155]

ca. 1920

A Golf pro shop was added to the Hotel Annex.[156]

1920

A bunk house for the Chinese male employees and a store were built, located on the north edge of the grounds near the top of the embankment.[157]

The Sequoia Hotel was built, and originally served as employee housing for women.[158] The building was utilized as a hotel from 1926 to 1931. The Sequoia Hotel was northeast of the Wawona Hotel on a level area defined by sloping topography on its east and south edges and by the river embankment on the north. A formal entrance and lawn on the west side of the building connected to the Main Hotel.

[154] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 85.
[155] Indicated by a post-1918 photograph of the Wawona Fountain, Yosemite Research Library.
[156] Indicated by a ca. 1920 photograph of the Hotel Annex, Yosemite Research Library.
[157] Crosby et al, *Historic Structure Report*, 893.
[158] Ibid, 40.

1922

The tennis court, replacing the earlier one built in 1917, was built. It was likely demolished by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company (YP & CC) when it was replaced by the extant 1937 CCC-built court.[159]

1924

NPS crews graded and widened 14 miles of old Wawona Road between Alder Creek and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.[160]

1925

A landing field for aircraft was established at Wawona Meadow, and included modifications to the meadow to accommodate the level terrain such as filling irrigation ditches and grading the topography. The first airplanes landed on December 8, 1925.[161]

Yosemite Park and Curry Company was formed by the merger of the Yosemite National Park Company and the Curry Camping Company.[162]

1926

Inter-bureau agreement of 1926 provided provisions for construction of the Wawona Road, and reconnaissance and location surveys commenced. This included the dedication of a right-of-way for the new Wawona Road between the Wawona Hotel and Wawona Golf Course. [163]



Figure 1-30. Postcard of the Wawona Fountain in front of Wawona Hotel, with a stone edge around the entrance drive, and soft surface path around the fountain, ca. 1920s (source: Yosemite Research Library).



Figure 1-31. The entrance drive remains in its historic location (as it appeared in 1920), but has been widened at the hotel entrance from its original width to accommodate emergency vehicles. The Hotel Annex, on the right, with the ninth green, was converted to a putting green in 1933 when the new Wawona Road was built (source: Yosemite Research Library).



Figure 1-32. Thomas Hill Studio Fountain, ca. 1920s. The concrete basin was in disrepair. The height of the basin in relation to the surrounding grade was historically closer to the same elevation than that which exists today (source: Yosemite Research Library).

[159] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 220.
[160] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 11.
[161] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 63.
[162] Russell, *One Hundred Years in Yosemite*, 223.
[163] Roach, *Final Construction Report, Post Construction Work, Route 2, The Wawona Road*, 2.

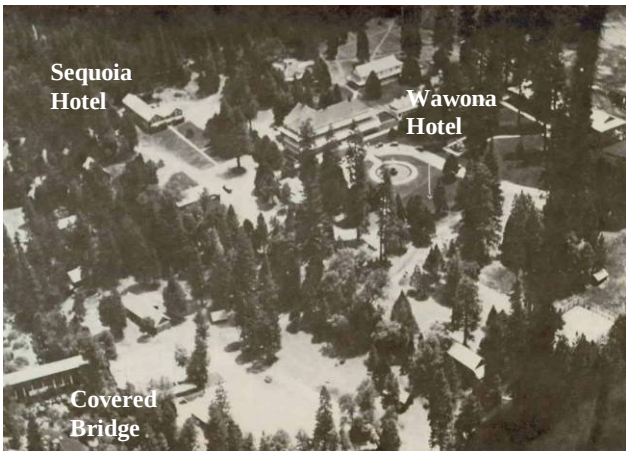


Figure 1-33. The Wawona Hotel and Wawona Covered Bridge were historically spatially connected, as were the Wawona Hotel and Sequoia Hotel. The hotels were connected by a formal courtyard on level topography, surrounded by forest vegetation on sloping topography, ca. 1926 (source: Wawona Washburn Hartwig Collection).



Figure 1-34. The Sequoia Hotel was set on level topography, surrounded by sloping topography and forest vegetation, no date--post 1920 (source: Yosemite Research Library).



Figure 1-35. Wawona Hotel looking east, with the Washburn orchard and garden on right, prior to construction of the new Wawona Road, ca. 1925. The addition of the new Wawona Road required relocation of the ninth green from adjacent to the Hotel Annex to the south side of the new Wawona Road (source: Thomas Bopp).

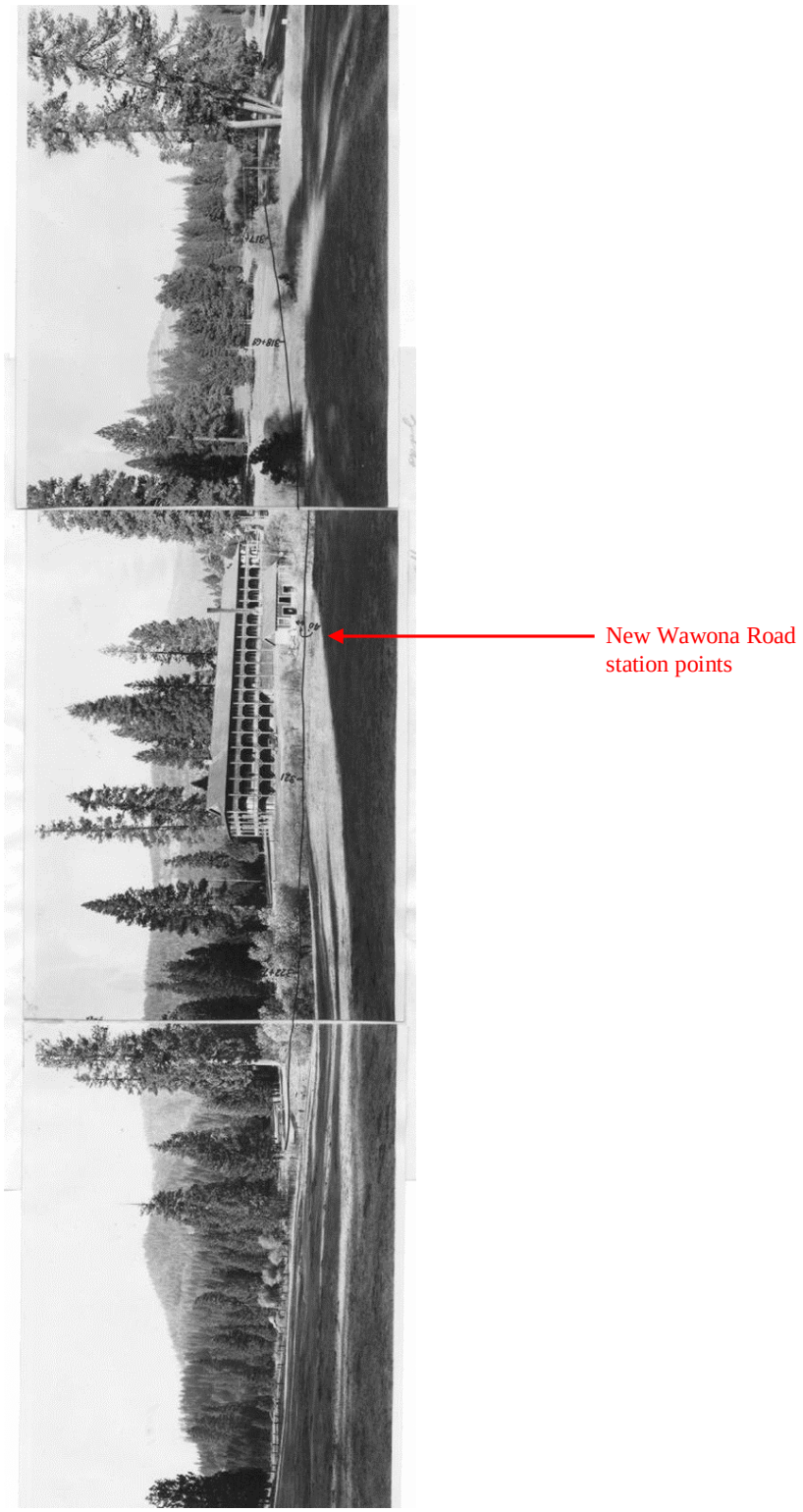
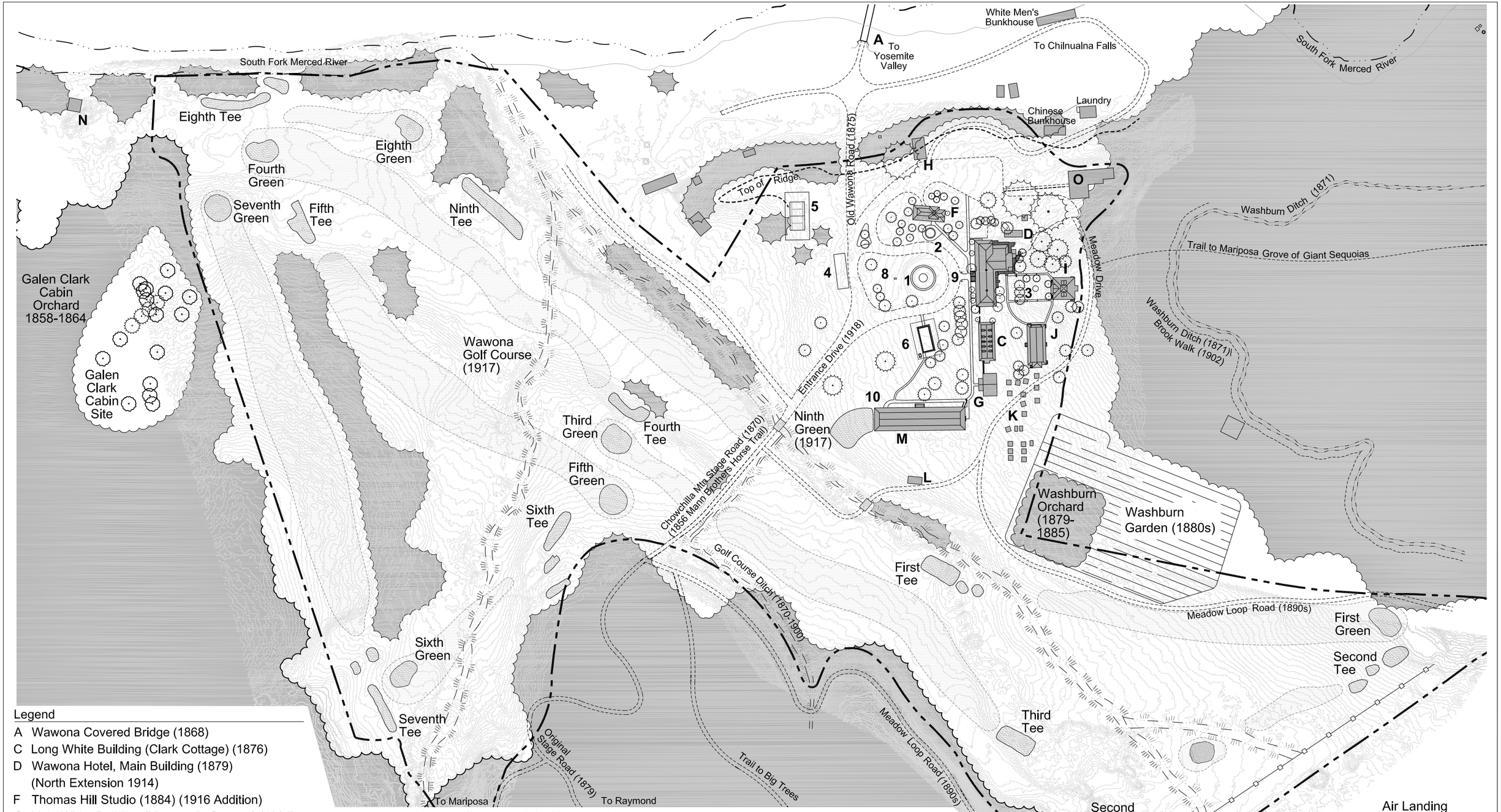


Figure 1-36. Clarence Washburn donated a portion of his property for the new Wawona Road that would bisect the study area, separating the Wawona Hotel from the Wawona Golf Course. Station points indicating the proposed alignment are identified on photos prior to the new Wawona Road surveying and construction, ca. 1926.[164]

[164] U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Public Roads, District No.2. March 1932. *Location Survey Report on Wawona Road, Mariposa Grove Section, Route 2, Section B-2*, Yosemite National Park Mariposa County California.



Legend

- A Wawona Covered Bridge (1868)
- C Long White Building (Clark Cottage) (1876)
- D Wawona Hotel, Main Building (1879) (North Extension 1914)
- F Thomas Hill Studio (1884) (1916 Addition)
- G Little White Building (Manager's Cottage) (1884)
- H Dance Hall (1892)
- I Little Brown Building (Moore Cottage) (ca 1894)
- J Long Brown Building (Washburn Cottage) (1899-1900) 2nd Story (1914)
- K Tent Platforms (1914)
- L Annex Boiler House (1917)
- M Wawona Hotel Annex (1918)
- N Slaughterhouse (date unknown)
- O Sequoia Hotel (1920)

- 1 Wawona Fountain (re-built 1918, original late 1880s)
- 2 Thomas Hill Studio Fountain (ca. 1895)
- 3 Little Brown Fountain (ca 1909)
- 4 Croquet Ground (1914)
- 5 Tennis Court (1922, original 1917 in different location)
- 6 Swimming Tank (1917)
- 8 Flagpole with Cobblestone Base (1918)
- 9 Stone Light Posts and Stone Walls (ca 1918)
- 10 Golf Pro Shop in Annex (1920)

Study Area Boundary

N W E S

0 230 460

FIGURE 1 - 37

August 2012	TITLE OF PROJECT: WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX	TITLE OF DRAWING: Clarence Washburn's Wawona Hotel Resort 1913-1927 Period Plan NAME OF PARK: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK REGION: PACIFIC COUNTY: MARIPOSA STATE: CALIFORNIA

National Park Service Wawona Development (1928 to1939)

This period begins in 1928 with the construction of the new Wawona Road as the primary route in Yosemite National Park. The new road substantially modified the previously connected site, changing the physical relationship between the hotel and golf course and between the hotel and covered bridge. This period captures the first work undertaken by the National Park Service after Wawona became a component of Yosemite National Park. It also captures the change of management of the hotel from Clarence Washburn to the Yosemite Park and Curry Company (YP & CC). In 1932, the Washburns sold their lands and facilities to the National Park Service and stayed on until 1934 to manage the hotel for the YP & CC. Their sale was part of the 1932 transaction that transferred 8,875 acres of the Wawona Basin into the lands of Yosemite National Park. This period concludes in 1939 with the completion of Wawona Road as a paved route, bisecting the hotel grounds and golf course.

In the early part of this period, the Washburns continued to make modifications to the complex, though these were modest compared to the work of the previous decade. These modifications included re-building the slaughterhouse in 1929 and improving the golf course in 1933.

Between 1928 and 1939, most modifications to the Wawona Hotel Complex were associated with rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the National Park Service (NPS), many of which were completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC established camps in Wawona, and focused on erosion control, drainage improvements, road and bridge construction, and water and sewer projects. Their work at Wawona Hotel and Golf Course included filling gullies, improving drainage ditches, repairing golf course



Figure 1-38. Wawona Meadow was used for grazing until 1977. The Meadow Loop Road was soft surfaced and afforded views of the Wawona Meadow and Wawona Golf Course, 1932 (source: Yosemite Research Library).

fairways and greens, and clearing and thinning vegetation along Meadow Loop Road. They also built the extant tennis court (1937) near the hotel's north embankment. The NPS built the Wawona Bridge at the South Fork of the Merced River in 1931, and completed the road construction and paving of Wawona Road in 1939.

1928

A Board of Advisors to Yosemite National Park was appointed by the authority of Congress to study and assist in developing solutions for Yosemite's problems. The advisors included Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Duncan McDuffie, and John P. Buwable.[165]

Clearing began for the new Wawona Road in the vicinity of the Wawona Hotel Complex and was done by contract.[166]

1929

Slaughterhouse (extant) was built, replacing the earlier slaughterhouse, and was located

[165] Russell, *100 Years in Yosemite*, 224.
[166] Roach, *Final Construction Report, Post Construction Work, Route 2, The Wawona Road*, 2.

1929, continued
adjacent to the original site.[167]

1930s
The CCC implemented improvement projects on the golf course to improve drainage and control erosion.[168] These included channelizing the small creek that protected "the front and left of the downhill second green that was also behind a grass mound and stream: quite the demanding hole."[169] Other changes included shortening of the seventh fairway to 440 yards, which Fovargue had designed in 1917 to be 550 yards.[170]

1930 to 1931
Grading began and was completed for the new Wawona Road through the Wawona Hotel Complex.[171]

1931
Bridge over South Fork of the Merced River built downstream from the Wawona Covered Bridge.[172] The bridge was rebuilt in 2006.

1931 to 1932
Base paving of bituminous treatment was installed on Wawona Road through the Wawona Hotel Complex.[173]



Figure 1-39. The 1935 view from the fifth green at Wawona Golf Course to the Wawona Hotel, shows the connectivity between the two landscape character areas, and the views to the Wawona Dome (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1932
Wawona Hotel and Golf Course became part of Yosemite National Park, as part of the 8,875 acres of Wawona Basin that was acquired to by the NPS. [174] The south entrance to the park moved from Alder Creek to Four Mile Station (approximate present-day location).[175] The Washburns sold their land and facilities to the NPS. Facilities were managed by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company.[176] Clarence Washburn served as manager of hotel operations until 1934.[177]

The sale of the Wawona Hotel to the NPS, and management of the hotel by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company in 1932 marked the end of employment for Chinese workers, who were replaced by female employees.[178]

Drawings completed for the Wawona Area, managed by Yosemite Park and Curry Company.

[167] Greene, *Yosemite*, 885.
[168] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 73.
[169] Pioppi, *To the Nines*, 121.
[170] Ibid, 122.
[171] Roach, *Final Construction Report, Post Construction Work, Route 2, The Wawona Road*, 7.
[172] U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Public Roads 1931, *Final Inspection Report Section B-2 Br*. Yosemite National Park, CA, 2.
[173] Roach, *Final Construction Report, Post Construction Work, Route 2, The Wawona Road*, 7.
[174] Russell, *100 Years in Yosemite*, 224-225.
[175] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 15.
[176] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 69.
[177] Ibid, 70.
[178] Guerra, "Piecing Together the Past: Chinese Immigrants in Yosemite," 16.



Figure 1-40. CCC workers improved and stabilized existing ditches and channels in the Wawona Meadow and Wawona Golf Course, 1934 (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1932, continued

The southwest stairs and walkways between the Long White and Little White were removed (no longer evident in historic photographs).[179]

1932 to 1933

Rock course base paving was installed on the new Wawona Road through the Wawona Hotel Complex.[180] The new road was wider than earlier routes, resulting in the relocation of the ninth green (what is now the putting green) to the south side of Wawona Road.[181]

1933

"Emergency Programs" consisting of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Civil Works Administration (CWA,) and Public Works Administration (PWA), including five CCC camps, were established in Yosemite National Park. [182] Three camps were built at Wawona, two at the far end of the Wawona Meadow and a large, well-ordered camp north of the present-day Pioneer Yosemite History Center.[183]

CCC workers cleaned up the Wawona Meadow, removed old fences and buildings in disrepair, removed garbage pits, and dismantled hotel signs, filled eroded gullies, and built or repaired two drainage ditches. CCC workers removed fencing around the slaughterhouse after livestock operations were discontinued.[184]

CCC workers graded the slope between Wawona Road and Wawona Hotel.[185]

The 3.1 mile Meadow Loop Road was improved by the CCC.[186]

CCC workers repaired and reseeded fairways and greens on Wawona Golf Course, and cleared and thinned timber along the Meadow Loop Road.[187]

Yosemite Park & Curry Company planted shrubs and trees at the west end of the Hotel Annex, and planted a lawn (extant) around the hotel grounds.[188]

[179] Carey & Co., *Wawona Hotel Complex*, 8.
[180] Roach, *Final Construction Report, Post Construction Work, Route 2, The Wawona Road*, 7.
[181] Pioppi, *To the Nines*, 122.
[182] Russell, *100 Years in Yosemite*, 225.
[183] Sargent, *Wawona's Yesterdays*, C.C.C.'s.
[184] HRA, Inc., *DRAFT Wawona Site History*, 2000, 23.
[185] Historic Photograph dated 1933.
[186] HRA, Inc., *DRAFT Wawona Site History*, 24.
[187] Ibid, 24.
[188] Ibid.

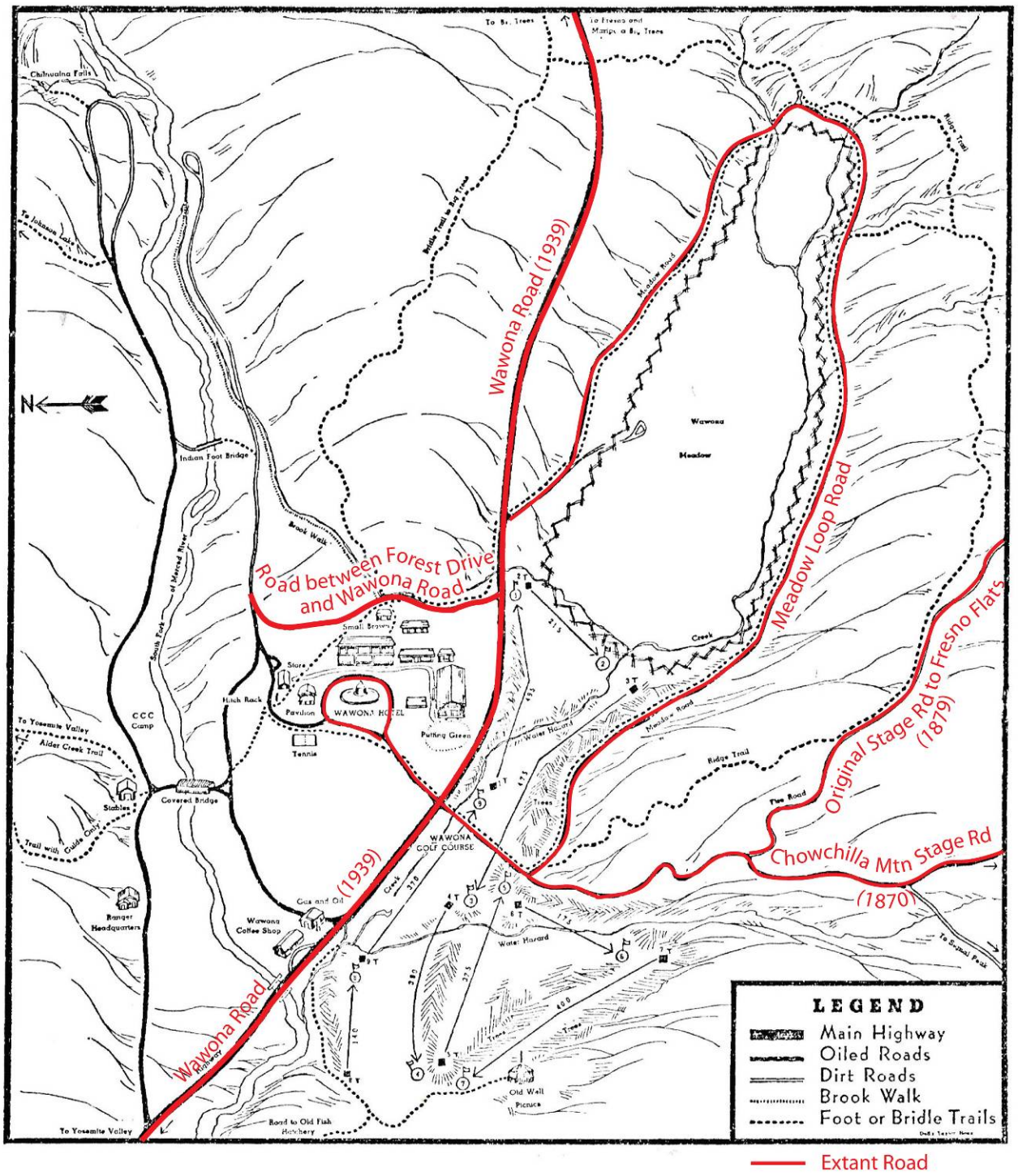


Figure 1-41. An overlay of existing roads (red) on this 1933 map indicates extant circulation patterns since 1933 (source: *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*).



Figure 1-42. CCC workers graded the slope between the new Wawona Road and Wawona Hotel, November 1933 (source: Yosemite Research Library).

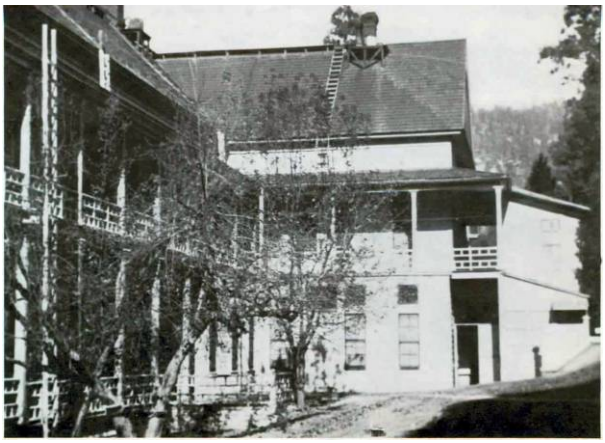


Figure 1-43. Two apple trees were planted on the east side of the Wawona Hotel. The southern-most tree is extant, 1932 (source: Yosemite Research Library).



Figure 1-44. The Annex Boiler House (1917) was removed during construction of the Wawona Road, 1933 (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1933, continued

Annex Boiler House was demolished (likely to make room for Wawona Road), and Yosemite Park & Curry Co. built a boiler in the Hotel Annex.[189]

Wawona Water and Sewer System Layout.[190]

1933 to 1934

Water and sewer systems were installed, including a new concrete septic tank, and 6-inch sewer line, located underneath the golf course.[191]

1933 to 1937

New Wawona Road through the Hotel Complex received additional paving and erosion control treatments done by contract.[192]

1934

Boundary Survey by J.B. Allen, Surveyor completed and included 282 acres.[193]
Drawings completed for electrical data of the site.[194]

8-inch water line was installed under the Washburn Ditch.[195]

Yosemite National Park south entrance road was realigned, and a parking area built just inside the entrance to the park.[196]

[189] Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*, 197.
[190] Eldridge Spencer was the architect.
[191] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. June 1934. *Final Report F.P. 77 – Wawona Sewer System (Acct # 424).* Yosemite National Park; Mariposa County; California.
[192] Roach, *Final Construction Report, Post Construction Work, Route 2, The Wawona Road*, 8.
[193] Carey & Co., *Wawona Hotel Complex*, 9.
[194] Ibid, 9.
[195] Greene, *Yosemite*, 365.
[196] HAER, *Wawona Road*, 17.

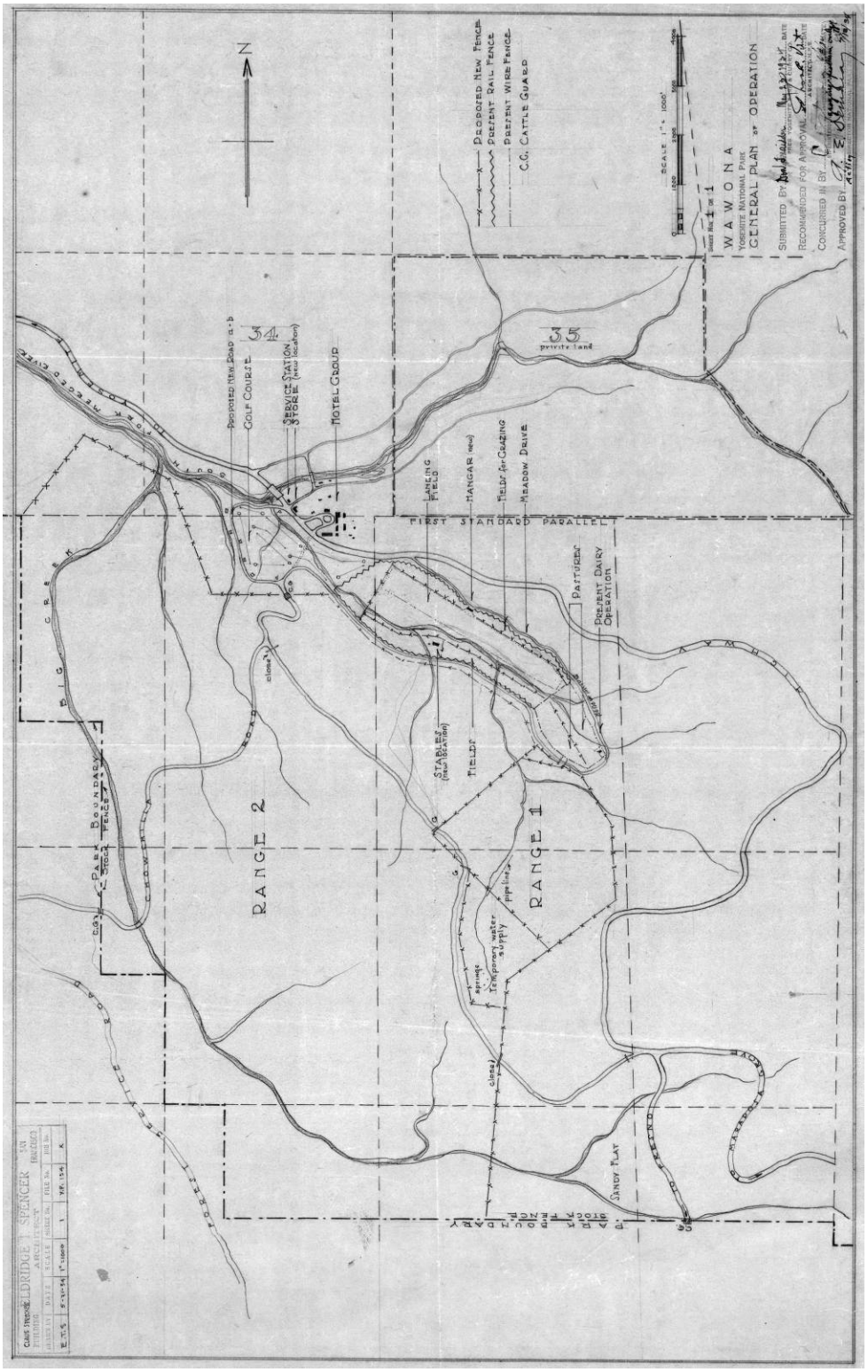


Figure 1-45. The General Plan of Operation prepared by architect Eldridge Spencer for the NPS in 1934, illustrates the extent of facilities within the Wawona Hotel Complex, including hotel buildings, Wawona Golf Course, landing strip and hanger, Wawona Road and Meadow Loop Road, pasture areas, dairy operations, as well as proposed and existing fences (source: Yosemite National Park Archives).

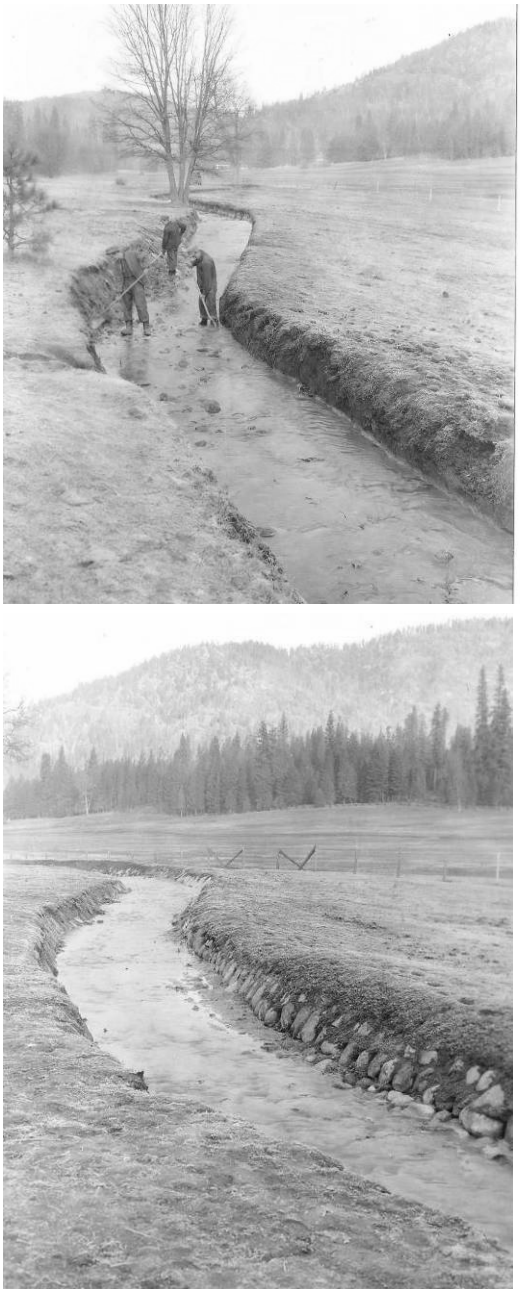


Figure 1-46. The CCC played an integral role in improvement projects at the Wawona Hotel Complex in the 1930s, including drainage ditch stabilization at the Wawona Golf Course and adjacent Wawona Meadow, 1934 (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1934, continued

The General Plan of Operation prepared by architect Eldridge Spencer for the NPS. The drawing is for the Wawona Hotel Complex, landing field, proposed hanger, fields for grazing, as well as dairy operations at the east end of the meadow.

1935

Improvements were made to the air landing strip by the NPS according to the "Proposed Airport Layout" topographic map. The work was noted as being for seeding, sodding and fine grading only.

1936

Chinese bunkhouse was demolished.[197]

1935 to 1936

CCC workers built diversion ditches, stabilized with rocks, and a series of small check dams.

1937

The tennis court (extant) was built adjacent to its previous 1922 location. Architect Eldridge Spencer laid out and designed the court with a chain link fence, and CCC workers built the court.

Granary and garage were removed by CCC.

1938 to 1939

New Wawona Road segment through the Wawona Hotel Complex received bituminous treatment surfacing.[198]

[197] Baloian et al, *Archeological Investigations at the Wawona Hotel Complex, Yosemite National Park, California*, indicated an undetermined date of 1936 (Figure 2.2). Laura Kirn, Yosemite National Park Anthropology Branch Chief, indicated a date of 1947.
[198] Roach, *Final Construction Report, Post Construction Work, Route 2, The Wawona Road*, 8.

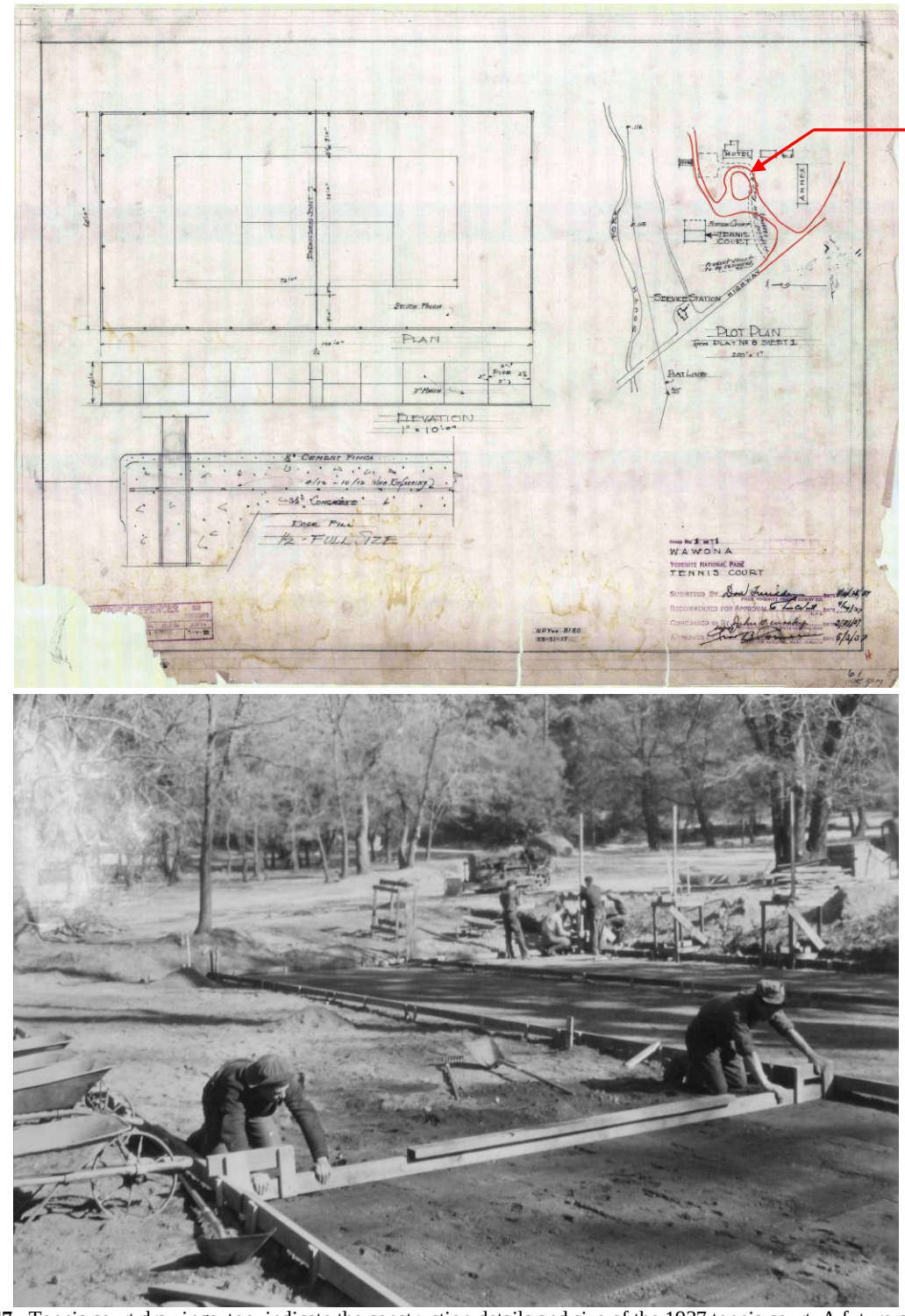


Figure 1-47. Tennis court drawings, top, indicate the construction details and size of the 1937 tennis court. A future court was planned adjacent to the extant court, but was not implemented, above. Eldridge Spencer, architect, laid out and designed the court and chain link fence (source: Yosemite National Park Archives). CCC Workers built the 1937 tennis court (extant), adjacent to the 1922 location, bottom (source: Yosemite National Park Archives).

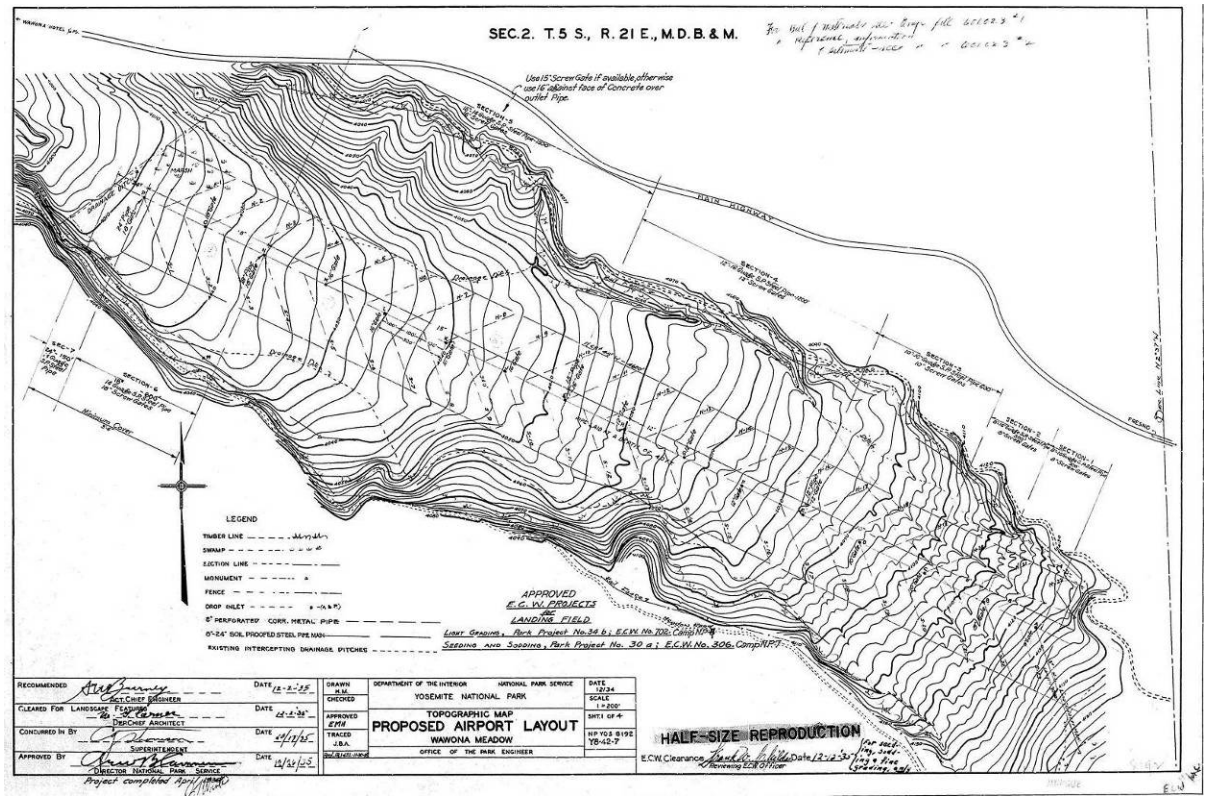


Figure 1-48. Proposed Airport Layout, 1935. Improvements were made to the air landing strip by the NPS according to this plan. The work was noted as being for seeding, sodding and fine grading only (source: TIC # YOSE_104_8792)**.**

1939

Paving of the segment of the new Wawona Road through the Wawona Hotel Complex (between the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and Alder Creek) was completed.[199] A new 18-mile section of road eliminated the narrow, winding portion of the route between Fresno. The south park entrance was also completed, resulting in an increase of travel through the south entrance and to the Wawona Hotel Complex.[200] Paving for the segment of the new Wawona Road outside the study area, and into Yosemite Valley was completed in the fall of 1940.[201]



Figure 1-49. Wawona Air Field at Wawona Meadow, ca.1926 (source: *Stage to Yosemite*).

[199] Federal Works Agency. 1940. *Final Construction Report Wawona Road Project* 2-A1, B1, B2, B3, B3 Bituminous Treatment Surfacing Yosemite National Park; Mariposa County, California, 1.
[200] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *1940 Superintendent Report*, 11.
[201] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1941. *Annual Superintendent Report Yosemite National Park Fiscal Year 1941*, 2.



Figure 1-50. Wawona Golf Course Pamphlet, post 1933. The ninth green was relocated from the west side of the Hotel Annex to the south side of the New Wawona Road (source: Pioppi, *To the Nines*).

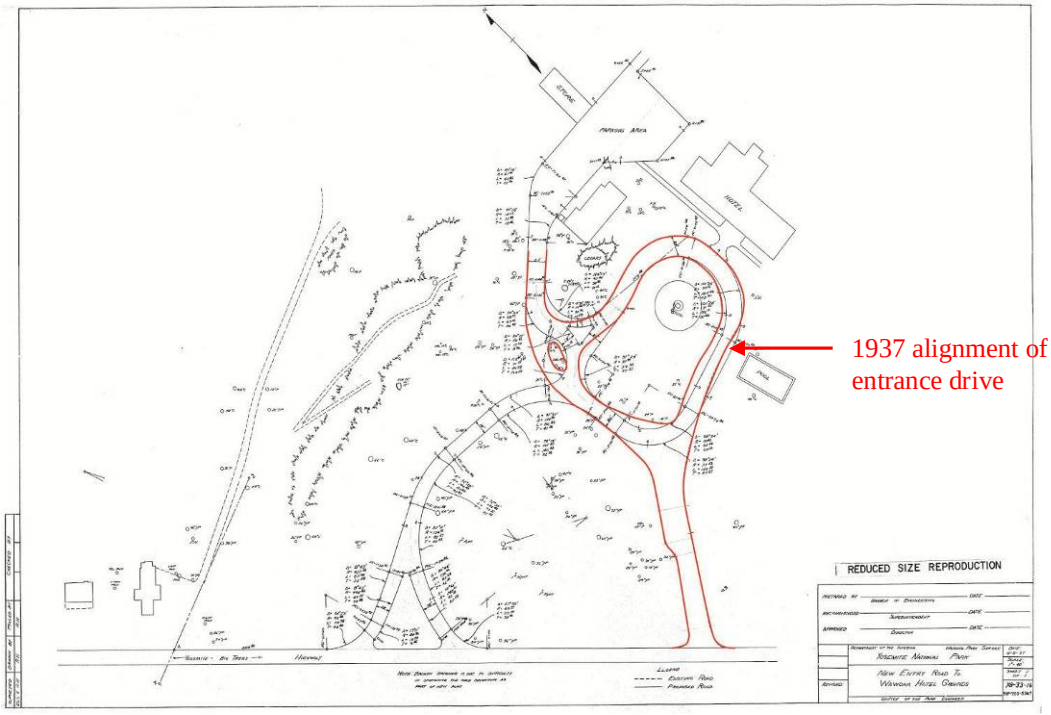


Figure 1-51. The existing road and drive in 1937 (highlighted in red) on this proposed new entry road alignment at the Wawona Hotel. The proposed road alignment was not built. The present-day entrance drive follows the 1937 alignment (source: TIC# YOSE_104_5367).



Legend

- A Wawona Covered Bridge (1868)
- C Long White Building (Clark Cottage) (1876)
- D Wawona Hotel, Main Hotel (1879)
- F Thomas Hill Studio (1884) (1916 Addition)
- G Little White Building (Manager's Cottage) (1884)
- I Little Brown Building (Moore Cottage) (ca 1894)
- J Long Brown Building (Washburn Cottage) (1899-1900) 2nd Story (1914)
- K Tent Platforms (1914)
- M Wawona Hotel Annex (1918)
- N Slaughterhouse (rebuilt 1929)
- O Sequoia Hotel (1920)
- P CCC Wawona Road Bridge (1931)
- Q Water Tank (1934)

- 1 Wawona Fountain (re-built 1918, original late 1880s)
- 2 Thomas Hill Studio Fountain (ca 1895)
- 4 Croquet Ground (1914)
- 5 Tennis Court (re-built in new location - 1937, original 1917 and 1922)
- 6 Swimming Tank (1917)
- 7 Putting Green (1933-previous Ninth Green, 1917)
- 8 Flagpole with Cobblestone Base (1918)
- 9 Stone Light Posts and Stone Walls (ca 1918)
- 10 Golf Pro Shop in Hotel Annex (1920)

— — — Study Area Boundary

N W E S

0 230 460

FIGURE 1 - 52

August 2012

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX

TITLE OF PROJECT
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
TITLE OF DRAWING
National Park Service Wawona Development 1928-1939 Period Plan
NAME OF PARK
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

REGION	COUNTY	STATE
PACIFIC	MARIPOSA	CALIFORNIA

National Park Service Master Planning (1940 to 1964)

This period of development captures a series of planning initiatives that were undertaken by the NPS as part of master planning for the future development of Yosemite National Park. This period begins in 1940 when Wawona Hotel ceases operations for several years during World War II, and concludes in 1964 with the completion of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

In the 1940s, master planning for the Wawona Hotel Complex and adjacent Wawona area included recommendations for modifications to the hotel's circulation system. The plans suggested changing the alignment of the entrance drive and creating additional development on the east side of the hotel. These plans were not implemented.

In the 1950s, the NPS initiated the MISSION 66 planning effort to master plan and manage design for the entire NPS system. For Wawona, this planning focused on development of the area north of the hotel. As a result of this planning effort, the NPS built the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, located across the South Fork of the Merced River, and adjacent to the Wawona Covered Bridge (originally built by Galen Clark and covered by the Washburns). The Pioneer Yosemite History Center was established and dedicated in 1964 to serve as a living history museum with the intent of reducing "crowding and congestion in Yosemite Valley by establishing other centers of interest in outlying areas of the park."[202]

1940s

Wawona Hotel ceased operations during World War II for three years.[203]



Figure 1-53. The entrance drive, ca. 1940s with stone cobble edged road and parking on one side. The visual connection to the golf course, Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road is evident (source: *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*).

1941

The air landing strip was determined to be unsuitable for further use (even for emergencies).[204]

1942

NPS prepared the 'Wawona Area' plan as "Part of the Master Plan for Yosemite National Park."[205] Recommendations included expanding visitor facilities to include a new hotel to the east and up the hill from Wawona Hotel, and extensive modifications to the entrance drive. The plan recommended moving the drive to the west to connect with Wawona Road directly south of the tennis court. The recommended changes also included eliminating the original entrance across from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road. A loop road was recommended around the north edge of the grounds (location of present-day service parking) to extend from the north end of the hotel up the hillside to the recommended hotel expansion site.

[202] Greene, *Yosemite*, Ixxviii.
[203] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 73.
[204] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona*, 73.
[205] TIC# 2107B, 1942.



Figure 1-54. The Main Walkway is concrete paving and foundation plantings are along the building facades. Plantings consisted of regularly spaced vines, shrubs and perennials, ca. 1940s (source: Yosemite Research Library).

1947
Wawona Hotel reopened.

1947-1950
Tent platforms between Little White and Long Brown demolished.[206]

1948
Electricity replaced old water-generated power system (Washburn Ditch).[207]

1949
This was the last year ice was cut at Stella Lake.[208]

1950
New water and irrigation systems were installed at the Wawona Hotel, golf course, and meadow.[209]

Irrigation pump was installed for the golf course on the bank of the South Fork of the Merced River, by the eighth fairway.[210]

Flooding washed out a portion of the diversion dam on the South Fork of the Merced River, and a portion of the dike that formed Stella Lake.

Flooding from the creek along the ninth fairway eroded the golf course. Flooding damaged the Wawona Covered Bridge over the South Fork of the Merced River, and further damaged Stella Lake, which never held water again.[211]

[206] Greene, *Yosemite,* 219.
[207] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona,* 75.
[208] Ibid, 75.
[209] TIC Historic Drawing; *Wawona Utilities Plan,* March 1950. (Figure 1-54).
[210] Yosemite Park and Curry Co. letter March 21, 1950 to Superintendent Mr. Carl P. Russell.
[211] Sargent, *Yosemite's Historic Wawona,* 75.

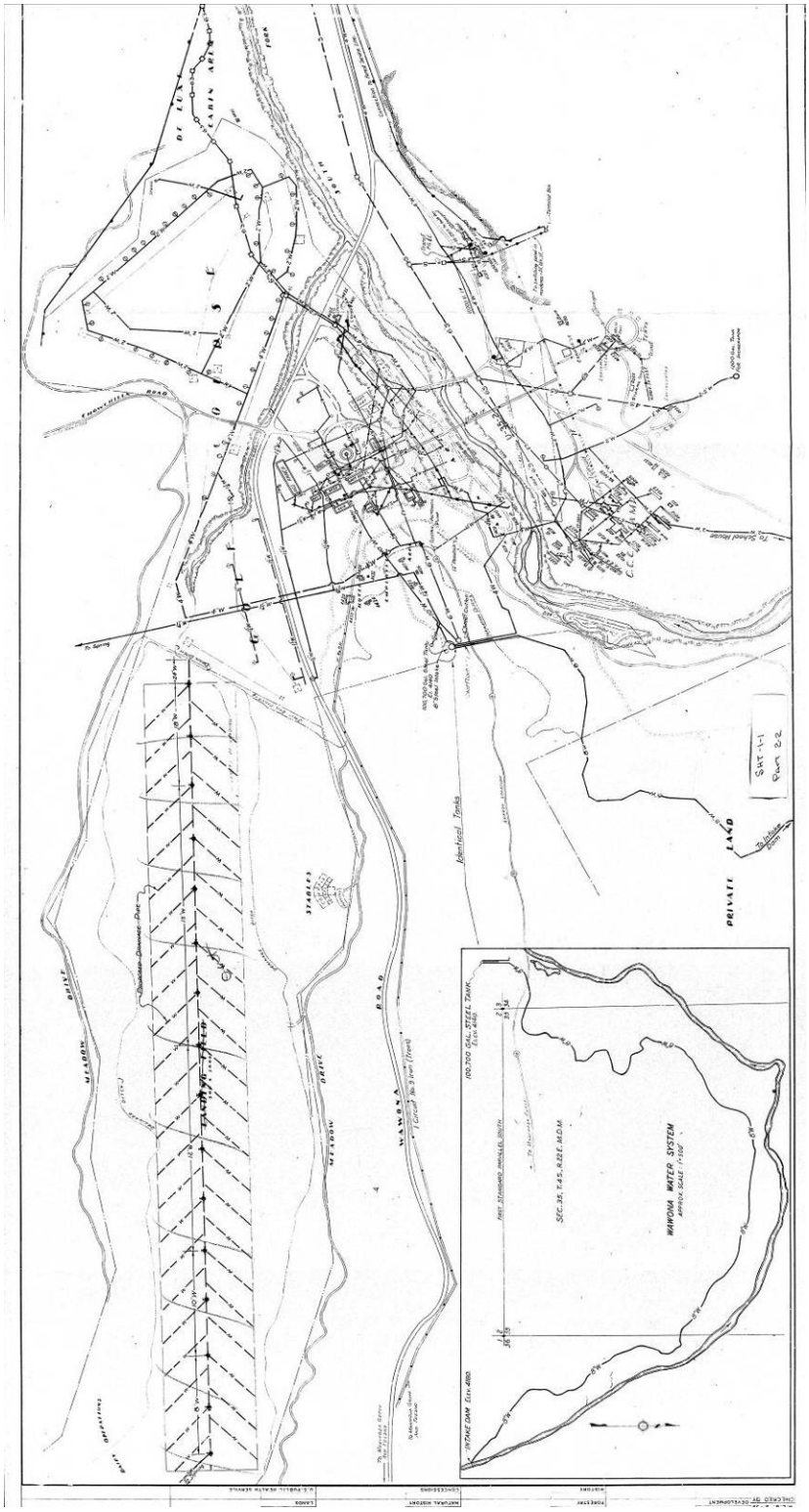


Figure 1-55. Wawona Utilities Plan, March 1950. A new water system was installed at Wawona Hotel and Wawona Meadow, and irrigation installed on Wawona Golf Course. A water line was also installed under the Washburn Ditch (source: TIC# YOSE_104_5307_D_2).

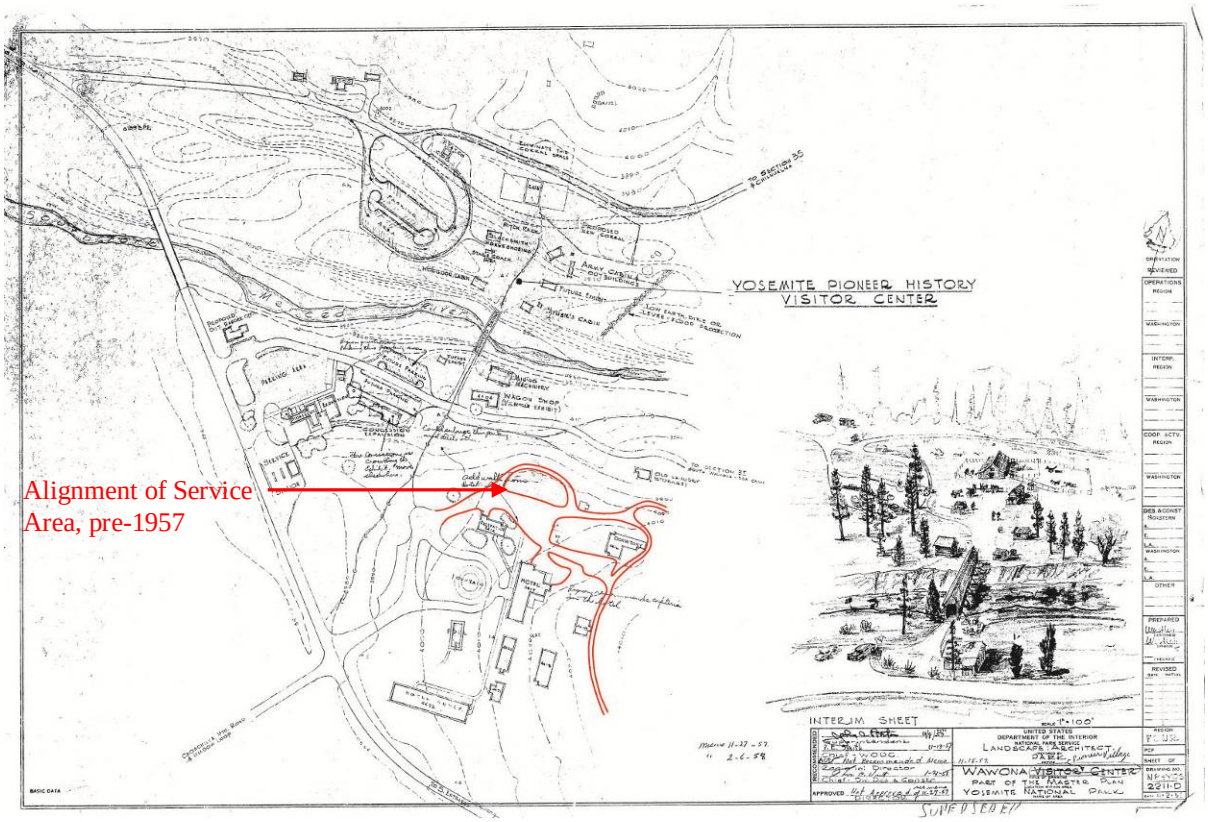


Figure 1-56. Yosemite Pioneer History Visitor Center (Part of Master Plan), 1957. Drawing shows the historic alignment of the service area (source: TIC# YOSE_104_2211_D).

1955

Flooding in 1955 damaged some golf course bridges and portions of Wawona Road (between the golf course and the hotel).[212]

1956

The NPS restored the Wawona Covered Bridge.[213]

1950s

Pioneer Yosemite History Center was planned through the park's MISSION 66 program. Wawona Covered Bridge served as focal point. Pioneer Yosemite History Center serves as a living history museum and is comprised of buildings relocated and rehabilitated from different parts of the park.

1957

The parking area west of the Wawona Fountain was built.[214]

1959

Golf course bridges were destroyed and replaced.[215]

1964

Pioneer Yosemite History Center dedicated as part of the Yosemite National Park centennial celebration.

[212] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. December 1955. *Monthly Narrative Superintendent Report Yosemite National Park.* (Yosemite National Park, CA.)
[213] HAER *Wawona Covered Bridge*, 1.
[214] TIC #2211, 1957.
[215] Letter from Mr. Warren to Mr. Oehlmann, 1959.

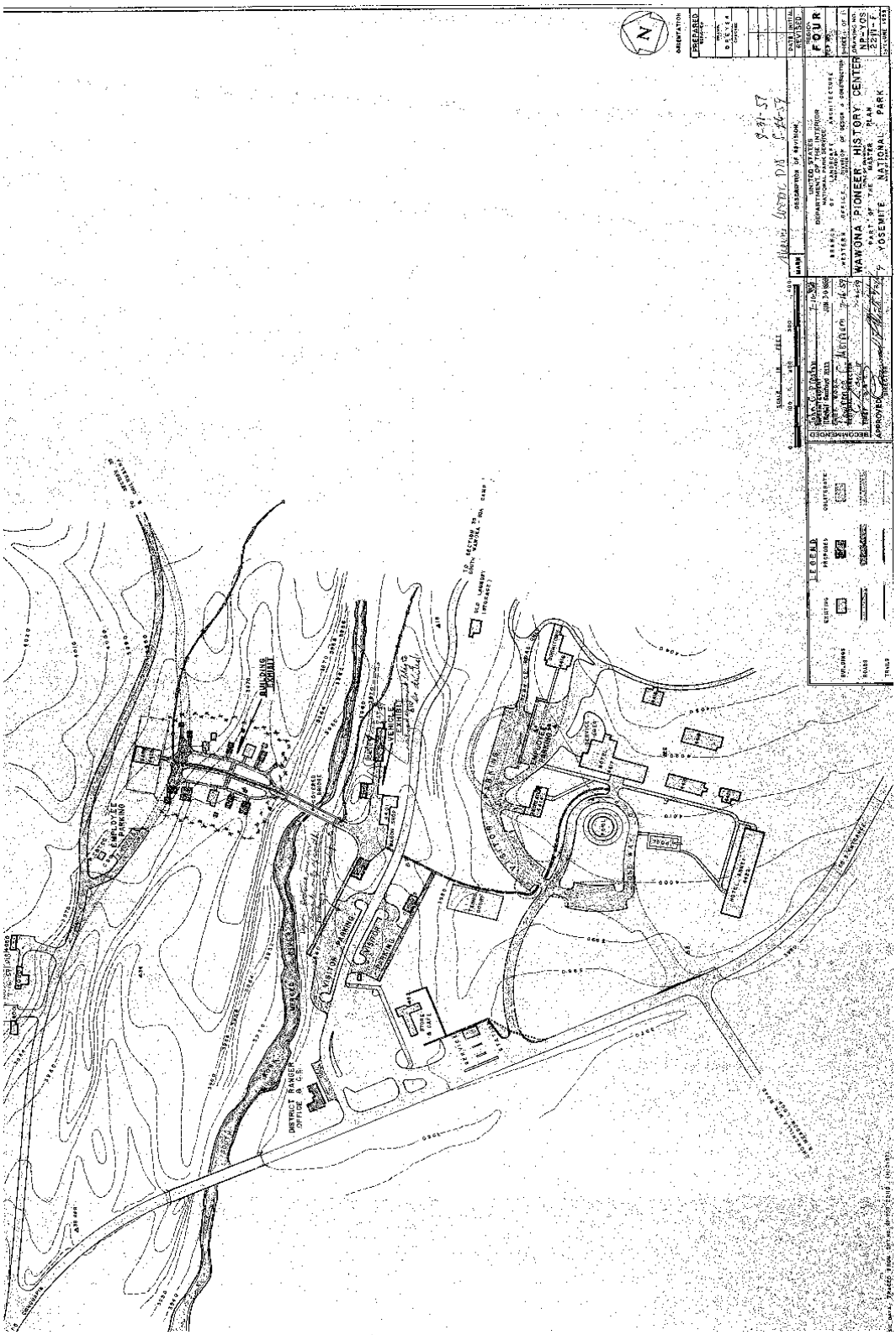


Figure 1-57. Pioneer Yosemite History Center (Part of Master Plan), 1959. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is a collection of historic buildings from throughout the park re-located to one area. The covered bridge leads to the building complex. The proposed improvements to the Wawona Hotel Complex did not occur (source: TIC# YOSE_104_2211_F).

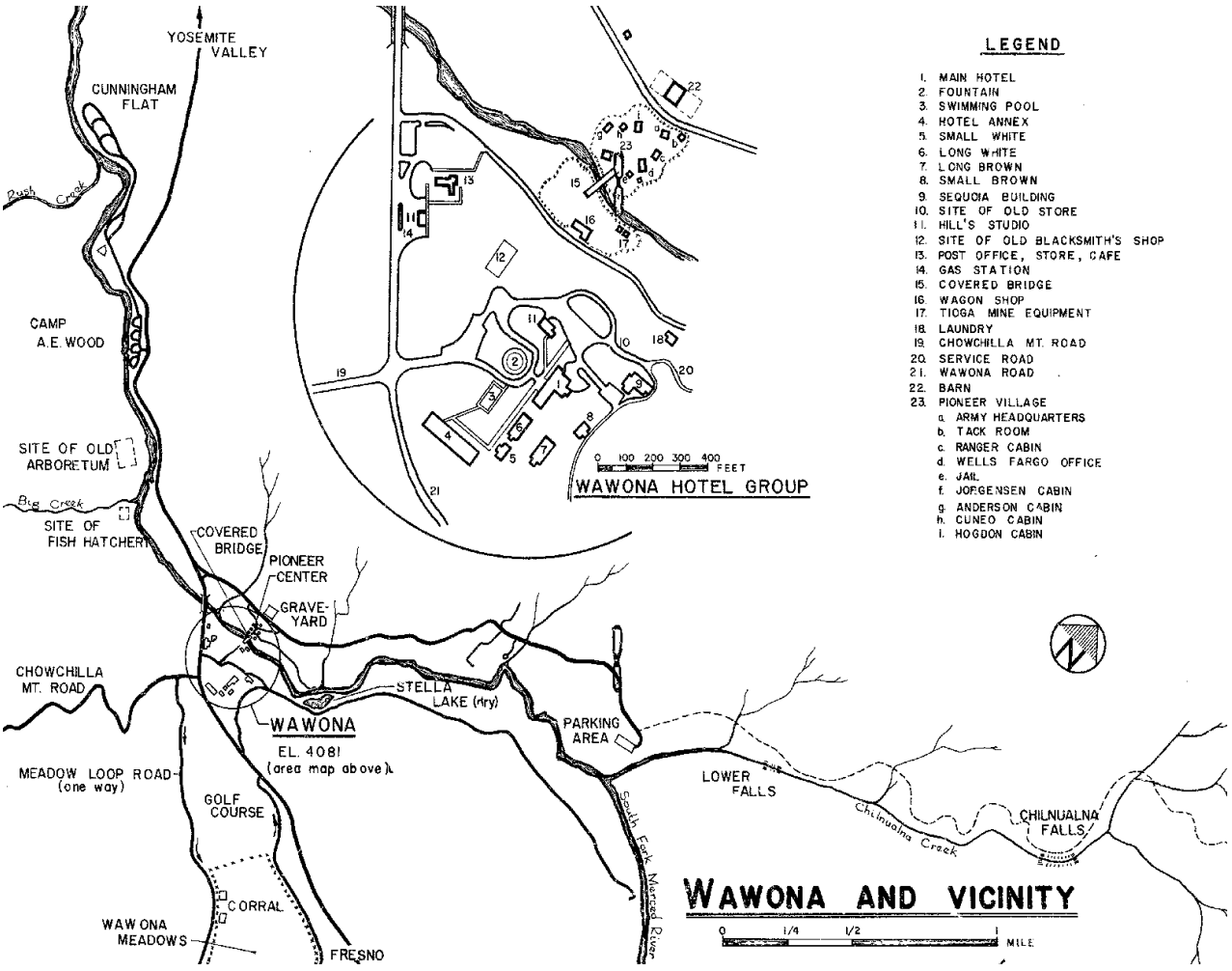


Figure 1-58. Wawona Hotel and Vicinity included with the 1975 NHL.[216]

[216] Chappel, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory*.

Modern Day Wawona (1965 to Present)

This period of development captures the acknowledgement of the Wawona Hotel Complex as a nationally significant site, and the continuation of the complex as an important resort destination in Yosemite National Park. During this period, measures were undertaken to update the hotel and grounds for modern use through the efforts of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company (until 1993), the NPS, and the present concessionaire, Delaware Northern Companies (DNC) who began managing the hotel and golf course in 1993.

Beginning in the 1970s, the NPS implemented preservation measures to protect culturally significant places within the national park system. In 1975, the Wawona Hotel and Hill Studio were nominated and listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). The Sequoia Hotel burned in 1977, and was subsequently demolished, triggering the need for a fire suppression system. The first Historic Structures Report (HSR) for the complex was completed in 1983. In 1987, the national significance of the Wawona Hotel Complex was further emphasized with its designation as a National Historic Landmark district.

Physical modifications during this period included the addition of a fire sprinkler system to all buildings, a new water treatment plant, an upgraded water distribution network for the Wawona Hotel and surrounding facilities, repair of building foundations, rehabilitation of the Thomas Hill Studio and Wawona fountains, and the addition of an interim boiler for the Hotel Annex.

1965
Shrubs and trees were planted between the first and third, and between the fourth and ninth fairways on the golf course.

Late 1960s
Golf cart charging station was built.[217]

1970s
Concern over horses, mules, and donkeys grazing in meadows throughout Yosemite National Park, including the Wawona Meadow, had become controversial.

1973
Park Chief Operating Officer Don Hummel devised a two-year phased program for reducing, then eliminating, grazing in Yosemite National Park. The program included using the Wawona Meadow as a transition point in the spring and fall when animals were moved in or out of the park.[218]

1975
Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio were nominated, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1975 NRHP).

1977
Grazing in the Wawona Meadow was discontinued after over 100-years of use.

Sequoia Hotel burned (listed in the NRHP) and was demolished.

[217] Date provided by DNC staff.
[218] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1973. *Annual Superintendent Report Yosemite National Park*. (Yosemite National Park; Mariposa County; CA.)

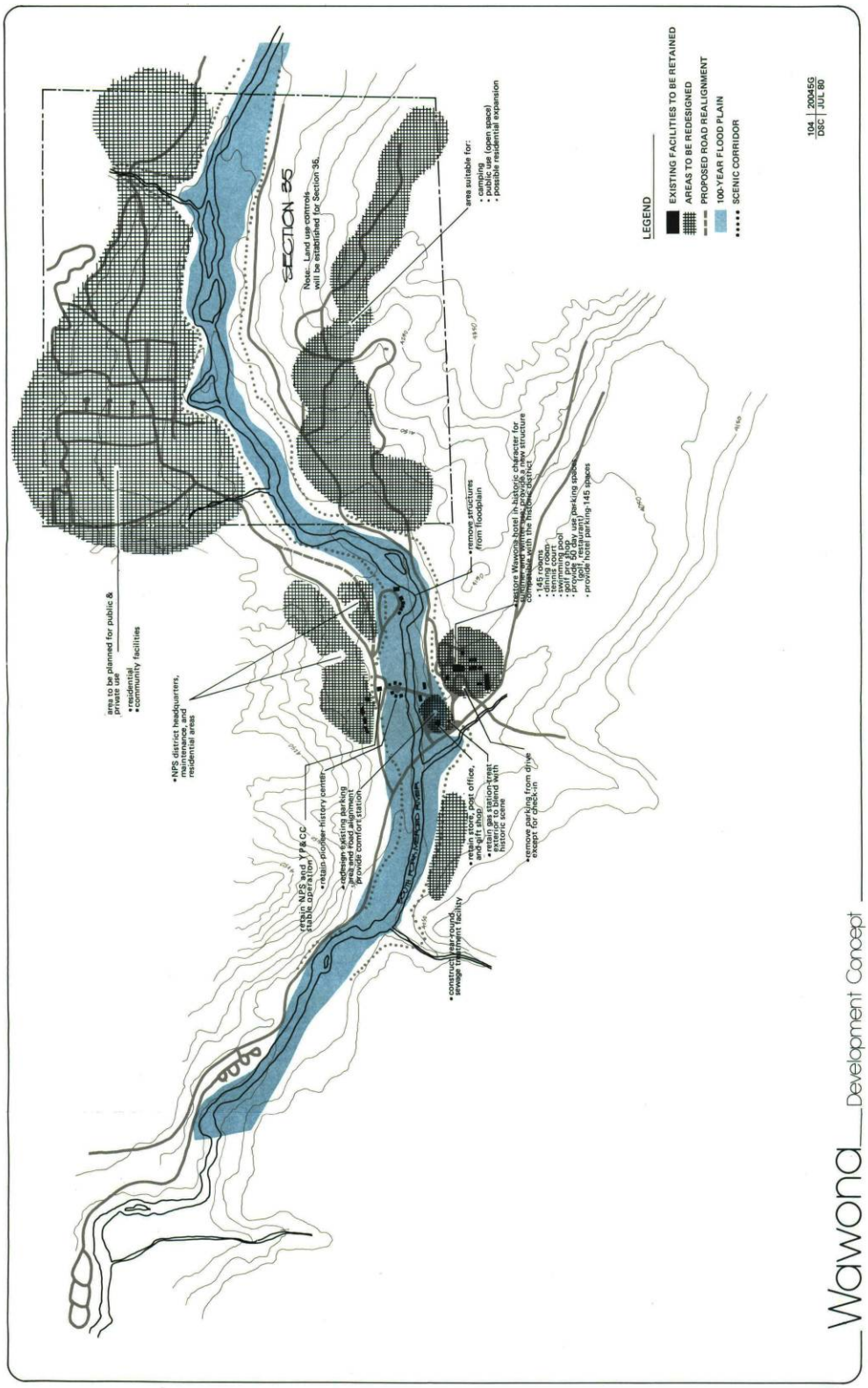


Figure 1-59. Wawona Development Concept. The 1980 GMP recommended removing parking from the entrance drive except for check-in, restoring Wawona Hotel in historic character for summer and winter use; providing a new structure compatible with the historic district including 145 rooms, dining room, swimming pool, golf pro shop, 50 day use parking spaces, and 145 hotel parking spaces (source: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *General Management Plan*).

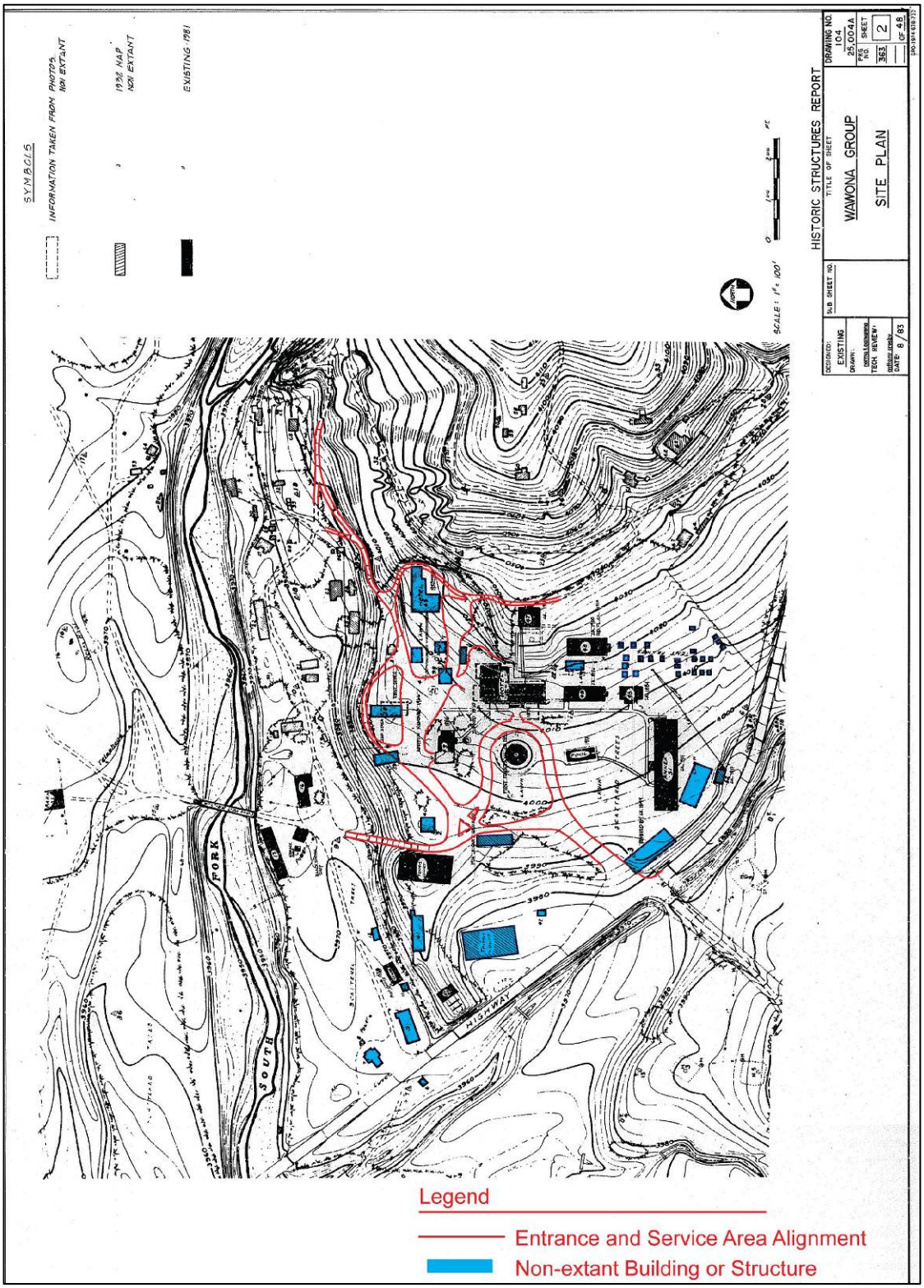


Figure 1-60. 1983 Historic Structures Report, Wawona Group Site Plan illustrated existing buildings and circulation, and non-extant buildings and features in 1981 (source: Crosby et al., *Historic Structure Report*).

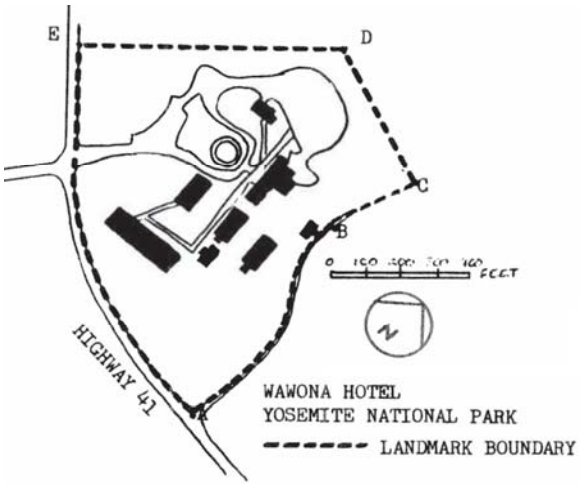


Figure 1-61. National Historic Landmark district (source: 1987 NHL).

1978
Wawona Archeological District: Determination of Eligibility for listing in National Register of Historic Places.

pre 1980
Footbridge was built, connecting Pro Shop to the first green.[219]

Seasonal employee tents built in area of non-extant Sequoia Hotel.[220]

1980s
Fire suppression system was added to all hotel buildings.[221]

Fuel storage was added in service area.[222]

Concessionaire started using area west of the entrance drive (non-extant croquet area) for golf cart staging.[223]

Maintenance buildings north of golf cart charging station were built.[224]

Stone walls east of Wawona Hotel were built.[225]

1981 to 1982
White picket fence around swimming tank was installed.[226]

1983
Sanitary sewer treatment plan was completed, and included installation of a new irrigation system and pump house on the Wawona Golf Course.[227]

1985
250,000 gallon water tank was installed in the lower pressure zone.[228]

1986
Flooding washed out the culvert at Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and Wawona Road.[229]

ca. 1987
Chowchilla Mountain Road Triple Culvert was built (replacing previous culvert washed out during 1986 storm), and is the present-day connection between Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and Wawona Road.[230]

[219] Interview with Kim Porter, Wawona Golf Course Groundskeeper.
[220] Date provided by DNC staff.
[221] Interview with Rodney Raines, Branch Chief, NPS Wawona Utilities.
[222] Date provided by DNC staff.
[223] Ibid.
[224] Date provided by DNC staff.
[225] Ibid.
[226] Ibid.
[227] Ibid.
[228] Ibid.
[229] Review of historic photograph provided by Tom Bopp.
[230] Interview with Kim Porter, Wawona Golf Course Groundskeeper.

1987
Wawona Hotel was designated a National Historic Landmark district. A flagpole and plaque were placed on the hotel grounds to commemorate listing the Wawona Hotel as a National Historic Landmark.[231]

Hotel entry sign was installed.[232]

1990
Wawona Hotel Structural Analysis report was completed, which evaluated the probable cause, and recommended possible solutions, for damage to the Wawona Hotel.

1990s
Tree stump golf hole maps were installed.[233]

1992
Concessions Services Plan Environmental Impact Statement was completed. The plan further defined management of concession services in Yosemite National Park, and provided actions on implementing goals for concession services defined by the 1980 GMP.[234]

1993
Delaware Northern Companies (DNC) awarded the Concessionaire Contract in Yosemite National Park.

1995
Two light poles and electrical line to the lights in the parking area adjacent to employee tents behind the Wawona Hotel were installed, and archeological monitoring performed.[235]

1997
Flooding washed out several bridges in the golf course. Wawona Golf Course bridges 1, 2, 3, and 5 were replaced that year with prefabricated bridges.[236]

Propane tanks were added at the service area behind Wawona Hotel.

1998
Carey & Co. Inc., Architecture Condition Assessment reports were completed.

2002
Little Brown was rehabilitated—installed gutters and downspouts, replaced foundation, rehabilitated exterior stairs, and repaired exterior envelope.[237]

Long Brown was rehabilitated—installed gutters and downspouts, replaced foundation, rehabilitated exterior stairs, and repaired exterior envelope.[238]

2003
Exiting and Life Safety Evaluation for Wawona Hotel was completed.

Wawona Hotel Annex and Little White were

[231] Schaible et al., *Draft Wawona Basin Cultural Landscape Inventory*.
[232] Date provided by DNC staff.
[233] Ibid.
[234] U.S. Department of the Interior, *Final Concession Services Plan Environmental Impact Statement*, iii.

[235] Caputa J. 1995. *Project YOSE 95F, Archeological Monitoring Behind the Wawona Hotel, N.P.S Parking Light Installation.* Yosemite National Park, CA.
[236] Plaque on the bridges indicated construction date of 1997.
[237] Evans, Don and Craig Struble. 2001. *Preservation Assessment Form: Wawona Hotel Complex, Foundation and Exterior Stabilization-CIF/GIA #3090 Phase Two-Moore Building.* Yosemite National Park, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.
[238] Evans, Don, and Craig Struble. 2002. *Preservation Assessment Form: Yosemite National Park*. Yosemite National Park, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

2003, continued
rehabilitated—installed new concrete perimeter foundations, rehabilitated stairways, and railings, rehabilitated post & beam structural construction, rehabilitated floor joists and planks, rehabilitated roof structural components and decking, added improvements to roof drainage to prevent future damage.[239] Wawona Hotel Annex rehabilitation also included installation of a ramp at the northeast corner.[240]

Second 250,000 gallon water tank installed in lower pressure zone (on the hill above the Wawona Hotel Complex), providing additional water storage for the Wawona Hotel Complex and surrounding area.[241]

2005
CHAMPS Maintenance Log started by DNC to track all daily and routine maintenance performed at the Wawona Hotel Complex, and continues to be used today.

The initial Wawona Hotel ADA Transition plan was completed with itemized recommendations on bringing the Wawona Hotel Complex up to ADA Guidelines on the interior and exterior.

2006
Wawona Bridge (original CCC Wawona Bridge) at Wawona Road was rebuilt.[242]

2008
Wawona Hotel ADA Transition plan update was completed. The updated plan included additional itemized recommendations not included with the initial 2005 plan.

2008 to 2009
Trash receptacles were replaced with new trash and recycling receptacles throughout Wawona Hotel Complex.[243]

2009
NPS televised Wawona Hotel Complex sanitary sewer lines and found them to be in good condition.[244]

2009 to 2011
Wawona Meadow Ecological Restoration completed to improve meadow hydrology and restore native plant communities and wildlife habitat. The project filled the CCC ditch that has channelized flows, restored natural meadow topography, and re-established native vegetation.[245]

2010
Scenic Vista Management Plan (SVMP) for Yosemite National Park was completed. The plan's goals are to document, protect and reestablish Yosemite's important viewpoints and vistas "consistent with the natural processes and human influences that created them."[246]

Invasive Plant Management Plan (IPMP) Update Environmental Assessment was

[239] Marty Nielson and Don Evans. 2003. *Environmental Screening Form-Rehab Building Exteriors: Wawona Annex and Little White (A44a).* Yosemite: National Park Service.
[240] Date provided by DNC staff.
[241] Interview with Rodney Raines, Branch Chief, NPS Wawona Utilities.
[242] Date provided by DNC staff.
[243] Date provided by DNC Staff.
[244] Ibid.
[245] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2010a. *Yosemite National Park: Wawona Meadow Ecological Restoration.* http://www.nps.gov/yose/naturescience/wawona-meadow.htm.
[246] U.S. Department of the Interior, *Scenic Vista Management Plan.*

2010, continued

completed. The IPMP provides direction on adaptive management protocol "to allow for effective protection of park natural and cultural resources from displacement or other degradation resulting from the introduction and spread of priority invasive plants."[247]

Interim Boiler was installed on the south side of the Hotel Annex after the boiler in the lower level of the Hotel Annex failed.[248]

2010 to 2011

Wawona Hotel and Long White were rehabilitated—installed new concrete perimeter foundations, rehabilitated stairways and railings, rehabilitated post & beam structural construction, rehabilitated floor joists and planks, rehabilitated roof structural components and decking, and added improvements to roof drainage to prevent future damage.[249]

2011

Yosemite National Park Orchard Management Guidelines report was completed, and included recommendations on management of the Washburn and Galen Clark Cabin Orchards.[250]

Curb and berm were installed along Courtyard Drive to direct drainage away from the hotel buildings.[251]

A system-wide management and maintenance plan for Yosemite National Park for sanitary sewer systems was completed.[252]

Wawona Fountain was rehabilitated and included removing and repairing a collapsed portion of the stone fountain, installation of a Bentonite (clay) liner with gravel on top, a new water line and concrete vault and plumbing, rehabilitation of stone and grass edge, and installation of a soft surface trail around the fountain.[253]

Thomas Hill Studio Fountain was rehabilitated into a reflecting pool, and included upgrading existing plumbing components (including subsurface plumbing, backflow prevention, pump, pressure pipe and fountain nozzle), repair of the concrete basin, and repair of the water supply line.[254]

Outdoor Refrigeration Unit was replaced north of Wawona Hotel, and included installation of a lattice fence enclosure.[255]

Thomas Hill Studio Historic Structures Report was completed.[256]

[247] U.S. Department of the Interior, *Invasive Plant Management Plan Update*.
[248] Randy Fong and Brian Fulce. 2009. *CIF Project Strategy Report: Interim Replacement of Wawona Hotel Boiler*. Yosemite, CA.
[249] Nielson, Marty, and Don Evans. 2004. *Environmental Screening Form- Rehab Building Exteriors; Main Building & Clark's Cottage (A44a)*. Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.
[250] Skach, et al, *Orchard Management Guidelines*.
[251] Construction in progress during March 2011 site visit.
[252] Interview with Rodney Raines, Branch Chief, NPS Wawona Utilities.
[253] Humphrey, Dave. 10 March 2010. *Environmental Screening Form: Wawona Hotel Fountain Rehabilitation*. Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.
[254] Humphrey, Dave. 24 May 2010. *Environmental Screening Form: Wawona Thomas Hill Studio Fountain Rehabilitation*. Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.
[255] Neubacher, Don L. 2010. *Categorical Exclusion Form: Wawona Hotel, Replace Outdoor Refrigeration Unit*. Yosemite, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.
[256] Chapin et al., *Historic Structure Report Thomas Hill Studio*.

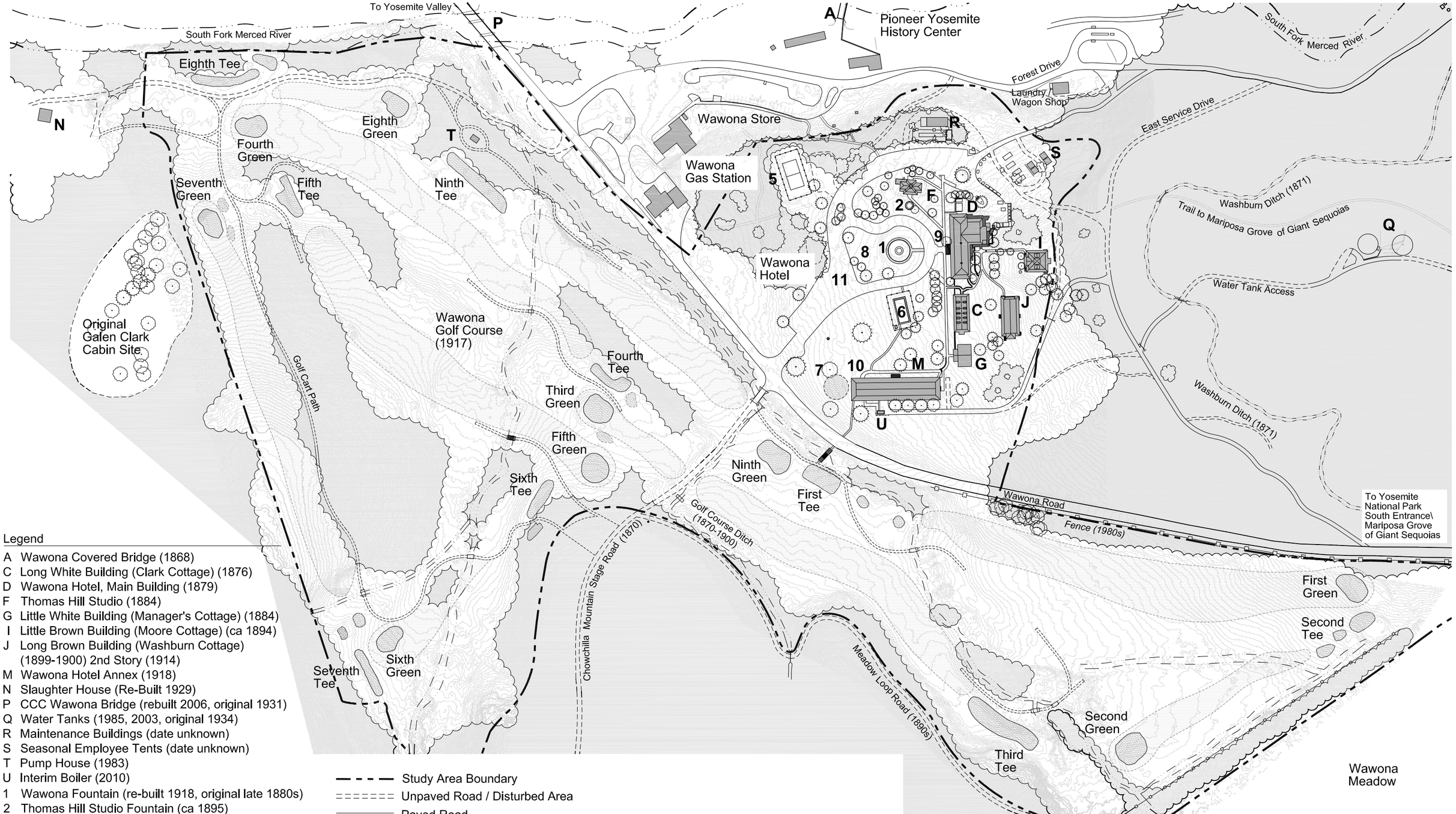
2011, continued

Yosemite National Park Lighting Guidelines completed and included recommendations on lighting for the entire park.[257]

2012

Wawona Hotel Complex Historic Structures Report (HSR) was completed.

[257] Benya Lighting Design, *Yosemite National Park Lighting Guidelines*.



Legend

A Wawona Covered Bridge (1868)
C Long White Building (Clark Cottage) (1876)
D Wawona Hotel, Main Building (1879)
F Thomas Hill Studio (1884)
G Little White Building (Manager's Cottage) (1884)
I Little Brown Building (Moore Cottage) (ca 1894)
J Long Brown Building (Washburn Cottage) (1899-1900) 2nd Story (1914)
M Wawona Hotel Annex (1918)
N Slaughter House (Re-Built 1929)
P CCC Wawona Bridge (rebuilt 2006, original 1931)
Q Water Tanks (1985, 2003, original 1934)
R Maintenance Buildings (date unknown)
S Seasonal Employee Tents (date unknown)
T Pump House (1983)
U Interim Boiler (2010)
1 Wawona Fountain (re-built 1918, original late 1880s)
2 Thomas Hill Studio Fountain (ca 1895)
5 Tennis Court (re-built) in new location 1937, original 1917 and 1922)
6 Swimming Tank (1917)
7 Putting Green (1933-previous Ninth Green 1917),
8 Flagpole with cobblestone base (1987, original 1918)
9 Stone light posts and stone walls (ca 1918)
10 Golf Pro Shop in Hotel Annex (1900)
11 Parking Below Fountain (1940s)

Study Area Boundary
Unpaved Road / Disturbed Area
Paved Road
Trail / Social Trail
Golf Cart Path
Fence
River / Tributary / Ditch

N W E S
0 230 460

FIGURE 1 - 62

August 2012

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX

TITLE OF PROJECT
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
TITLE OF DRAWING
Modern Day Wawona
1965 to Present Period Plan
NAME OF PARK
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
REGION PACIFIC | COUNTY MARIPOSA | STATE CALIFORNIA

Existing Condition Assessment and Landscape Analysis

Introduction

The evaluation of the existing condition of the Wawona Hotel Complex cultural landscape is presented in this section, accompanied by an analysis of its integrity.

The existing condition assessment provides a summary of the current condition of the cultural landscape. The analysis provides an evaluation of the significance and integrity of the cultural landscape by assessing the significance of each characteristic within the context of the landscape as a whole. Narrative text, diagrams, and photographs describe the condition of the cultural landscape, and the analysis of each landscape characteristic.

A site plan for each landscape character area is presented at the end of CLR Part 1 Site History, Existing Condition and Analysis. Site investigations recorded the existing condition of the Wawona Hotel Complex cultural landscape. Field reconnaissance occurred in March, April and June 2011. Documented features include those landscape characteristics as noted on page 1-64. The assessment is undertaken to understand the cultural landscape as a whole, and to identify and document those qualities that contribute to its historic character, and those individual features that contribute to its significance.

The existing condition of each landscape characteristic is evaluated using the following criteria.

Good – Those features of the landscape that do not require intervention. Only minor or routine maintenance is needed at this time.

Fair – Some deterioration, decline, or damage is noticeable; the feature may require immediate intervention. If intervention is deferred, the feature will require extensive attention in a few years.

Poor – Deterioration, decline, or damage is serious; the feature is seriously deteriorated or damaged, or presents a hazardous condition. Due to the level of deterioration, damage or danger, the feature requires extensive and immediate attention.

An analysis of each landscape characteristic follows the description of existing condition. The analysis compares the existing condition to Wawona Hotel Complex's developmental history and evaluates the significance and integrity of each landscape characteristic.

Landscape Characteristics

The existing condition assessment and landscape analysis is presented for the following landscape characteristics.[1]

Natural Systems and Features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the Wawona Hotel Complex including the Sierra Nevada Mountains, South Fork of the Merced River and its tributaries, and Wawona Meadow.

Archeological Sites are the ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape, evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. The identification of archeological features is provided by the NPS/DNC and includes studies, test excavations, and archeological monitoring reports.

Spatial Organization is the arrangement of elements creating the ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create space, including the arrangement of topography, buildings, and vegetation.

Views and Vistas are features that create or allow a range of vision, which can be natural, or designed and controlled.

Circulation is features, and materials that constitute systems of movement, including vehicular routes such as the entrance drive and Wawona Road, and pedestrian routes such as walks and trails. An assessment of the complex's compliance with the ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines (ADA-ABA) for the grounds is included.[2]

Topography/Landform is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features and orientation including cut slopes and rock outcroppings, fill slopes, and other man-made topographic features. The relationship of the complex to natural formations is included.

Land Use is the organization, form, and shape of the landscape in response to land use.

Buildings and Structures. Buildings are features that are either currently or were historically habitable. Structures are smaller non-habitable buildings (now or historically) or smaller features such as water features, the swimming tank, bridges, walls, and ditches.

Small Scale Features are the human-scaled elements that provide detail and diversity combined with function and aesthetics. These include walls, light posts, drainages, fencing, site furnishings, and signs.

Vegetation is indigenous or introduced trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous materials and gardens.

Utilities are the underground piping and overhead utilities that service the hotel and golf course. These include water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, electrical, lighting, and mechanical.

[1] Page et al., *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports*, 53.
[2] ADA-ABA replaced both the ABA guidelines and ADAAG (ADA Accessibility Guidelines) in 2004.

Natural Systems and Features

Existing Condition

The Wawona Hotel Complex is located in a wide u-shaped glacial canyon of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in the southern portion of Yosemite National Park. At over 4,000 feet above sea-level, this bowl-shaped valley known as the Wawona Basin is sheltered from extreme climatic conditions by the surrounding mountain ranges. The Sierra Nevada mountain range was formed 25 million years ago when the earth's crust broke free on the east along a bounding fault system and was uplifted and tilted toward the west.[3] The underlying rock is comprised of plutonic igneous rocks, loosely referred to as granitic rocks. These have been glaciated, resulting in the dramatic natural setting of steep grey mountains and lush cool valleys. [4]

The Wawona Basin is bisected by the South Fork of the Merced River and its tributaries. The South Fork of the Merced River occurs to the north of the Wawona Hotel Complex, and is part of the Merced River that extends eighty-one miles through Yosemite National Park. The Merced River and the South Fork of the Merced River are designated a Wild and Scenic River to preserve the "free-flowing condition and to protect and enhance the unique values that made it worthy of special protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act."[5]

The natural setting of the Wawona Basin has resulted in an abundance of water, plants, and wildlife. Vegetation is part of the Upper Sonoran transition zone which includes several species of oak, pine, cedar, and fir trees.[6] The natural drainages provide additional water for willows and other water-loving plants. Deer and small game inhabit the area.

The Wawona Basin also contains the Wawona Meadow, above which the Wawona Hotel Complex is perched, on a west-facing hillside, and facing the meadow below. Typical to meadows in Yosemite National Park, Wawona Meadow is characterized by high groundwater levels sustained by sheet flow (water flowing slowly over the surface).[7] This natural condition provides abundant water to a unique native plant community. The meadow provides habitat for a variety of rare and sensitive plant and animal species, including two state endangered birds.[8]

The Wawona Golf Course encompasses one-third of the original Wawona Meadow. The NPS is currently implementing the Wawona Meadow Ecological Restoration to "improve meadow hydrology, restore native plant communities and wildlife habitat."[9] This work is being undertaken outside the CLR study area.

Analysis

The spectacular natural setting and abundance of water of the Wawona Hotel Complex historically attracted people to the area, as it does today. The relationship of the Wawona Hotel Complex to the natural systems remains remarkably similar to the historic condition that existed during the recommended period of significance. These natural systems contribute to

[3] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2011a. *Yosemite National Park: Geology*. http://www.nps.gov/yose/naturescience/geology.htm.
[4] Ibid.
[5] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Yosemite National Park: Merced River Plan*.
[6] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1978. *NRHP Nomination Form, Wawona Archaeological District.* Yosemite, CA.
[7] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Wawona Meadow Ecological Restoration*.
[8] Ibid.
[9] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2010c. *Project Overview: Wawona Meadow Ecological Restoration Phase II*. http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=30936.

the historic character of the Wawona Hotel Complex as they create the underlying setting that makes Wawona unique. The natural terrain of Wawona Basin along with the level topography of Wawona Meadow, and the proximity of the South Fork of the Merced River and its tributaries provided the necessary setting and resources for human settlement at the Wawona Hotel Complex. The buildings at the Wawona Hotel are laid out in a formal pattern on the edge of a rolling hill overlooking the meadow. The natural sloping topography of the hotel site was manipulated to construct the complex of buildings on the hillside with the associated roads and trails set lower. This afforded a view of the stage stop initially and the hotel later for approaching travelers. The meadow, on level topography and close to water, allowed for agricultural use. The natural terrain remains as it was at the end of the recommended period of significance.

The South Fork of the Merced River is an important natural resource to the Wawona area, for it has influenced the development of the Wawona Hotel Complex, serves as a wildlife corridor, and provides habitat for various plant species not found elsewhere in the Wawona Basin. The natural water systems of the South Fork of the Merced River and tributaries provided the necessary water for early settlement in the Wawona Basin. Historically, water from the South Fork of the Merced River was diverted through man-made channels and ditches to provide water for consumption, refrigeration, irrigation, and recreation. The river also historically provided water for Stella Lake and the Washburn Ditch. The man-made water systems made possible by the proximity of the river were essential to the development of the hotel and occurred over several years starting in 1871. These early water systems included the Washburn Ditch, Stella Lake, the golf course ditches, and the potable water system.

- The Washburn Ditch provided water from the South Fork of the Merced River to the hotel, and irrigation to the Washburn garden and Wawona Meadow. The irrigation ditch was later modified to connect to Stella Lake. Stella Lake was built adjacent to the South Fork of the Merced River to provide a reservoir for ice cutting for power and refrigeration. Together, these two features allowed for daily hotel operations and were utilized until 1949. Today, these features are no longer used, and are in poor condition.
- In 1934, a water utility system was installed to divert water from the river to the Wawona Hotel Complex and adjacent Wawona community. Today, this system (via several upgrades) continues to provide water for the daily operations of the Wawona Hotel and Wawona Golf Course. This system replaced the earlier Washburn Ditch and Stella Lake and provides potable water to the hotel and fire suppression system.
- A tributary of the South Fork of the Merced River occurs along the north edge of the Wawona Golf Course, adjacent to Wawona Road. This tributary also follows Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and then diverts through the center of the east side of the golf course and extends into the Wawona Meadow. The location of the first, second, and third holes of the golf course use this tributary as a water hazard. Access to each is via crossings (bridges and culverts), over the stream. This tributary has not changed since the recommended period of significance. The layout of the course was affected by the stream and as such the tributary adds to the historic character of the area.

- Additional man-made ditches were built to convey water for irrigation and to minimize flooding of the Wawona Golf Course and Wawona Meadow. The ditches within the Wawona Golf Course were historically used to supply drinking water, irrigation and utilized for agricultural purposes. Recently, these ditches provide hazards for golf course play. The ditches are no longer used as they were historically, but they retain the same appearance from the end of the recommended period of significance.
- The South Fork of the Merced River continues to provide water to the hotel and golf course as it did historically. Today this water is channeled through a water treatment plant and new piping was installed in the 1980s.

Much of Wawona Meadow has been modified over time for agricultural and other uses. Ditches built to control water for the meadow's use as an air landing strip and for agricultural and grazing land have disrupted the native surface flow of water (approximately 165 acres east of the study area).[10]

The greatest change to the natural systems since the end of the recommended period of significance has been the elimination of the agricultural practices that once were necessary to sustain the hotel. Since these occurred primarily outside the Wawona Hotel Complex study area, this change has not physically modified the hotel grounds. In some instances, such as the Wawona Garden, forest vegetation has encroached into the previously open area, and many trees associated with the Wawona orchard no longer exist, while the topography of the Wawona garden remains.

[10] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Wawona Meadow Ecological Restoration.*

Archeological Sites

Existing Condition and Analysis

General

The Wawona Hotel Complex is an important archeological site, located within an archeologically rich area with evidence of more than 3,000 years of occupation spanning three prehistoric periods—Crane Flat (BC 1500 to AD 500), Tamarack (AD 500 to 1200), and Mariposa (AD 1200 to 1850),—and the historic periods through the recommended period of significance to 1939.

The study area is within the Wawona Basin, which is part of the Wawona Archeological District (1977 NRHP) listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The archeological district covers more than 4,900 acres and includes forty-two archeological sites. Five of these forty-two listed sites are within the Wawona Hotel Complex study area.[11]

Archeological evidence includes scientifically significant information that is relevant to the research of permanent and semi-permanent settlement within the 4,000-plus foot elevation of the Wawona Basin, and along the meandering mid-elevation South Fork of the Merced River. Archeological sites include those related to pre-history (pre-1850s), and those from the historic period such as previous buildings and structures, scattered remains, and trash dumps. The archeological sites within Wawona are of particular importance to Native American people as a connection to their ancestors. Native Americans maintain their rights to practice their religion and ceremonies on sites throughout the

[11] The Wawona Archeological District covers over 4,900 acres; its boundaries generally fall below the 4400 foot elevation mark. The western portion fo1lows the Merced River below this mark and the easternmost point is where the 4400 foot mark crosses the Merced River. Where the valley opens out, the district boundaries continue to follow these contour lines.

archeological district.[12] The sites have potential for yielding information about the peoples who lived in the Yosemite area and are of ethnic significance to contemporary Native American groups.[13]

The Wawona Hotel Complex has many known archeological artifacts and features, and the possibility of many undiscovered artifacts likely to remain in areas that have not been disturbed is great. Archeological investigations and monitoring has been undertaken in the study area since the archeological district was defined in 1977. These investigations have revealed additional important discoveries from both the prehistoric and historic periods. Archeological investigations have included those associated with park-wide studies, and those occurring during monitoring and test excavations for specific projects undertaken by the NPS and the concessionaire.

The following summarizes archeological investigations, study and research, and monitoring that has been undertaken within the study area, presented in chronological order.

- Four archeological sites were identified with the study area as part of the archeological district of 1977. One site, CA-MRP-173/327/H, occurs within the Wawona Hotel landscape character area and three occur within the Wawona Golf Course.
- Sixteen (16) historical features and 291 historic-period artifacts were revealed within the Wawona Hotel landscape character area during monitoring of water line trenches for a fire-suppression system in the 1980s. The investigation by Joseph Mundy also attempted to identify the previous locations of several non-extant buildings and structures based on the observed features, including the original Clark's Station (Old Lodge). The analysis focused on the identification and dating of buried artifacts, features, and stratigraphic sequences.[14]
- The 1983 and 1984 archeological excavations undertaken by Richard Ervin at CA-MRP-327, northeast of the Wawona Hotel identified artifacts from the historic and prehistoric periods. These included a surface artifact scatter, two trash dumps, the foundation of the Wawona Hotel's former electric power generating house, and several rock alignments representing non-extant structures (old schoolhouse and dwelling). [15]
- Archeological investigations within Wawona Meadow, by Kelly and Hull in 1998, surveyed and documented the meadow with twenty potential historic resource locales investigated. Field reconnaissance indicated that cultural materials associated with historical activities were absent from many of the areas surveyed. Within the study area, resources surveyed included the original site of Joe and Ellen Amos' camp (circa 1888, no remains documented), Albert Gordon's 'grandads house' (no remains documented), and the Wawona Meadow ditch system, which was documented, including the portion which bisects the Wawona Golf Course.[16]
- Yosemite Park's guiding document for archeological resources was prepared in 1999

[12] Anderson et al., *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form: Wawona Archeological District, 1977.*
[13] Ibid.

[14] Joseph W. Mundy, 1987. *The 1984 Archeological Monitoring at the Historic Wawona Hotel Complex, Yosemite National Park, California.* Yosemite Research Center, CA: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.
[15] Ervin, *Test Excavations in the Wawona Valley, Report of the 1983 and 1984 Wawona Archeological Projects*, 75.
[16] Kathleen Hull and Michael S. Kelly. 1998. *Historic Resource Recording at Wawona Meadow, Yosemite National Park, California.* Chico, CA: Dames & Moore, Inc. for USDI National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, 5-6.

as the Archeological Synthesis and Research Design. This document described previous studies undertaken within the park, provided recommendations for further study and methodology, and provided an outline of prehistoric economy, settlement patterns, demography, and overview of contact / historical archeology within the park.[17]

- Between 2004 and 2007, an archeological investigation and monitoring plan was undertaken for the Wawona Hotel, and five other buildings as part of seismic stabilization. Results of this work completed by Mary Baloian et al., included discovery of a high concentration of artifacts around Clark Cottage and indicated the site was inhabited between 600 and 800 years B.P. (A.D. 650 to 1350) as a short-term residential base camp. Artifacts were also recovered from the historic period, primarily along walkways and former buildings. [18]
- Archeological monitoring for construction projects has revealed several previously unknown Native American artifacts, as well as artifacts from the historic period. These excavations have removed some archeological materials from the site but many remain.

Wawona Hotel

The following describes the known archeological sites within the study area as identified in previous studies including one site identified in the archeological district, CA-MRP-173/327/H. This site includes additional areas identified as CA-MRP-173, CA-MRP-327/H, and the larger site organized in lettered loci.

The **CA-MRP-173/327/H** archeological site encompasses the majority of the Wawona Hotel landscape character area. It is a multi-component site containing prehistoric and historical artifacts, at least one prehistoric feature, several standing historical buildings and structures, the remains of former buildings and structures, and various other historical features. This site was originally outlined as two separate sites in the archeological district (1977 NRHP), [19] and is within the National Historic Landmark boundary.

- CA-MRP-173/327/H includes the Wawona Hotel, cottages, annex, tennis court, pool, and fountain, and generally extends from the South Fork of the Merced River on the north to Wawona Road on the south. Archeological features from the historic period included subsurface remnants of several structures dating to the late 1800s. Most notable was the burnt remains of Clark's Station, one of Wawona's first structures, built in the late 1850s and destroyed by fire in 1878. The collected artifacts included items representative of activities at the hotel complex between circa 1858 and the early 1900s. The work also uncovered the Old Lodge well, associated with Clark's Station.[20]
- The 2004 excavation and testing of CA-MRP-173/327/H yielded prehistoric artifacts in

[17] Hull et al., *Archeological Synthesis and Research Design, Yosemite National Park, California.*
[18] Baloian et al., *Archeological Investigations at the Wawona Hotel Complex, Yosemite National Park, California;*
Baloian et al., *Late Prehistoric Adaptations in Wawona: Archeological Data Recovery at CA-MRP-173/327/H, Yosemite National Park, California.*
[19] Anderson et al., *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form: Wawona Archeological District, 1977.*
[20] Ibid, 2.

varying densities throughout the landscape character area.

  - The greatest density of artifacts occurred in the vicinity of Clark Cottage—**Locus A**, and contained flaked and ground stone tools including ochre-stained handstones, other ground stone fragments, granite cobbles, and fire-altered rock.[21] This suggested that the site functioned as a short-term residential base camp from which smaller task groups were sent out to procure and return specific resources. Site occupants were present long enough to require expedient or situational tools, and evidence of hide working and plant processing indicates short-term or seasonal habitation. Locus A also may have served as a hunting kill location as the availability of resources changed.[22]
  - Data recovery at Locus A revealed that artifact collecting was / is popular among tourists, since a portion of the site under the footprint of Long White had been relatively protected for the last 130 years. A higher concentration of artifacts was recovered underneath the building than in the adjacent area, indicating that projectile points outside the protection of the building foundation had been taken by tourists collecting artifacts.[23]

- The 2007 investigations revealed materials from the historic period in CA-MRP-173/327/H, were found near existing or former buildings or along pedestrian routes. Historical artifacts were most heavily concentrated in the central area around the Wawona Hotel and Long White, reflecting that this area has served as the core of the resort since its inception in 1859.[24] Testing revealed five historical artifact concentrations: **Locus B** at Hill Studio, **Locus C** encompassing the main hotel and Long White, **Locus D** behind the main hotel at the site of the former Sequoia Building, **Locus E** south of the Little White in the vicinity of the former tent platforms, and **Locus F** at the tennis court.[25]
- Loci A to F and Area 6 (trash scatter northwest of Hill Studio) were judged to contribute to the significance of the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion National Register of Historic Places district and the Wawona Archeological District.[26]
  - Historical features that were uncovered included a portion of the basement floor associated with the 1916 western extension of the Hill Studio, a concentration of rock and a sparse scatter of nails marking the location of a former structure between Long White and Long Brown, a depression in front of Wawona Hotel thought to be a well associated with Clark's Station, and a layer of burned earth, historical artifacts, and charcoal marking the 1878 charred remains of Clark's Station.
  - Nails and other structural debris were the largest part of the assemblage; a direct result of the continuous construction, maintenance, and remodeling of structures over the years. Other items include housekeeping items (keys,

[21] Baloian et al., *Archeological Investigations at the Wawona Hotel Complex*, iv-v.
[22] Baloian et al., *Late Prehistoric Adaptations in Wawona: Archeological Data Recovery at CA-MRP-173/327/H*, vi.
[23] Ibid.
[24] Baloian et al., *Late Prehistoric Adaptations in Wawona: Archeological Data Recovery at CA-MRP-173/327/H*, v.
[25] Baloian et al., *Archeological Investigations at the Wawona Hotel Complex*, v.
[26] Ibid.

ashtrays, a gopher trap) related to the hotel's operation and maintenance, personal items (buttons, buckles, jewelry, and coins) left behind by the hotel guests, food-related items (bottles, food containers, tableware) relating to hotel dining, and recreational items reflecting the various activities that occurred (e.g., horseback riding, shooting, golf).[27] Additionally, higher frequencies of small personal items (toilet pins, buttons, beads, cuff links) were recovered, particularly near stairways, reflecting items dropped inadvertently by tourists.

- Other archeological remains included various trash dumps / refuse disposal areas associated with the complex. The latter include the butcher shop dump and a historic dump near the Hill Studio, discovered in the 1980s.[28] Little is known of the contents of these refuse areas, although the dump near the Hill Studio has indications of illegal excavating for bottles.[29]

The **Rocky Point Site (CA-MRP-327)** occurs generally northeast of the Wawona Hotel, and is part of the archeological district. Excavations undertaken in the 1980s at CA-MRP-327 revealed artifacts from the historic and prehistoric periods.[30] The historic component included a surface artifact scatter, two trash dumps, the foundation of the Wawona Hotel's former electric power generating house, and several rock alignments representing non-extant structures (old schoolhouse and dwelling).[31] The prehistoric component included a small moderate density scatter of obsidian artifacts and mortar cups. Many of the prehistoric and early historic components on the site remain intact.[32]

"The Rocky Point Site area has been the focus of a considerable amount of activity since the initial periods of occupation, all of which has resulted in disturbance to the earlier components. The prehistoric assemblage has been affected by early historic period use of the area during the operation of the Wawona Hotel. More recent activity has disturbed both the prehistoric component and material dating to the early years of the Wawona Hotel."[33]

Wawona Golf Course

Three prehistoric archeological sites occur within the Wawona Golf Course landscape character area, CA-MRP-655, Golf Course Site 4-MRP-170, and Hotel View Site 4-MRP-653, all of which are included within the archeological district. [34] In addition to these sites, other archeological sites have more recently been identified through archeological investigations occurring since the listing of the district in 1977, including investigations in 1985 and 1998.

The **CA-MRP-655** site is located on a sloping upper terrace approximately 300 meters from the South Fork of the Merced River. Most of this archeological site is beneath the grass of the golf course, and its boundaries encompass approximately 7,525 meters square.[35] Archeological recovery work at this site occurred in 1985, recovering flaked obsidian stone tools

[27] Baloian,et al. *Late Prehistoric Adaptations in Wawona: Archeological Data Recovery at CA-MRP-173/327/H*, vii.
[28] Anderson et al., *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form: Wawona Archeological District*, 7.3.
[29] Mundy, *1984 Archeological Monitoring at the Historic Wawona Hotel Complex*, 2.
[30] Ervin, *Test Excavations in the Wawona Valley, Report of the 1983 and 1984 Wawona Archeological Projects*, 75.
[31] Ervin, *Test Excavations in the Wawona Valley, Report of the 1983 and 1984 Wawona Archeological Projects*, 76 - 77.
[32] Ibid, 78.
[33] Ibid, 77.
[34] Anderson et al., *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form: Wawona Archeological District*, 1.
[35] Hull, *1985 and 1986 Wawona Archeological Excavations*, 50.

and faunal remains. The archeological investigation revealed an old irrigation line that bisects the site area, and noted that construction of the golf course in the early twentieth century disturbed the site.[36]

The **Golf Course Site (4-MRP-170)** is a large lithic scatter located on the south bank of the South Fork of the Merced River. The archeological remains at the complex are most vulnerable to subsurface disturbance. Construction of the golf course obliterated most of 4-MRP-170.[37] Visitor traffic and construction activities have also fragmented sites and disturbed the pattern of surface scatters.[38] Efforts should be made to keep such disturbances to a minimum.

The **Hotel View Site (4-MRP-653)** is located northwest of the third hole of the Wawona Golf Course, between the fourth and fifth fairways.[39] It is located in an area of rough, where the natural vegetation has not been replaced by golf course turf. The site was discovered by cultural materials visible on the surface, and limited testing has been done. Without further information it is not known what the full extents of the site are and what it contains.[40]

The 1998 archeological investigations for Wawona Meadow identified the ditch and water system as part of the **Wawona Meadow Ditch System**, and noted that the resource consisted of the remains of a water-conveyance ditch that supplied water to the Wawona Hotel from the Mt. Adeline (now Mt Savage) spring.[41]

- The ditch was documented as an earthen ditch, lined with local granitic cobbles in the section that parallels the road bisecting the Wawona Golf Course, but unlined elsewhere, and measured 12 feet wide and 5 feet deep. The ditch extended for more than 1.5 miles along the southern and western margins of the Wawona Meadow. Two bridges, one wing dam, and four check dams occurred along the ditch.
- The 1998 archeological investigation did not include dates of construction or operation, as these are unknown. However, the report noted that Albert Gordon's association of the ditch with Wawona Hotel indicated use prior to the development of other water sources in Wawona, suggesting use between 1870 and 1900.[42] And, the report noted that it is likely the ditch was modified over the years for stock and agricultural needs and it was useful in reducing water saturation and increased drainage of the Wawona Golf Course and the short-lived, and non-extant Wawona air strip."[43] The report also acknowledged the likelihood that at least a portion of the ditch, likely the stone in the stone-lined section of the ditch was installed by the CCC during the 1935 to 1936 work seasons at Wawona.[44] The current day use of the ditch is no longer associated with agricultural or drinking water purposes, however it still conducts large volumes of water around the Wawona Golf Course, particularly during the spring thaw. The ditch continues to convey water around the Wawona Golf Course to the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road.

[36] Hull, *1985 and 1986 Wawona Archeological Excavations*, 50.
[37] Hull et al., *Historic Resource Recording at Wawona Meadow*, 8.2.
[38] Ibid.
[39] Ervin, *Test Excavations in the Wawona Valley, Report of the 1983 and 1984Wawona Archeological Projects.*
[40] Ibid, 131.
[41] Hull et al., *Historic Resource Recording at Wawona Meadow*, 7.
[42] Hull et al., *Historic Resource Recording at Wawona Meadow*, 7.
[43] Schaible et al., *Draft Wawona Basin Cultural Landscape Inventory*. The CLI also makes note "The Historic Resource Recording at Wawona Meadow from 1998 shows the earthen portion of the ditch extending much farther to the southwest-almost to the southern end of the Wawona Meadow – which would represent an additional 5,800 feet. Although this portion of the ditch likely still remains, it is no longer maintained and it is largely naturalized, filled in with sediment and duff, and obscured by thick wetland vegetation."
[44] Hull et al., *Historic Resource Recording at Wawona Meadow*, 7.

The 1998 archeological investigations for Wawona Meadow identified the fence as part of the **Wawona Meadow Fence System**, and noted that the resource consisted of remains of a fence system enclosing pasture and hayfields in Wawona Meadow. Used in support of Wawona Hotel operations, the fences defined and separated pastures for horses and dairy cows at the upper and lower portions of the meadow.[45]

- No information exists on the dates of construction for the various portions of the fence.
- The western portion consists of a split-rail fence and an associated gate exists at the south boundary. The split-rail fence is constructed of approximately 10-foot sections consisting of five rails and is 3- feet in height. One strand of double twisted wire (no barbs) connects the posts along the top of the fence.
- The split-rail fence along the southern periphery of the meadow is essentially continuous for its length, but it has collapsed and deteriorated in some areas.

CA-MRP-1721/H contains the remains of Galen Clark's 12 feet by 16 feet cabin on the west end of Wawona Meadow, which he built in 1857.[46] The "(c)rude hostelry functioned as a stop for travelers journeying from Mariposa to Yosemite Valley."[47]

Contributing Features

- CA-MRP- 173/327/H (in Wawona Hotel landscape character area): Loci A through F
- Rocky Point Site (4-MRP-327)
- CA-MRP-173/H
- CA-MRP-655[48] (in Wawona Golf Course)
- Golf Course Site (4-MRP-170)[49]
- Hotel View Site (4-MRP-653) (in Wawona Golf Course)[50]
- Butcher Shop dump by slaughterhouse[51]
- Wawona Meadow Ditch System (in Wawona Golf Course)
- Wawona Meadow Fence System (in Wawona Golf Course)
- CA-MRP-1721/H (west end of Wawona Meadow)

[45] Hull et al., *Historic Resource Recording at Wawona Meadow*, 6.
[46] Sargent, *Galen Clark: Yosemite's Guardian*, 13.
[47] Ibid, 22.
[48] Hull, *1985 and 1986 Wawona Archeological Excavations*, 50.
[49] Hull, *1985 and 1986 Wawona Archeological Excavations*, 224.
[50] Ervin, *Test Excavations in the Wawona Valley, Report of the 1983 and 1984 Wawona Archeological Project.*
[51] John C. Whittaker. 1981. *Archeology in Yosemite National Park: The Wawona Testing Project* Tucson: Western Archeological and Conservation Center—National Park Service.

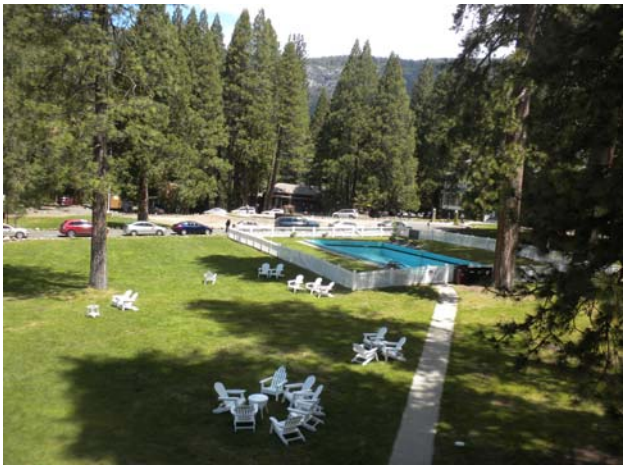



Figure 1-63. The west side of Wawona Hotel is the formal entrance into the hotel. The arrangement of the buildings create this open forecourt which includes the entrance drive, swimming tank, parking, Wawona Fountain, and tennis court (MBD).




Figure 1-64. The buildings are arranged to create a courtyard on the east. The Long White and Long Brown define the south portion of this courtyard, left. The Little Brown and Wawona Hotel form the north portion, right (MBD).

Spatial Organization

General

The Wawona Hotel Complex is arranged to take advantage of the natural qualities of the site which consist of a sloping, forested hillside north of Wawona Road, contrasted with a relatively level and open meadow south of the road. The Wawona Hotel is on the north and is characterized by a complex of buildings arranged in a formal pattern that reflects its Victorian style. The golf course is south of Wawona Road and is a generally open landscape characterized by long open spaces defined by tree masses and slight topographic changes. Although separated by Wawona Road, the two are connected spatially by a series of visual connections at select locations, and by a physical connection at Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road.

Wawona Hotel

Existing Condition

The Wawona Hotel is a formally arranged site with a complex of seven buildings built to follow the sloping terrain of the mountainous hillside and is oriented along the four cardinal directions. The main building, Wawona Hotel, faces west with its façade creating the strong north south alignment for the hotel grounds.[52] The buildings are arranged in a formal pattern that creates a large open forecourt on the west at the hotel's front entrance, and a smaller open courtyard on the east, enclosed by the buildings. Dense forest vegetation on the north and east, and portions of the south and west sides of the site frame the complex of buildings, and create a sense of enclosure.

The open forecourt on the west is the formal entrance into the hotel. The forecourt is a large open space that creates a prominent setting for the buildings. The Hill Studio, Wawona Hotel, Long White, Little White and Hotel Annex form and define the extents of the forecourt. Set in the center of the entrance drive is the Wawona Fountain and flagpole, aligned with the centerline of the front door and stairs of the Wawona Hotel.

To the east of the Wawona Hotel is a smaller enclosed courtyard defined by Long Brown and Little Brown to the east. The topography of the courtyard steps up the hillside to the east as do these buildings. Large evergreen trees line the front of the Little Brown.

Another open courtyard occurs north of the Wawona Hotel on the site where the Sequoia Hotel stood prior to its demolition (the building burned in 1977). The open area is fairly level and is defined on the east and south by the sloping hillside and by forest vegetation on the north. A portion of this area has temporary structures, features, and utilities associated with the maintenance and operation of the Wawona Hotel.

[52] This orientation provides a main view to the hotel from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road, which served initially as a trail and then as a stage route at the time the hotel was built. The hotel site was a stop on the route.

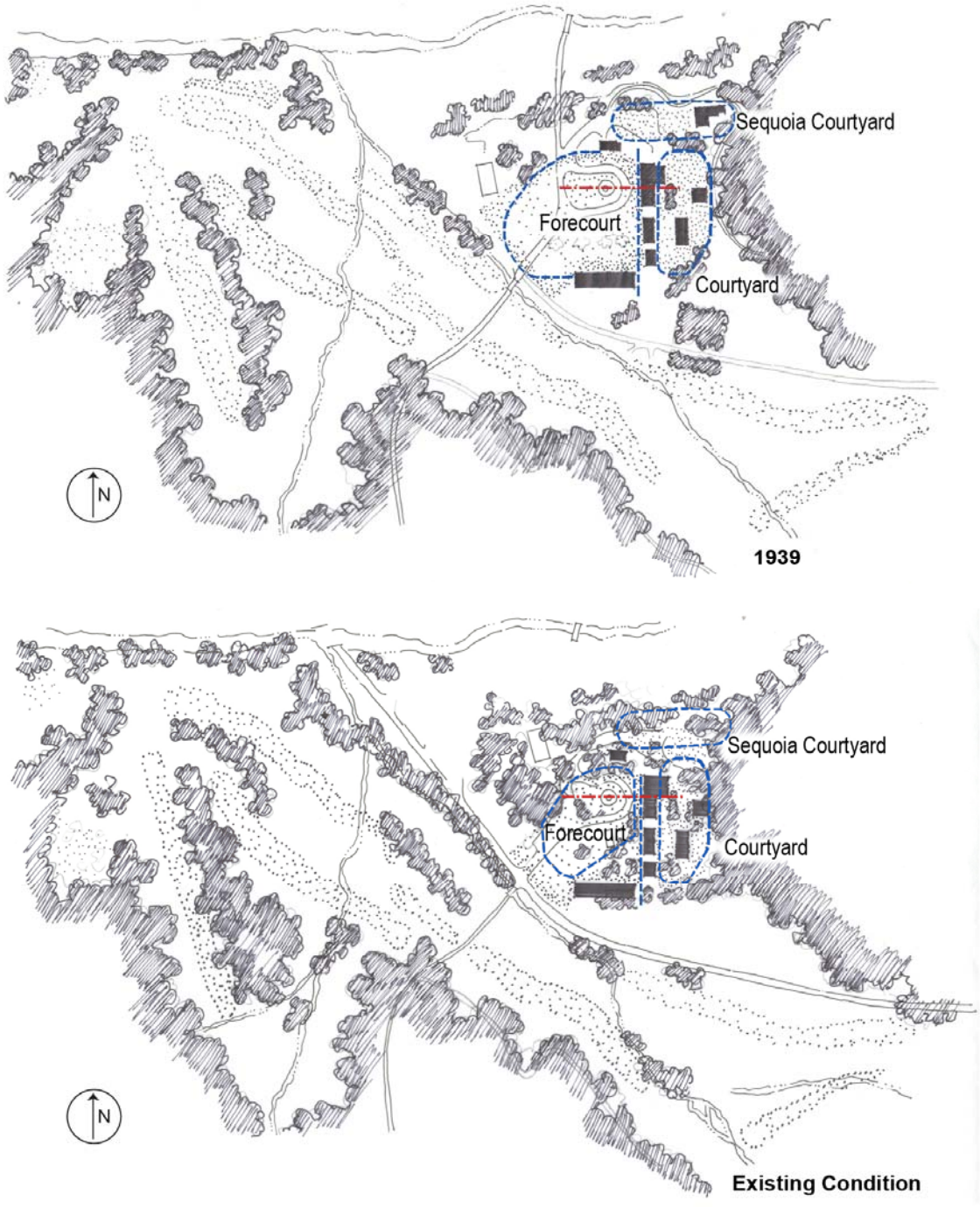


Figure 1-65. The spatial organization of the hotel complex is relatively unchanged since the recommended period of significance. The loss of the Sequoia Hotel has altered the relationship of the Sequoia Courtyard to the Wawona Hotel, because the courtyard is no longer enclosed on two sides by buildings. The vegetation growth and encroachment of forest vegetation into the courtyard east of the Wawona Hotel has altered the spatial relationships between buildings.

Analysis

The spatial organization created by the buildings, topography, and vegetation remains similar to the historic condition of the complex and the hotel at the end of the recommended period of significance. The spatial organization contributes to the historic character of the Wawona Hotel Complex. Changes since the end of the recommended period of significance are primarily due to the loss of the Sequoia Hotel, and to the growth, maturation and expansion of the evergreen forest. The remainder of the historic buildings and spaces are as they were at the end of the recommended period of significance.

The spatial organization within the Wawona Hotel grounds—a formal arrangement of buildings with an open forecourt on the west, and smaller courtyards on the east and north—has remained relatively unchanged since 1918. This is the year the south side of the forecourt was enclosed by the construction of the Hotel Annex. Changes to the historic spatial organization include the loss of a primary building, the Sequoia Hotel in 1977, the growth of vegetation within the courtyards that obscures views between buildings and fills in previously open spaces, and the encroachment of forest vegetation into previously open areas at the edge of the grounds. All of the original spaces remain. All of the buildings and structures that defined these spaces remain except the Sequoia Hotel in the northern open space and the stores that once existed on the north edge of the service drive.

Spatial changes to the north end of the hotel grounds are primarily due to the loss of the Sequoia Hotel. Although the building was removed, the level topography (where the building stood) remains. The sloping topography encloses the space on the east and south as it did historically.

The remainder of the historic buildings and spaces remain as they were in the 1920s and throughout the recommended period of significance; however, overgrown vegetation obscures the relationships between buildings and spaces. Evergreen trees in areas of the complex have grown substantially, and now obscure buildings from one another. In particular, trees along the main walkway in the forecourt obscure the relationship between the Wawona Hotel and the Hotel Annex. In contrast to the historic condition of groupings of evergreen trees separated by openings, the edge is almost entirely full of evergreen trees.

The spatial relationship between the Wawona Hotel and the Wawona Covered Bridge has changed since the end of the recommended period of significance, primarily due to the growth, maturation and expansion of the evergreen forest. The north end of the site is almost completely enclosed, for trees and undergrowth now obscure what had been open views between the two areas.

The Wawona Hotel is oriented to have a direct spatial connection to Wawona Meadow, with the hotel grounds spilling out towards the meadow. Resort improvements undertaken from 1917 to 1918 capitalized on this relationship by locating the golf course directly across from the hotel. With the completion of Wawona Road in 1939, this relationship was modified slightly but still remained. Today, vegetation between the Wawona Golf Course and Wawona Hotel has grown and matured, and the evergreen forest and riparian vegetation along the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road has expanded into previously open viewsheds. This diminishes the spatial organization, as the open views between the two are a characteristic feature of the historic landscape.



Figure 1-66. Wawona Hotel has a direct spatial connection with the Wawona Meadow and Wawona Golf Course. The hotel grounds spill out towards the Wawona Meadow / Wawona Golf Course, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-67. The spatial organization of the golf course, created by vegetation and topography, along with the course layout, location of fairways, greens, and tees, remains very similar to the original 1917 construction, 2011 (MBD).

Wawona Golf Course

Existing Condition

The Wawona Golf Course is oriented northeast to southwest, taking advantage of the level topography and long open space of the original Wawona Meadow. The golf course is a series of long narrow spaces, defined by low sloping hillsides and masses of evergreen trees that separate the open spaces. Within the open spaces are the fairways, tees, and greens.

Analysis

The spatial organization of the golf course remains as it was historically and contributes to the historic character of the Wawona Hotel Complex. The fairways, greens, and tees remain in their original alignments, and with the exception of the overgrowth of adjacent vegetation, which has obstructed some views, the relationships between elements remain as they were during the recommended period of significance.

The spatial organization of the golf course, created by vegetation and topography, along with the course layout, and location of fairways, greens and tees, remains very similar to the original construction completed in 1917. This arrangement closely follows the layout completed by Arthur Fovargue in the Wawona Meadow in August of that year. Immediately following Fovargue's field layout, removal of trees and grading of the land resulted in long open fairways, tees, and greens that exist today. The nine-hole golf course generally followed the existing topography and open areas of the Wawona Meadow for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth, and ninth holes. However, extensive clearing of trees was needed (674 trees were noted to have been removed) to create the seventh fairway.[53]

Few modifications have occurred since 1917. The greatest change to the golf course occurred during the recommended period of significance in 1933 when the newly built, but yet unpaved, Wawona Road was aligned that separated it from the Wawona Hotel. This alignment required modifying the course layout, to move the ninth green from west of the Hotel Annex to its current location south of the tributary, south of the new Wawona Road.

Since the recommended period of significance, the growth and maturation of vegetation between the Wawona Golf Course and Wawona Hotel, and the riparian vegetation along the tributary have expanded into previously open viewsheds. This vegetation diminishes the historic spatial organization of the golf course, which added to the historic district's character.

[53] Pioppi, *To the Nines*, 118.

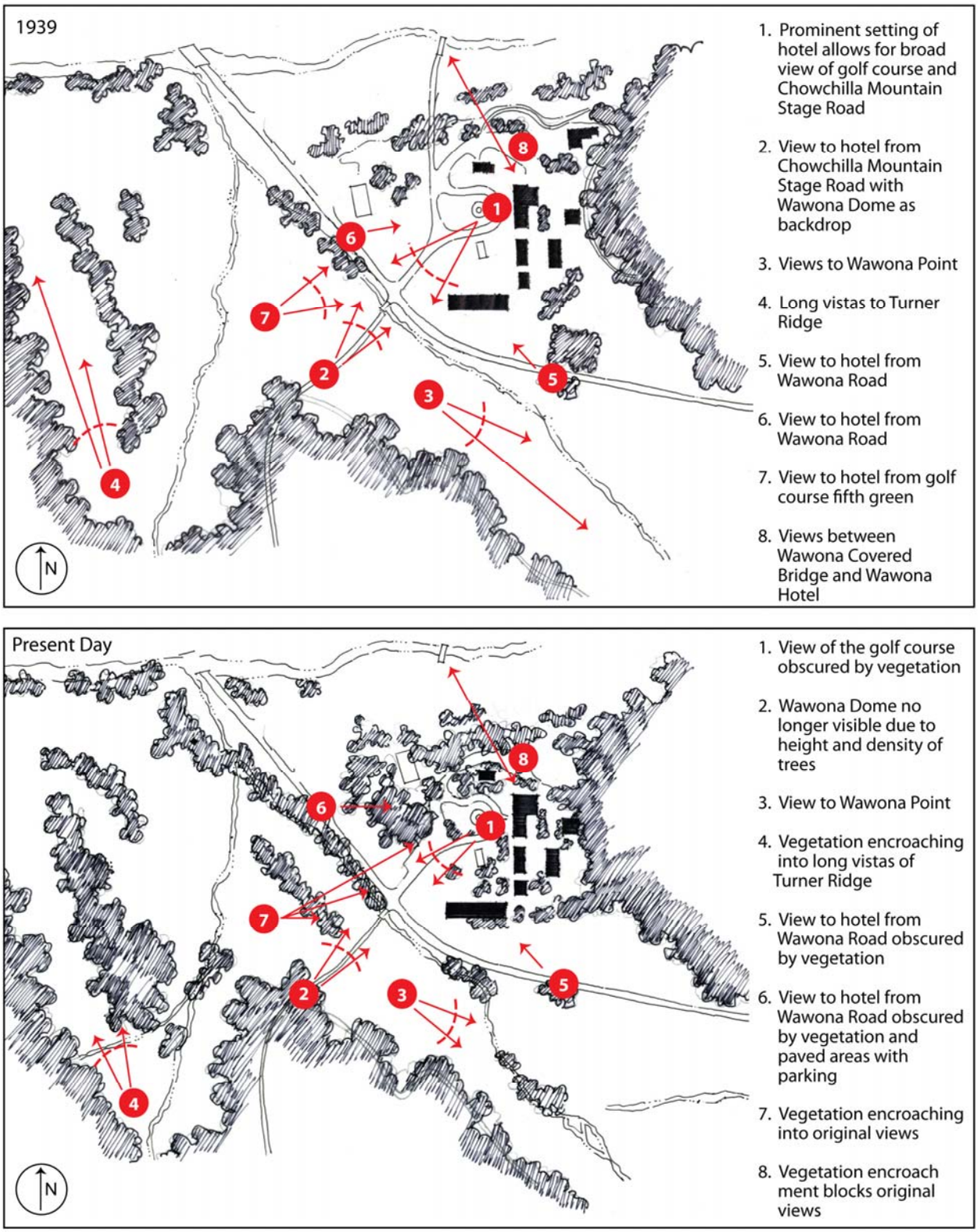


Figure 1-68. Views and vistas changed slightly since the recommended period of significance, primarily due to the growth and encroachment of vegetation into previously open areas. The top diagram illustrates the views and vistas as they were in 1939 at the end of the recommended period of significance. The lower diagram illustrates the current condition.

1

Views and Vistas

General

The Wawona Hotel Complex was deliberately crafted to create an atmosphere of wonder and inspiration, influenced by the natural beauty of the Yosemite area. The intent was to link guest accommodations with the mountain scenery by the deliberate framing of views and vistas. This orchestration of views and vistas enhanced the visual and experiential qualities of a stay at the Wawona Hotel reinforcing the notion of a woodland resort.

During the early years of Clark's Station, arriving at comfortable lodging would have been a welcome relief from the arduous journey. As part of this welcome, a prominent view of the hotel was established from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road that would signal to travelers that at last they'd arrived. Throughout the Wawona Hotel Complex's development this view remained. As the Wawona Hotel Complex grew, other views and vistas, to and from the hotel, were developed to enhance the outdoor resort experience. Vistas were revealed from the Wawona Hotel to the surrounding natural peaks and landforms, and a picturesque view was opened from the Hotel to the Wawona Golf Course – visually marking the course as an extension of the park-like natural landscape. The views crafted around the Wawona Hotel Complex reflect the aesthetics of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which valued the intentional crafting of views towards natural scenic beauty.[54]



Figure 1-69. The prominent view of the Wawona Hotel from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road remains; however, vegetation has matured. Encroaching vegetation has diminished the historic views of Wawona Dome, 2011 (MBD).

Wawona Hotel

Existing Condition

Glimpses of Wawona Hotel occur from east and westbound Wawona Road, with the primary views of the hotel occurring along the main entrance drive. The prominent setting of the hotel provides partial views of the Wawona Golf Course from the Wawona Hotel and the Hotel Annex balconies.

Analysis

The views and vistas of the Wawona Hotel Complex remain in a similar pattern and location as they did historically. However, the clarity of the visual connections between the hotel and golf course have diminished since the recommended period of significance, as historic vegetation has matured and new vegetation has encroached into previously open areas. Even with these modifications, the views and vistas contribute to the historic character of the complex.

[54] Ethan Carr. 1998. *Wilderness by Design: Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 11.

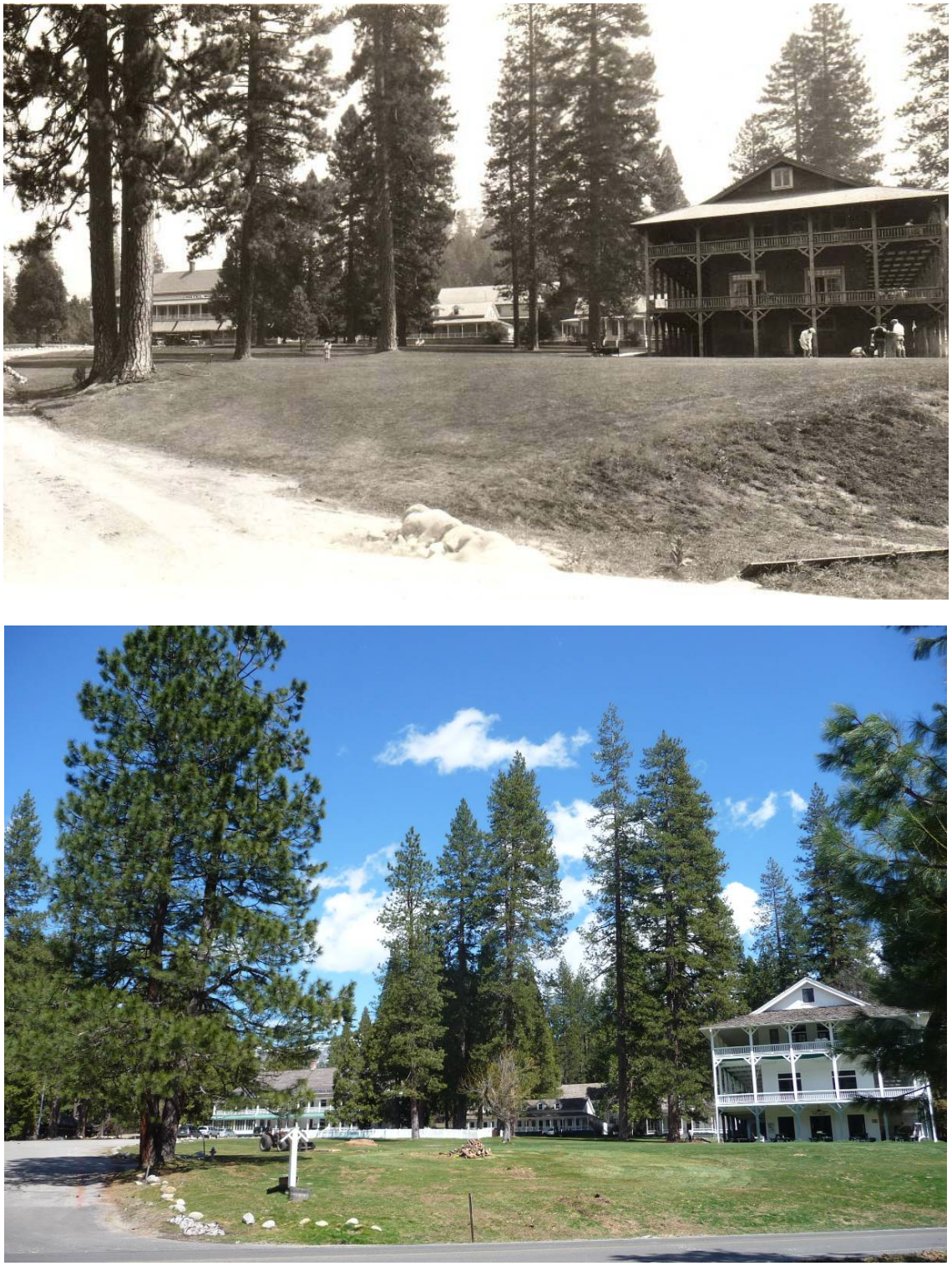


Figure 1-70. The view towards the Wawona Hotel from the intersection of Wawona Road and the entrance drive remains important, as it continues to provide a focused view of the hotel (source: Courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library, above, and MBD, below).

- The Wawona Hotel was originally oriented to be seen by travelers approaching from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road, which was the original main route to the hotel grounds. The hotel grounds were arranged to overlook the Wawona Meadow to the west and the golf course was placed in this viewshed. Arriving at the Wawona Hotel from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road would have been dramatic with the hotel complex set prominently on the hillside against the backdrop of the Wawona Dome. Today, Wawona Dome is barely visible from the road as the vegetation has matured, obscuring the view to the east. The view towards the Wawona Hotel from the intersection of Wawona Road and the entrance drive remains important as it continues to provide a focused view of the hotel.
- The views between the Wawona Covered Bridge and Wawona Hotel were historically more open, establishing a visual relationship between the bridge and the hotel. This visual relationship no longer exists due to the encroachment of vegetation into the historically open areas.
- Additional trees have been planted on the south and west sides of the Hotel Annex obscuring historically open views between Wawona Road and the Hotel Annex.
- After 1928 the visual relationship between the hotel, forecourt, and golf course changed. Due to maturing vegetation and additional plant massings, the once open view between these elements became obscured. The new Wawona Road slightly interrupted the original views between the hotel and the golf course. Regardless, this visual relationship contributes to the historic character.



Figure 1-71. The Wawona Hotel's prominent setting allows for a broad view of the Wawona Golf Course, 2011 (MBD).

Wawona Golf Course

Existing Condition

Several views occur within the golf course. These include views from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road towards the Wawona Hotel; from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road east across the first and third fairways towards Wawona Point; west from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road across the third, fourth and ninth fairways, and along the seventh fairway to the northwest and Turner Ridge beyond. The Hotel Annex is visible from various areas of the golf course, and from as far away as the first green.

Analysis

When it was constructed in 1917, the Wawona Golf Course included the removal of many trees, and the alignment of fairways to frame views to adjacent mountain peaks. These views and vistas remain as they were during the recommended period of significance. However, some views and vistas have diminished as vegetation has matured and new evergreen vegetation has encroached into previously open views and vistas. Even so, the views and vistas of



Figure 1-72. View to Wawona Hotel from the third green in 1935, above, and in 2011, below. Vegetation has encroached into this previously open area, obscuring the view between the hotel and golf course (source: Courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library, above and MBD, below).

the golf course contribute to the historic character of the complex.

- A significant visual relationship exists between the Wawona Golf Course and the hotel. As the Wawona Hotel Complex developed in the early twentieth century, the golf course was built to be part of the resort experience. A picturesque view between the hotel and golf course was created to present a restful and cohesive scene to hotel guests. This viewshed visually marked the course as an extension of the natural landscape and emphasized it as a hotel amenity, adding to the resort's Victorian charm. Today, large massings of ponderosa pine and incense cedar occur in areas that were historically cleared and open.
- A new tree massing between the fourth tee and the ninth fairway that did not exist during the recommended period of significance obscures the open view between the golf course and the hotel. Historically, an open view occurred at the third green and fourth tee towards the hotel and across Wawona Road.
- The views between the first and third fairways towards Wawona Point remain as they were historically.
- The view between the seventh fairway to Turner Ridge remains, although encroaching forest vegetation continues to be a threat to this historic view.



Figure 1-73. Vegetation continues to frame the historic views along the seventh fairway to Turner Ridge, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-74. View southeast along the third fairway to Wawona Point remains as it was historically, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-75. Vegetation planted on the south side of the Hotel Annex blocks historic views between Wawona Road and the Hotel Annex, 2011 (MBD).

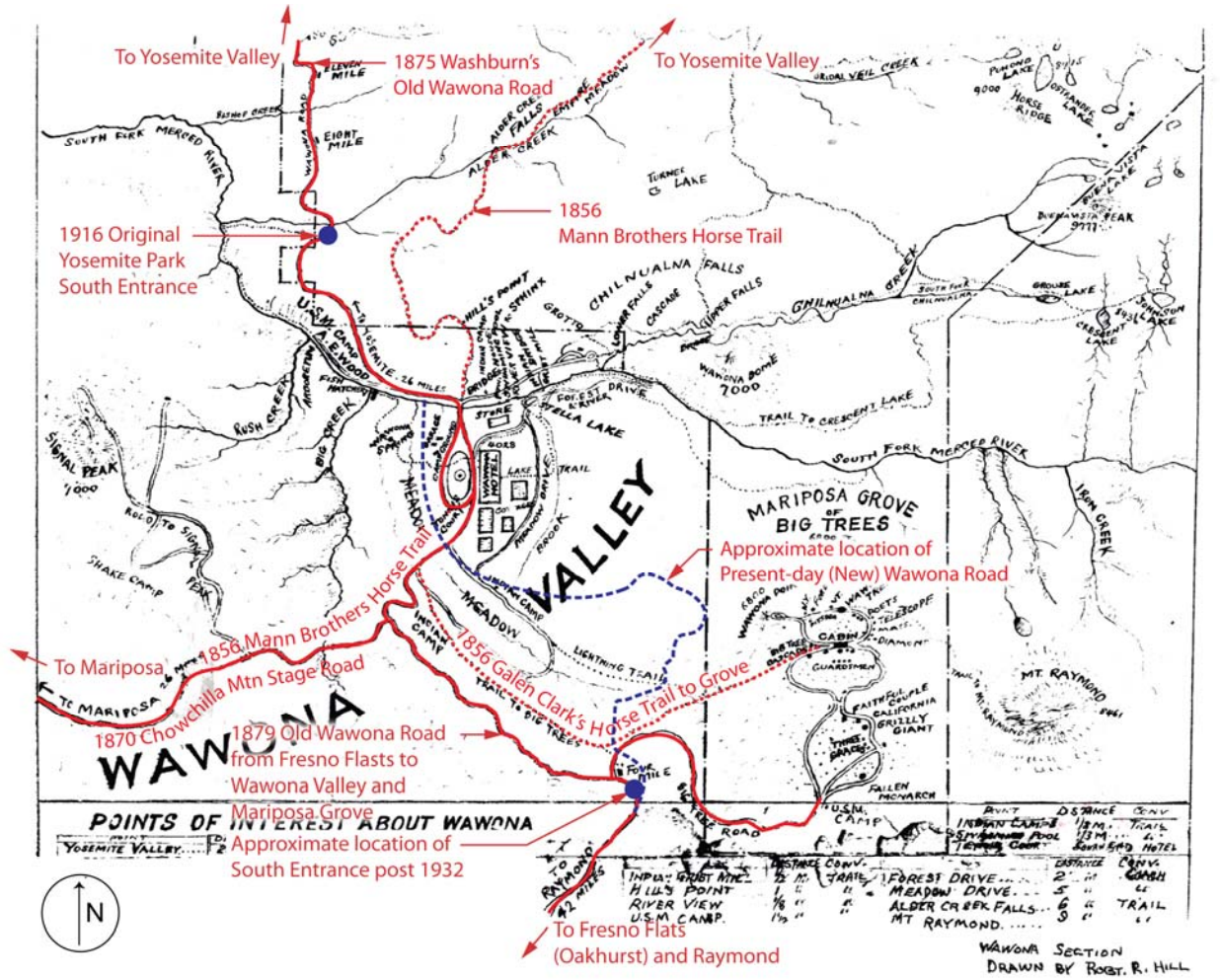


Figure 1-76. This annotated historic drawing indicates the progression of roads accessing Wawona Basin, beginning with the Mann Brothers Horse Trail from Mariposa in 1856, followed by the Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road in 1870 and the approximate location of present-day (New) Wawona Road which was completed in 1939 (source: *Stage to Yosemite*).

Circulation

General

Existing Condition

The Wawona Hotel Complex is part of a diverse circulation system of roads, walkways, paths, and trails that connect the study area to other areas within Wawona, Yosemite National Park, and communities that surround the park.

Wawona Road is the main paved road into the study area and one of three primary roads that provide access within and around Yosemite National Park. The road is approximately 23 feet wide and is asphalt paved. **Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road** extends through the middle of the Wawona Golf Course and connects to Wawona Road aligning with the Wawona Hotel entrance drive. **Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road** is an approximately 12 feet wide gravel paved road. A network of paved and soft surface roads associated with the Wawona Hotel Complex connects to Wawona Road, providing access and connections to other sites and facilities within the study area and to other areas in Wawona (Figure 1-76).

Analysis

The main circulation routes within the Wawona Hotel Complex closely resemble the system in place at the end of the recommended period of significance, and contribute to the significance of the complex. **Wawona Road,** completed in 1939, continues to provide the primary vehicular circulation to the hotel from the south entrance of Yosemite National Park and to the Yosemite Valley, and maintains the historic alignment, width and surfacing. **Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road** retains its original alignment, width and surfacing, and continues to function as a limited access road. The intersection of Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road, Wawona Road, and the Wawona Hotel entrance drive remains in the same alignment as the end of the recommended period of significance.

The main circulation routes to Wawona and the Wawona Hotel Complex have evolved over time to meet the needs of travelers and visitors. Early routes began as Indian trails that were later improved and modified into horse trails, then stagecoach roads, and finally paved roads, to provide settlers and visitors access to the spectacular area. The greatest modification to circulation routes occurred in 1928 when construction of the new Wawona Road began. Its alignment as an east west route bisected the hotel grounds and golf course, and modified the relationship between the Wawona Hotel and traffic through the grounds.

- Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road was the original route to the Wawona Hotel. The road began as the Mann Brothers Horse Trail in 1856, and was improved to serve as a stage road in 1870. When the Wawona Hotel (main building) was built in 1879, this stage route approached the hotel from the southwest and passed directly in front of the hotel's main entrance before continuing north, where it crossed the South Fork of the Merced River at the covered bridge (1868).
- In 1875, Henry Washburn and associates built a stage road north into Yosemite Valley from the Wawona Covered Bridge, which today is known as the Old Wawona Road. Old Wawona Road did not follow the Mann Brothers Horse Trail (which had a similar alignment to present-day Alder Creek and Pohono trails) north of Wawona, but instead followed a route slightly west. In 1879, the

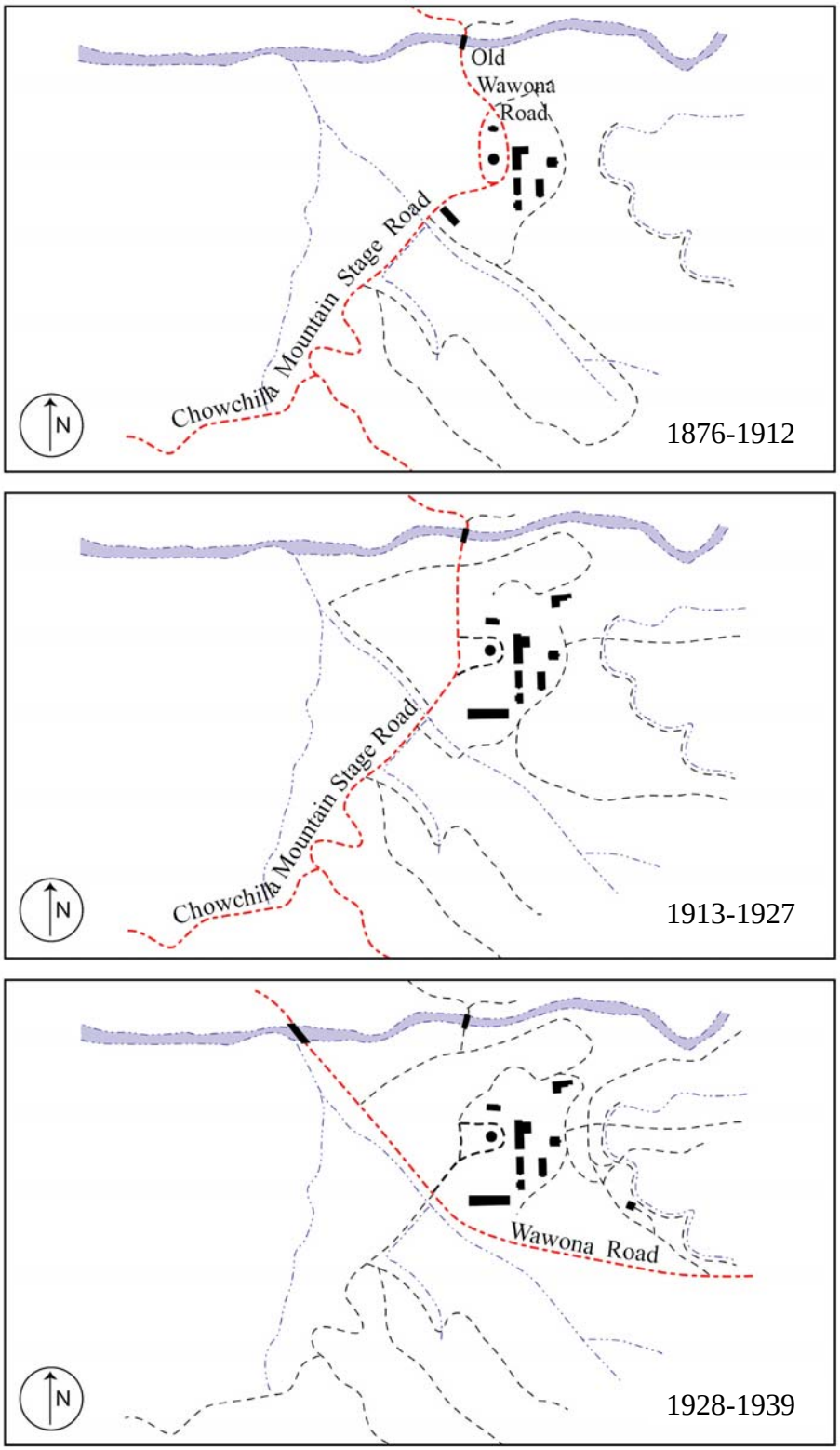


Figure 1-77. The primary route to Wawona Hotel has changed from 1876, when access was from the south along Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and Old Wawona Road into Yosemite Valley. By 1928, access occurred along the new Wawona Road from the east and west, and the route no longer passed in front of the hotel.

stage route was established, providing easier access between Wawona and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, and between Wawona and Fresno Flats (present-day Oakhurst).

- Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and old Wawona Road converged south of the hotel, above Wawona Meadow on its southern edge. The road continued as one to the north and through the hotel grounds following the same earlier route (Figure 1-77).
- Between 1928 and 1939, NPS cleared, graded and paved Wawona Road, a configuration that remains in place today. With the construction of this road, circulation within the hotel grounds was modified to eliminate the through route to the north. The connection to the Yosemite Valley was now along the new road and across the new bridge (1931) crossing the South Fork of the Merced River. All traffic was routed along Wawona Road and past, not through, the hotel grounds.

  Between 1928 and 1933, the new Wawona Road was built (initially as a dirt road) approaching the Wawona Hotel from the east. Extensive clearing and grading was undertaken to build Wawona Road, and in 1939 paving of Wawona Road was completed. The new Wawona Road was first graded, then base course road surfacing completed in 1933. The base course material did not hold up well due to the volume of traffic; the road surface was bituminous treated and as funding became available, bituminous surfacing was installed (1933-1939).
- The new road became the primary route to the hotel and to Yosemite Valley from the south, and the primary route between the hotel and Yosemite Valley. Chowchilla Mountain Stage Route no longer functioned as the main route to the hotel. Old Wawona Road was removed between Yosemite Valley and Wawona and the portion between Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and the existing South Entrance / Ranger Station was converted into a trail.
- Today, the intersection of Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road with the new Wawona Road and the hotel's entrance drive remains in the same location as in 1939. The (old) Wawona Road, which connected to Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road south of the golf course is utilized for limited vehicular access primarily for park staff, but also functions as a park trail (Figure 1-77).



Figure 1-78. Wawona Road is the main paved road into the study area and one of the three primary roads that provide access within and around Yosemite National Park (MBD).

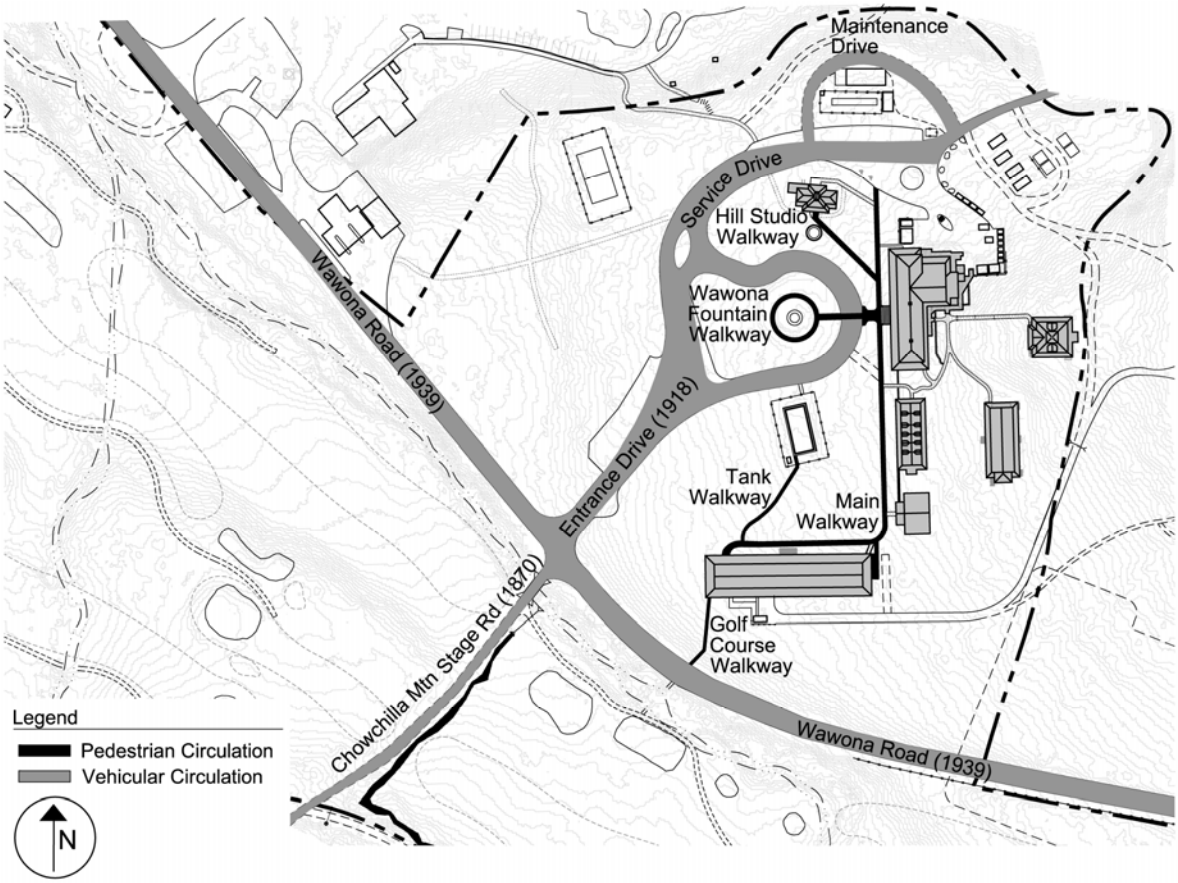


Figure 1-79. Contributing circulation features of the Wawona Hotel and Wawona Golf Course (MBD).



Figure 1-80. Intersection of Wawona Road, Wawona Hotel Entrance Drive and Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road. Alignment of the intersection dates to the recommended period of significance when the new Wawona Road was built, left. Entrance drive into Wawona Hotel from Wawona Road; intersection remains in its historic location. Parking on east edge is non-historic, right, 2011 (MBD).

Wawona Hotel

Existing Condition

Wawona Hotel is located along Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the south entrance of Yosemite National Park and thirteen miles from the connection to Highway 140 that accesses Yosemite Valley. The hotel grounds include two primary paved routes—the entrance drive and service drive—and a secondary paved road, Courtyard Drive, on the east and south of the Hotel Annex. A dirt track extends from the employee housing area up the hill, and connects behind the Little Brown. Concrete walkways connect the buildings and soft surface pathways connect to adjacent trails (outside the study area), and the seasonal employee tent area.

Circulation features on the west side of the hotel within the forecourt consist of vehicular routes that provide access into the grounds, and pedestrian routes between the buildings and recreational features.

- The **Entrance Drive** provides the primary vehicular circulation within the hotel complex. It connects with Wawona Road and serves as the formal promenade into the hotel grounds. The drive is a circular loop road that moves uphill with the site's topography, culminating with a formal landing at the hotel's front door before it extends to the west. It is asphalt paved, approximately 25 feet wide, and lined with a stone edge. The south, north, and west road edges are striped for parking, providing approximately forty-nine parking spaces, parallel and head-in. The landing at the front door serves as visitor drop-off and provides one accessible parking space on either side of the landing. The entrance drive was resurfaced in spring 2011, and is in good condition; however, the stone edge is in fair condition, as it has missing sections and was not properly re-installed when the paving was resurfaced.

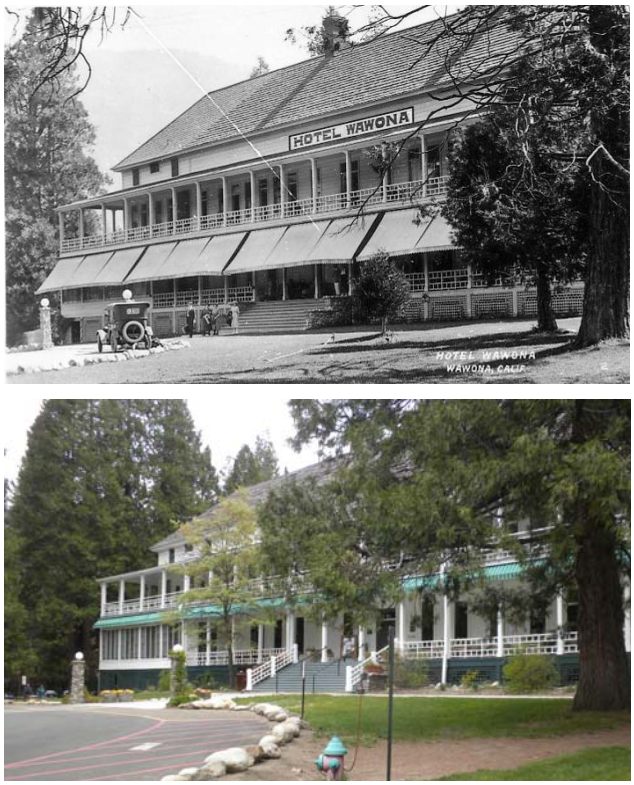


Figure 1-81. Comparison between ca. 1920s loop road in front of Wawona Hotel and existing condition. The entrance drive loop road remains in its historic alignment; the stone edge has been displaced (source: Courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library, above, and MBD, below).

- Pedestrian circulation within the forecourt is accommodated by four walkways—the Main Walkway, Tank Walkway, Hill Studio Walkway, and Studio North Walkway.
  - The **Main Walkway** parallels the north south orientation of the hotel and the east west orientation of the Hotel Annex. The Main Walkway serves as the primary pedestrian route for the hotel grounds. It is concrete paved and 6 feet wide with a characteristic grid scoring pattern — a larger grid in the center flanked by smaller equal sized squares on the sides. The curved portion of the walkway between the Little White

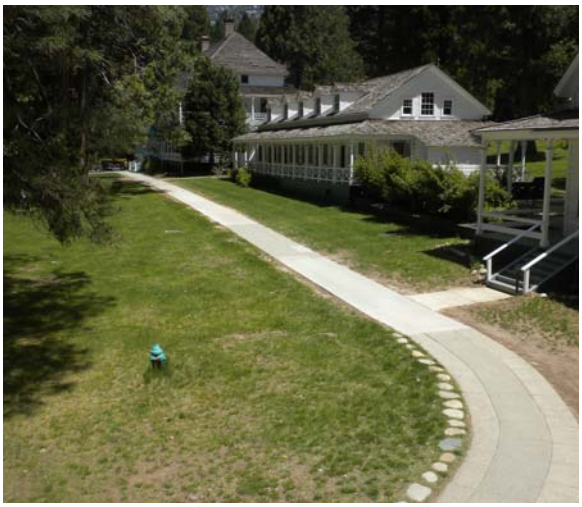


Figure 1-82. View from the Hotel Annex of the Main Walkway in front of Little White and Long White. The curved portion of the walk includes a non-historic stone edge, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-83. View of the north end of the Main Walkway and Hill Studio Walkway. This section of the Main Walkway extends to the ADA parking spaces and is too steep to meet ADA-ABA, 2011 (MBD).

and Long White has a stone edge along the west edge. The walkway is in good to fair condition. Portions of the walkway in fair condition consist of concrete replacement that does not match the color, texture and craftsmanship of the historic walkway.

The Main Walkway is generally compliant with ADA-ABA. It is 6 feet wide and generally less than 5% along most of its length except for three segments. The portion of the Main Walkway that extends along the east side of the Hotel Annex meets ADA-ABA. The segment on the north end where the walkway connects to the service drive is steeper than allowed, and is signed as ADA compliant. At the south end where the walkway turns to the west is a 4 feet 8 inches raised ramp (built to appear as an extension of the first floor veranda). The ramp provides access to the Hotel Annex but is not compliant with ADA-ABA, as it has an acceptable 4% slope but does not provide the adequate landing size and cross slope at the bottom of the ramp or the required handrails. The segment of the main walkway where it connects to the golf pro shop at its west end exceeds both the acceptable longitudinal and cross slopes. This is the access to public restrooms and is used by pool guests.

The railings at the hotel's main staircase meet the required height at 36 inches, but do not have the required 12 inch handrail extension at the top of the stairs. The railings were a newer addition and may not be required to meet this extension as allowed by the California Historical Building Code, since it would impede on the historic character and open area of the main entrance veranda.



Figure 1-84. View of the accessible Main Walkway adjacent to the Hotel Annex. A wood ramp (right), providing access to the first floor is not ADA-ABA compliant and detracts from the historic character, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-85. View of the Tank Walkway from the Hotel Annex. The section of the walkway close to the fence does not meet ADA-ABA, 2011 (MBD).

- The **Tank Walkway** is a 4 foot wide concrete walk that extends from the south side of the swimming tank to the Main Walk in front of the Hotel Annex. The walkway has a characteristic grid scoring pattern — a larger grid in the center flanked by smaller equal sized squares on the sides. The Tank Walkway longitudinal slope ranges from 3% to 10% and the cross slope ranges from 1% to 3%, exceeding the maximum 5% longitudinal slope and 2% cross slope recommended by ADA-ABA. The walkway is compliant with ADA-ABA in all portions except the segment directly south of the gate where it has heaved and cracked. The Tank Walkway is in good to fair condition.
- The **Hill Studio Walkway** is a concrete sidewalk that connects the building's south entrance with the Main Walkway. The walkway is 6 feet wide, and has the characteristic grid scoring pattern with a larger square in the center similar to the Main Walkway. The Hill Studio Walkway longitudinal slope exceeds the maximum 5% slope recommended by ADA-ABA in the section adjacent to the Thomas Hill Studio Fountain. The cross slope is compliant with ADA-ABA. Hill Studio Walkway is in good to fair condition due to a section of the concrete having been displaced.
- The **Studio North Walkway** is a 5 foot wide concrete sidewalk that connects the Hill Studio north entrance to the Main Walkway. The Studio North Walkway is in good condition. The Studio North Walkway is compliant with ADA-ABA.
- The **Wawona Fountain Walkway** is an approximately 5 foot wide gravel walkway that extends from the loop drive in front of the Wawona Hotel around the Wawona Fountain and is surrounded by a steel edge. The walkway was replaced in 2011 with the Wawona Fountain rehabilitation and is in good condition.



Figure 1-86. The Wawona Fountain Walkway extends from the entrance loop drive around the Wawona Fountain. The walkway alignment and width dates to the recommended period of significance, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-87. An informal soft surface area east of the tennis court is utilized for overflow parking. This area is in the location of the historic Old Wawona Road, 2011 (MBD).

- Informal **soft trails** (social trails) of various widths occur at the Hill Studio, providing pedestrian connections to the north edge of the grounds and across the service drive. A trail from this location connects to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. These trails are well used and are in fair condition due to deterioration.
- An unimproved, informal soft surface area occurs on a level area east of the tennis court. This area is lined with a stone edge and is used at times for overflow parking, providing approximately fifteen parking spaces. This unimproved area is in fair condition due to erosion.
- An informal soft surface area occurs on the west side of the entrance drive, and is used for storage and parking of golf carts. This unimproved area is in good condition.

Circulation features on the east side (courtyard) of the Wawona Hotel include pedestrian routes that connect the buildings and vehicular routes on the edge of the grounds. The courtyard is primarily a pedestrian space but has one paved drive on its east and south edges that provide vehicular maintenance access to the Hotel Annex. An unpaved road occurs east of the courtyard and Little Brown.

- The **Courtyard Drive** is asphalt paved and 12 feet wide. It parallels the south elevation of the Hotel Annex before it curves north, where it intersects with an unpaved road east of the Long Brown, and connects to the East Service Drive. An 8 inch high curb was installed along a section of the drive to help direct storm surface drainage away from the courtyard south of the Long Brown. The Courtyard Drive is in good condition except for the portion that connects to the East Service Drive, which is in fair condition due to degradation of the paving surface due to erosion.



Figure 1-88. The Courtyard Drive connection to the East Service Drive is degraded due to erosion and is partially asphalt and partially soft surface, 2011 (MBD).

- Pedestrian circulation occurs as a series of concrete walkways that follow the building arrangement and provide access to individual buildings and facilities. These include the Little Brown Walkway, Long Brown Walkway, and Hotel Walkway. Soft surface pathways occur primarily on the east side of the grounds, connecting the hotel grounds to adjacent park trails such as the Mariposa Grove Trail.
  - The **Little Brown Walkway** connects the Wawona Hotel with the Little Brown along the steeply sloping hillside in the courtyard. The walkway is 5 feet wide; it is concrete and consists of a walkway / staircase with steps in three locations. The first staircase is at the west end and has three steps with pipe hand railings (3 foot tall and painted green) on both sides of the staircase. The second and third staircases both consist of two steps with pipe hand railings (approximately 3 feet tall) on their north edges. Treads and risers at all staircases are 12-inches and 8-inches, respectively, with minor variances.

    The Little Brown Walkway generally complies with ADA-ABA for staircases. The width of the walk, at approximately 5 feet wide, meets the standard of 36 inches. The height of the railings at 36 inches complies with ADA-ABA. At the second and third staircases, only one railing is provided, which does not meet standards requiring railings on both sides. The treads of all staircases meet ADA-ABA, but the risers (some at 8 inches) exceed the maximum allowable 7 inches. The Little Brown Walkway is in fair condition due to its non-compliance with ADA-ABA.



Figure 1-89. View of the Hotel Walkway (bottom right of photo), Long Brown Walkway (center) and Little Brown Walkway (on left), 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-90. The Hotel Walkway between the Wawona Hotel and Long White is not a historic alignment and has a non-historic stone edge, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-92. The Maintenance Drive extends in a loop north of the Service Drive and remains in its historic alignment, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-91. An informal soft surface area occurs behind the Little Brown and is utilized for overflow parking and trail users. The disturbance from the parking is causing erosion, 2011 (MBD).



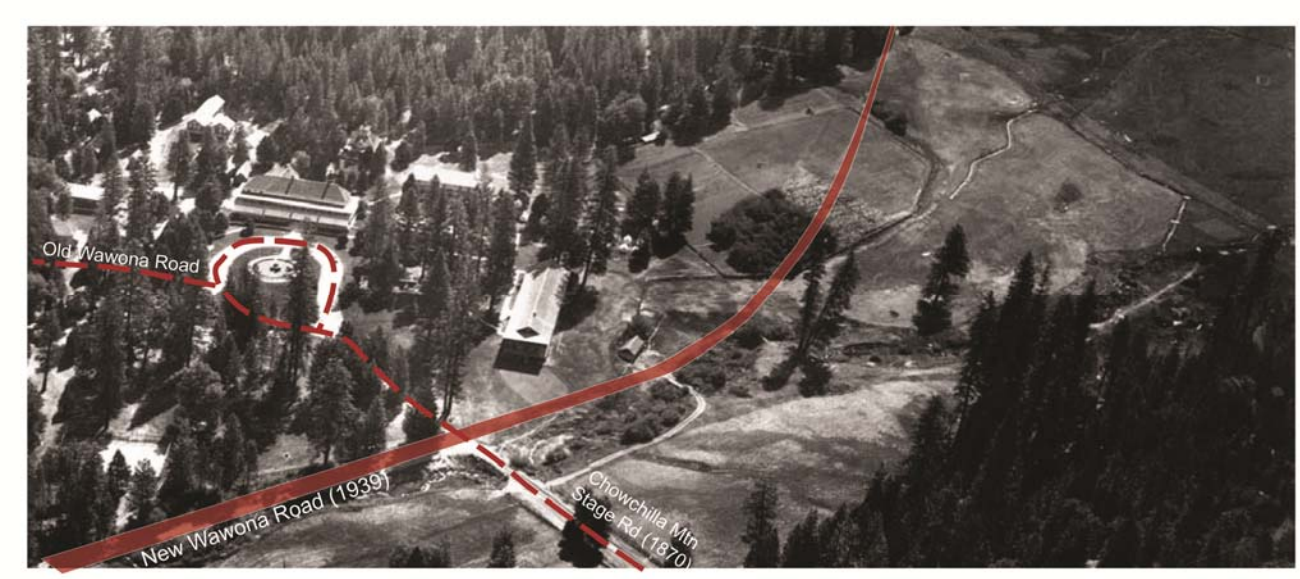
Figure 1-93. The Service Drive and parking north of Hill Studio is an asphalt surface with striping for parking spaces that was re-surfaced and painted in 2011. The stone edge has been displaced and portions are missing. Informal employee parking on soft surface is located in the background of the photo, 2011 (MBD).

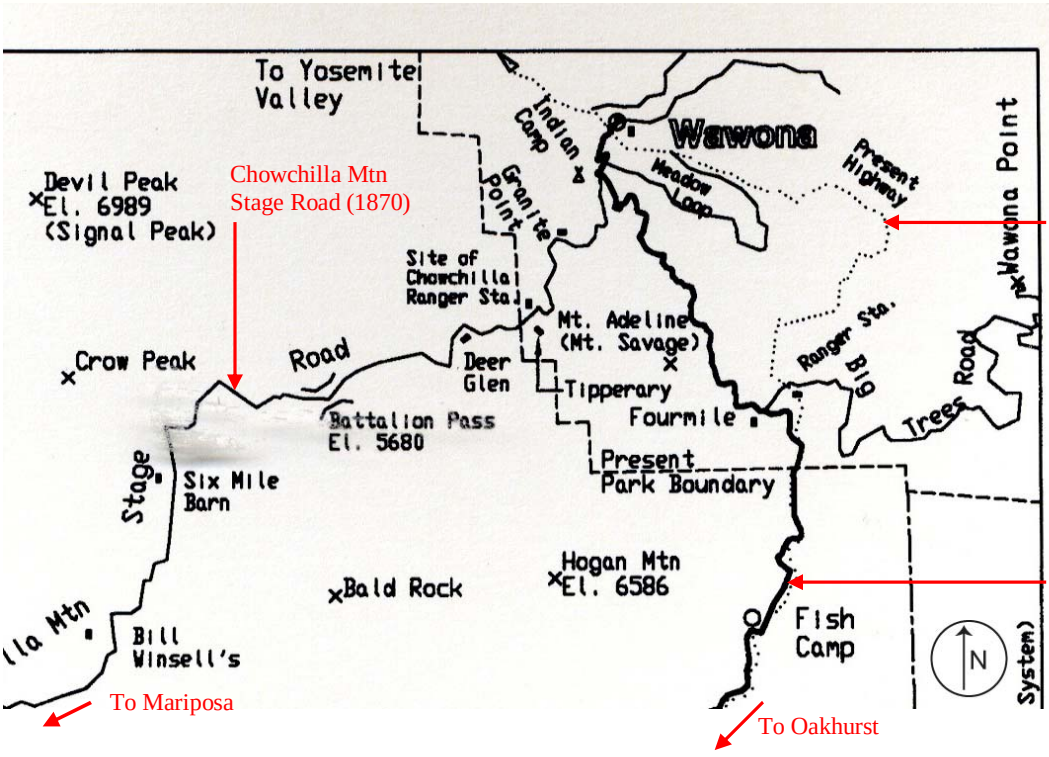
- The **Long Brown Walkway** connects Wawona Hotel with the Long Brown. It is concrete paved and 4-feet wide, with narrow scoring between 1 foot and 2 feet wide. The Long Brown Walkway is compliant with ADA-ABA and is in good condition.
- The **Hotel Walkway** is 4 feet wide with narrow scoring between 1-foot and 2-feet wide. It connects the back of the hotel with the Main Walkway. It parallels the hotel and curves to the west between the hotel and Long White. It is concrete paved and lined with a low stone edge. The north end is elevated to connect to the hotel's veranda.

  The Hotel Walkway provides an accessible route into the Wawona Hotel's first floor. The north end of the walkway is elevated to connect to the hotel's veranda at its south end, serving as the accessible route. A portion of the walkway that connects to the Long White exceeds 5% maximum slope and a section between the Long White and the southeast end of the Wawona Hotel exceeds the 2% maximum cross slope. The Hotel Walkway is in good condition.
- Unimproved informal parking occurs in a large area east of the Little Brown amongst trees. The informal parking is in poor condition due to compaction and erosion due to vehicular traffic.

Circulation features on the north edge of the hotel grounds are primarily vehicular.

- The **Service Drive** extends from the north end of the entrance drive, and provides vehicular access to the service area on the north side of the hotel. The service drive is approximately 40 feet wide, and lined with a stone edge. Twenty-three head-in parking spaces are located on the north edge and two accessible parking spaces and two parallel parking spaces occur on the south side of the drive where it connects with the Main Walkway. An informal unpaved parking area provides employee parking at the end of the paved surface drive. The Service Drive was resurfaced in Spring 2011, and is in good condition; however, the stone edge is in fair condition, as it has missing sections and was not properly re-installed when the paving was resurfaced.
- The **Maintenance Drive** along the ridge at the north end of the site provides maintenance access for hotel operations and to the maintenance buildings. The drive is soft surface and varies in width from 15 to 25-feet and is in fair condition due to ruts and inconsistent surfacing.
- Informal dirt maintenance roads occur at the east end of the Service Area between the seasonal employee tents and the Little Brown. These roads vary in width and are in poor condition due to degradation and erosion.





Present Day (New) Wawona Road (1939)

Old Wawona Road from Fresno Flats (Oakhurst) to Wawona Valley and Mariposa Grove (1879)

Figure 1-94. Circulation in 1925 consisted of access via old Wawona Road and Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road. Old Wawona Road connected to Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Covered Bridge. When the new Wawona Road (soft surface) was completed in 1933, the connection from the covered bridge to the hotel was no longer used, above.
Historic circulation changed over time as the use of the automobile became the primary mode of transportation. The automobile required better road conditions, which in turn initiated the development of the new Wawona Road. The historic access was via old Wawona Road (from Yosemite Valley) and the Original Stage Road from the south (source: courtesy Tom Bopp Collection, above, and *Stage to Yosemite,* below).

Analysis

Today's Wawona Hotel circulation system closely resembles the system in place at the end of the recommended period of significance. Roads (the entrance drive and service drive) are generally in the same location and serve the same or a similar function as they did in 1939. Walkways in the forecourt are also similar to 1939 while the courtyard walkways have been modified and no longer represent the alignment and materials present during the recommended period of significance.

- On the west side of the hotel in the forecourt, the **entrance drive** as a loop road dates to 1875 when it was a long oval that provided access directly to the hotel's front door from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road. The original oval loop was oriented in a north south alignment and was approximately the same length as Wawona Hotel. The drive provided a grand arrival experience for the traveler, complete with a fountain at its center. North of the hotel, the loop road extended to the Wawona Covered Bridge, where it connected to old Wawona Road. By 1918, as the Wawona Hotel became a destination with a golf course, new building—the Hotel Annex—and new fountain, modifications were made to the entrance drive.[55] With the completion of the 1918 resort improvements to the Wawona Hotel, this road became the hotel's entrance drive. The loop next to the hotel was modified into the circular drive that exists today (Figure 1-94).
- Today, the entrance drive connects to Wawona Road in the same location as in 1939, and in a similar location that dates to 1918.
    - The entrance drive was widened in the 1980s adjacent to the Hotel Annex to provide access to a new fire hydrant.
- The drive remains a circular loop road that provides a prominent entrance to the hotel's front door. The stone edge continues to line the drive, although long lengths of stone are missing and many areas need resetting. The greatest modification has occurred to the width of the entrance drive and the configuration on the north side. Parallel parking occurs on the north and south sides (ca. 1920s). Head-in parking and reconfiguration of the west side of the loop (below the Wawona Fountain) occurred after the recommended period of significance.

Wawona Hotel's pedestrian circulation system in the forecourt remains similar to the end of the recommended period of significance. The forecourt walkways remain similar in alignment, width and material. The courtyard walkways have changed since 1939; alignments and materials differ and two walkways are missing.

- When Wawona Hotel was built in 1879, pedestrian circulation included an elevated boardwalk between the Long White and the Wawona Hotel at the two buildings' first floor porches. A similar connection occurred between the Long White and the Little White in 1895. By 1940, these elevated walkways were no longer present, likely due to the diminishing need for elevated walks after the hotel's paved walkways were installed.[56] Today, walls and vegetation occur between the buildings in locations where these elevated walkways existed.

[55] Review of historic photographs.

[56] Review of historic photographs.

- The **Main Walkway** remains in the same location and alignment as it was during the resort improvements of 1918. Connections to the buildings directly east of the Main Walkway have changed, including the removal of the staircase and walkway at the north end of the Long White in the early 1900s. An accessible ramp was added in 2003 to the Hotel Annex's northeast corner, accessed by the Main Walkway. This ramp detracts from the historic character and is non-contributing.

  Sections of concrete paving on the Main Walkway have been replaced, evident by inconsistencies in materials, color, and finish. The current width at approximately 6 feet is adequate for visitor use but may not accommodate maintenance access. Areas adjacent to the walkway are damaged by repeated use of maintenance vehicles (evidenced by tire markings and damaged grass).
- The **Tank Walkway** and **Hill Studio Walkway** remain in the same locations and alignment as during the resort improvements of 1918.
- The **North Studio Walkway** was installed after the recommended period of significance to provide an accessible route to the Thomas Hill Studio NPS Visitor Center. The walkway is non-contributing but compatible because it does not detract from the historic character.
- The **Wawona Fountain Walkway** was part of the original Wawona Fountain (late 1880s) design and although likely replaced with the construction of the 1918 Wawona Fountain, and rehabilitated in 2011 with the Wawona Fountain rehabilitation, it continues to follow the same width, alignment, and surfacing.
- The informal **soft trails** around the Hill Studio have been added since the recommended period of significance, likely to connect the Wawona Hotel to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and service area to the Hill Studio. Although the trails were not present during the recommended period of significance, they do not detract from the historic character.
- The informal soft surface area adjacent to the tennis court was historically vegetated with low vegetation. The overflow parking detracts from the connectivity between the tennis court and the Wawona Hotel.
- The informal soft surface area adjacent to the west side of the entrance drive utilized for golf cart parking was historically utilized as a croquet court. Although the current use is not historic, the vegetation around this area obscures the golf carts, minimizing the impact on the historic character.
- The earliest walkways in the courtyard were narrow soft surface paths edged by low wood walls. The walkways occurred between the Wawona Hotel and the Little Brown to the north and south ends of the Little Brown's west side.[57] A similar walkway extended south from the southwest corner of the Little Brown, presumably connecting to the Long Brown.[58] Today,

[57] These walkways are not present in a photograph of the Little Brown ca.1894, but are evident in 1909 photography of Little Brown.
[58] 1909 photograph of Little Brown.



Figure 1-95. The Little Brown walkway in 1909 (left) was soft surface with wood steps and edges. The Little Brown walkway existing condition (right, 2011) is built of concrete and is located in the historic alignment, but does not include the same quantity of steps. The steel pipe railings are a modern addition (source: Courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library, left and MBD, right).

only one concrete walkway connects the Wawona Hotel to the Little Brown. The **Little Brown Walkway** is in a similar location to the earlier walkway, but is built of concrete paving and steps with metal handrails and lacks the character of the original walkway.

Prior to 1940, a diagonal walkway extended from the southeast corner of the Wawona Hotel to connect to the northwest corner of the Long Brown.[59] Today, the **Long Brown Walkway** alignment has been modified from its historic alignment (possibly to provide accessibility) and lacks the character of the earlier version.

- The **Hotel Walkway** width and alignment have changed significantly since the recommended period of significance. Access to the Long White and the Main Walkway at the northeast corner of the Hotel Walkway are lined with a stone edge. The stone edge was not historically used to define pedestrian circulation routes and detracts from the historic character.

The courtyard vehicular circulation present in 1939 no longer exists. Existing vehicular circulation – Courtyard Drive – does not follow historic alignments and is not paved with historic materials. Access to the south side of the Hotel Annex historically extended only as far as the east corner, was soft surface and followed a different alignment.

- The **Courtyard Drive** has been extended along almost the entire length of the Hotel Annex to provide maintenance access to the temporary boiler. The drive was paved in the 1980s to provide an accessible all-weather surface to a fire hydrant southeast of the building. Although the Courtyard Drive has changed since the recommended period of significance, it provides hotel maintenance and fire access that is compatible with the historic character. However, the extension of the drive to the temporary boiler detracts from the connection between the south side of the Hotel Annex and the landscape, and Wawona Golf Course.
- The level area above the Little Brown utilized for informal parking is a modern use

[59] Aerials ca. 1925 and 1926.

that has informally evolved. This disturbed area interrupts the historic connectivity between the hillside and the hotel.

Circulation within the service area has changed since the recommended period of significance, primarily in response to the operational needs of the hotel. The service drive alignment remains intact to the east side of the Hill Studio, but has been enlarged and modified on the east end, replacing lawn with asphalt and paving to improve service access.

- The **Maintenance Drive** remains in the same location and alignment present during the recommended period of significance. The drive historically extended along the top of the ridge behind the Wawona store, and currently is utilized for hotel maintenance operations, providing access to the ancillary maintenance buildings. The maintenance drive was historically a consistent width. The existing drive varies in width and the east end of the maintenance drive has been widened to provide a large area for maintenance operations. This detracts from the historic character because the inconsistent width and larger more open maintenance drive blends with the service drive, opening up the views from visitor parking at the service drive to the maintenance area.
- The dirt maintenance roads at the east end of the Service Area were created during removal of hazardous trees in 2011. These maintenance roads detract from the historic character and are causing erosion.

Wawona Golf Course

Existing Condition

Wawona Golf Course's circulation system consists of Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road, pedestrian access from the pro shop in the Hotel Annex to the golf course, golf cart paths, and an informal parking area adjacent to the sixth tee. The hotel's entrance drive aligns with Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road, which bisects the golf course where it connects to Wawona Road. Golf carts access the course from Wawona Hotel across the culvert at Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and Wawona Road.

Formal pedestrian circulation is minimal and is shared with golf carts; traffic moves across fairways, greens, and tees. The golf cart paths provide routes between greens and tees.

- The primary pedestrian route into the golf course from Wawona Hotel is the **Golf Course Walkway**, an asphalt paved path that connects the golf cart paths to the Hotel Annex (across Wawona Road). On the golf course, the golf course walkway begins at the first tee and connects to a narrow pedestrian bridge that crosses the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road. A crosswalk guides pedestrians across Wawona Road to the asphalt walkway that connects to the pro shop.

  The Golf Course Walkway is asphalt paved and the longitudinal slope ranges from 8-16% and exceeds acceptable ADA-ABA guidelines for wheelchair accessibility. The path is approximately 3 feet wide and does not provide an area for the passing of two wheelchairs. Access across Wawona Road to the Wawona Golf Course is unsafe; visibility is poor causing potential conflicts between pedestrians and vehicular traffic.



Figure 1-96. The Footbridge from Pro Shop to Golf Course and the Golf Course Walkway provide the pedestrian connection to the pro shop in the Hotel Annex, 2011 (MBD).

- Golf carts access the course at the intersection of Wawona Road, Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and the entrance drive. Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road connects to the golf cart path adjacent to the ninth green. **Golf cart paths** (approximately 6-feet in width) provide access throughout the course. Some are located in low areas with poor drainage. Small bridges and culverts allow the paths to cross tributaries of the South Fork of the Merced River, the Golf Course Ditch, and other drainages. More than a dozen crossings occur. Golf cart paths are paved with natural surfacing and are asphalt-paved near bridges, on steep slopes and by some drainages. The condition of the golf cart paths range from good to poor with poor condition paths located on steep slopes or low drainage areas where erosion has occurred.

- The golf cart paths have grades steeper than ADA-ABA guidelines in some areas such as near the sixth tee, fairway, and green, at the connection of the sixth green to the seventh fairway, and near the seventh green. The lack of accessible golf cart paths has not been a concern for visitors.[60]

- An informal dirt parking area is located among trees west of Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and adjacent to the sixth tee. Parking is utilized for Meadow Loop Road trail hikers.

Analysis

Access from the Hotel Annex to the Wawona Golf Course via the Golf Course Walkway retains the similar alignment, width and paving material present at the end of the recommended period of significance. The narrow pedestrian paths that have evolved into golf cart paths since the introduction of electric golf carts in 1967 may follow some of the historic footpath alignments; however, original footpath alignments and widths are not known and it is likely the alignments were modified by golf carts and realigned as golf course improvements were made.

- The **Golf Course Walkway** remains in the same location and alignment as it was after the pro shop was added to the lower level of the Hotel Annex in 1920. The pathway continues to provide the primary pedestrian access from the hotel to the Wawona Golf Course.



Figure 1-97. The primary surface of the golf cart paths are soft surface, 2011 (MBD).

- The original circulation features throughout the golf course were narrow pedestrian paths with wooden bridges.[61] In 1967 Superintendent John Davis approved the use of electric golf carts, requiring the bridges and pedestrian paths to be widened and utilized as **golf cart paths**. The greatest changes to the golf course occurred with the construction of Wawona Road in its present location. In 1933, the ninth green was moved from south of the Hotel Annex (current location of the putting green) to its current location.[62] These modifications altered circulation patterns from the original 1917 golf course. In 1934, Clarence Washburn (with Harold Sampson), modified the golf course. These changes likely modified the internal circulation of the golf course. The golf cart paths have evolved since the recommended period of significance and are non-contributing, but they still provide access around the course for players and do not detract from the historic character.
- Deterioration has occurred where drainage interferes with the golf cart paths and has

[60] Interview with Kim Porter, 2011.

[61] Review of historic photographs.
[62] Pioppi, *To the Nines*, 122.



Figure 1-98. A portion of the asphalt golf cart paths have deteriorated due to erosion, 2011 (MBD) .

damaged the surface posing a hazard for golf course users.

- It is unknown when informal parking began in the evergreen forest south of the sixth tee. This parking area is obscured by vegetation and does not detract from Wawona Golf Course.

Contributing and Non-contributing Circulation Features

The Wawona Hotel Complex contributing and non-contributing circulation features are identified on the Wawona Hotel-Site Plan (Figure 1-155), and on the Wawona Golf Course-Site Plan (Figure 1-156).

Contributing-Wawona Hotel

- Entrance Drive (ca. 1918)
- Wawona Road (1939)
- Service Drive (1939)
- Maintenance Drive (1939)
- Main Walkway (ca. 1918)
- Hill Studio Walkway (ca. 1918)
- Tank Walkway (ca. 1917)
- Wawona Fountain Walkway (ca. 1918)
- Golf Course Walkway (ca. 1920s)

Contributing-Wawona Golf Course

- Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road (1870)

Non-contributing-Wawona Hotel

- Little Brown Walkway (alignment, ca. 1900s, paving date unknown)
- Courtyard Drive (date unknown)
- Maintenance roads (ca. 2011)
- Informal parking adjacent to tennis court and east of Little Brown (date unknown)
- Long Brown Walkway (date unknown)
- Hotel Walkway (date unknown)
- Studio North Walkway (date unknown)
- Soft trails (date unknown)
- Soft surface area west of entrance drive/golf cart parking (date unknown)

Non-contributing-Wawona Golf Course

- Golf cart paths (ca. 1967)
- Informal parking area by the Wawona Golf Course sixth green (date unknown)

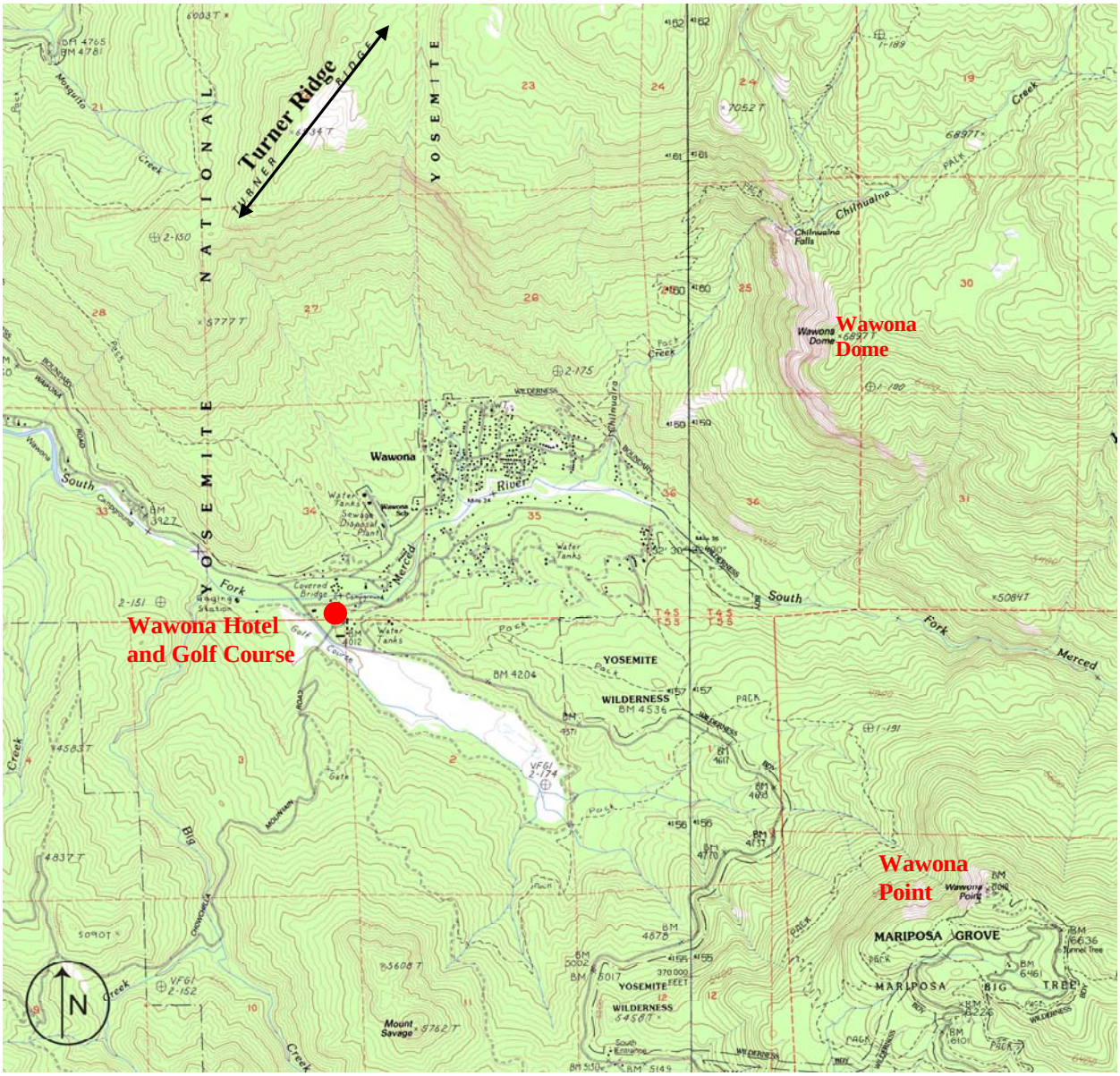


Figure 1-99. The Wawona Hotel Complex is set in a valley surrounded by mountainous peaks and sloping terrain.

Topography and Landform

General

The Wawona Hotel Complex is set at an elevation of 4,000 feet, surrounded by Turner Ridge at over 6,900 feet to the north, Wawona Dome at 6,900 feet to the northeast, and Wawona Point at 6,810 feet to the east. The complex is located in the lower elevations of a mountainous bowl-shaped valley known as the Wawona Basin.

The hotel is situated on a west sloping hillside that drains to the South Fork of the Merced River. The hotel complex slopes southwest toward the Wawona Golf Course, which is the lowest point of the study area. The Wawona Golf Course occurs on relatively level topography within the floodplain of a small tributary of the South Fork of the Merced River.

Wawona Road bisects the two landscape character areas and is set on a bench with the Wawona Hotel above the road on the north side and Wawona Golf Course below the road on the south side.

Wawona Hotel

Existing Condition

The Wawona Hotel is set on a west-facing hillside, which has been slightly terraced to accommodate the buildings and courtyards (open areas between buildings). A steep sloping hillside occurs above and on the east of the hotel, and extends eastwards, culminating in a low rise that has been leveled to accommodate the two water tanks. The north side of the hotel grounds is defined by the top of a ridge that slopes north and downhill towards the South Fork of the Merced River.

The hotel's entrance drive and forecourt is situated on more gentle topography that slopes towards the west. Wawona Hotel is set prominently above the golf course, Wawona Road, and the forecourt. The hotel is approximately 25 feet higher in elevation than the intersection of the entrance drive with Wawona Road. This change in elevation provides an arrival sequence for the visitor, as they move uphill towards the hotel from the road. The first floor of the Wawona Hotel is set higher than the forecourt and is accessed by a flight of stairs. The rear, or east side of the building, is set slightly above the adjacent grade. The Wawona Fountain is set in the middle of the forecourt on a level plateau that slopes down on the west side of the fountain.



Figure 1-100. The forecourt topography gently slopes from the Wawona Hotel towards the Wawona Fountain plateau, where the grade slopes steeply down to the entrance drive, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-101. The topography at the southwest corner of the Hotel Annex and adjacent to the entrance drive was modified by the CCC in 1933 after completion of the new Wawona Road (source: Yosemite Research Library).

The finish floor elevation of the Little White, Long White, and Wawona Hotel are approximately at the same datum and provide a consistent eastern edge to the forecourt. The Hill Studio and Hotel Annex are set at slightly lower finish floor elevations, enclosing the north and south sides of the forecourt. Long Brown and Little Brown are set on a steep hillside behind, to the east, and above the Little White, Long White, and Wawona Hotel. These buildings define the courtyard. Little Brown occurs at the highest finish floor elevation, which is approximately 20 feet above the hotel's finish floor elevation. All seven buildings are set above adjacent grade and are accessed by staircases.

The tennis court is set on level topography at the top of the north ridge that slopes to the South Fork of the Merced River.

Level topography from the non-extant Sequoia Hotel occurs at the east end of the service area, surrounded by sloping topography on the north, east, and south sides. Level areas also exist at the non-extant croquet court (now golf cart parking) on the west side of the entrance drive, and non-extant original tennis court (1917) adjacent to Wawona Road on the west side of the entrance drive.

Since the Wawona Hotel, Long White, Little White, and the Hotel Annex occur at the base of the sloping hillside, storm water collects at or near the buildings' foundations. In some areas this has resulted in structural deterioration. However, many of the building foundations have been repaired within the last ten years, including the recent addition of inlets in the courtyard and repair of the foundation at the Wawona Hotel. The 2011 improvements included grading modifications and installation of an underground drainage system. While these assist in directing storm water away from the buildings, additional work is needed to divert run-off from Courtyard Drive from reaching the courtyard and buildings. Although changes to the hotel grounds to improve drainage have occurred, these modifications have generally retained the historic landforms.



Figure 1-102. Courtyard topography between Little Brown and Long Brown shows remnant topography of original stepped walkways between Little Brown and Long Brown, 2011 (MBD).

Analysis

The topography and landform of the Wawona Hotel have remained relatively unchanged since the recommended period of significance. The topography contributes to the Wawona Hotel's significance because it reflects the modifications made to the landscape as the complex developed throughout the recommended period of significance. These modifications include work done by the Washburn family as they built the complex as a resort destination and work completed by the NPS in 1939. These topography and landforms create the historic setting that is integral to the historic district's character.

The topography and landform that exist today are primarily due to the efforts of the Washburn family prior to 1920. The forecourt retains its 1920s form, including the entrance drive and the level plateau of the Wawona Fountain that first appeared with the original 1880s fountain. The CCC re-graded the area around the entrance drive during the construction of Wawona Road in 1933.

The topography of the service area and non-extant Sequoia Hotel has remained relatively unchanged since the recommended period of significance. Since 1939, vegetation has encroached into the east end of this level area and currently obscures a portion of the level topography and surrounding slope that defines the space.

The topography of the courtyard from the late 1890s and early 1900s remains today. Early non-extant walkways with staircases initially stepped up this hillside, connecting the cottages with one another and the hotel. Although these walkways have been removed or rebuilt, the sloping topography of the hillside remains as does the stepped topography of the non-extant walkways.



Figure 1-103. The Wawona Golf Course is situated on level topography, where fairways are separated by low slopes, 2011 (MBD).

Wawona Golf Course

Existing Condition

The Wawona Golf Course occurs within the western one-third of the Wawona Meadow, to the south of the Wawona Hotel, and surrounded by steep mountainous topography on its south side. The topography of the golf course is generally level with a few areas of gently rolling topography. The fairways are relatively level and are separated from one another by low hills. Several drainages occur within the golf course including two small tributaries of the South Fork of the Merced River and the Golf Course Ditch. The natural tributaries and man-made ditches and channels associated with the golf course cause flooding at times, resulting in standing water in various low lying areas. This flooding has caused erosion to the topography as well as damage to some of the bridges, culverts, and golf cart paths.

Analysis

The landform and topography of the Wawona Golf Course generally remains as it was in 1939, and contributes to the historic character of the complex.

The Wawona Golf Course topography remains as it was historically, in a low-lying open meadow flanked by the South Fork of the Merced River tributary on the west, Wawona Road on the north, and steep mountainous topography on the south. The 1917 golf course was built to take advantage of the existing topography, landforms, and drainages of the Wawona Meadow. At the time it was constructed, some minor modifications—mainly associated with grading—were made to the Wawona Meadow's topography to create tees, greens, and fairways. Maintenance efforts to mitigate erosion in the golf course were performed by the CCC in the 1930s, which included grading, filling, and reinforcing the drainages and ditches. Since the 1930s, flooding has occurred at times damaging portions of the course and bridges. Regardless, the greater pattern of topography within the course has retained its historic qualities and significance.



Figure 1-104. The Wawona Golf Course has low areas of topography where natural and man-made drainages run through the course, 2011 (MBD).

Land Use

Existing Condition

The Wawona Hotel Complex is in the southern portion of Yosemite National Park managed by the National Park Service. The land uses of the study area include accommodations, recreation, and transportation. The resort caters to Yosemite National Park visitors desiring a laid-back experience. The complex is used by the hotel resort which includes guest rooms, a restaurant, and associated hotel uses: employee housing, hotel maintenance activities, utilities, and parking for employees and visitors. Recreational uses at the Wawona Hotel Complex include a swimming tank, tennis court, and golf course. The Wawona Golf Course is currently used for playing golf by park visitors but adjacent land uses include maintenance storage areas for upkeep of the course and golf cart storage. Adjacent to the golf course is the Wawona Meadow which is managed by the park as a natural area. The Wawona Hotel Complex land use also includes transportation; Wawona Road bisects the complex and provides the primary transportation route from the south entrance of Yosemite National Park to the Wawona Hotel Complex, Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, and the Yosemite Valley.

Analysis

The Wawona Hotel Complex continues to function as a hotel as it has historically. During the recommended period of significance the land uses of the Wawona Hotel Complex included hotel, recreation, and transportation, just as they do today. Historically, the area was also used for grazing and agriculture, but these activities have since ceased. Regardless, the historic pattern of providing accommodations, entertainment, and

connection to other park attractions remains, and contributes to the historic character of the place.

During the recommended period of significance the land use evolved from a simple hostelry / stage stop to a hotel resort. The hostelry / stage stop land uses included accommodations at the hostel, a barn, and agriculture. In 1884, the landscape painter Thomas Hill established a studio within the Wawona Hotel Complex, originally built as a painting studio and sales room. The building saw a variety of uses since his death in 1908 including ice-cream parlor, dance hall, and recreation room.

The development of the resort took place between the years 1913 and 1918. The Washburns transformed the hostelry / stage stop into the late-Victorian hotel resort that exists today. By 1918, amenities were built to complement the hotel. These included a tennis court, swimming tank, and croquet court. Constructed on one-third of the Wawona Meadow in 1917, the Wawona Golf Course was created to provide a recreational opportunity to hotel guests. Also during this time, the Wawona Hotel Complex was developed as a self-sustaining complex, with livestock grazing in the meadow, and apple orchards and gardens providing fruits and vegetables to the hotel. The Washburn Ditch provided water for use in agriculture as well as the generation of electricity. These land uses introduced by the Washburns increased the amount of time visitors spent in Wawona, and increased the intensity with which the land was used.

To the east of the Wawona Golf Course is the Wawona Meadow, historically a naturally open area. It was used for grazing livestock and, between 1925 and 1941, as an air landing strip. Today it is a natural area and is currently undergoing restoration to "ecologically restore the hydrology, native plant communities, and wildlife habitat of the meadow."[63]

The land use of the Wawona Hotel Complex remains as it was historically. Staff members and visitors continue to use the area similarly, including accommodations, recreation, and associated infrastructure, and transportation. Recreational uses remain as they were historically, including the swimming tank, tennis courts, and golf course. However, since the recommended period of significance, the Wawona Hotel Complex has become less self-sufficient; there are no longer agricultural uses, nor the generation of electricity. Wawona Road remains in the same alignment as it was historically, retaining its land use of transportation, and continues to be an important corridor through Yosemite National Park.

[63] U.S Department of the Interior, *Wawona Meadow Ecological Restoration Phase II*.

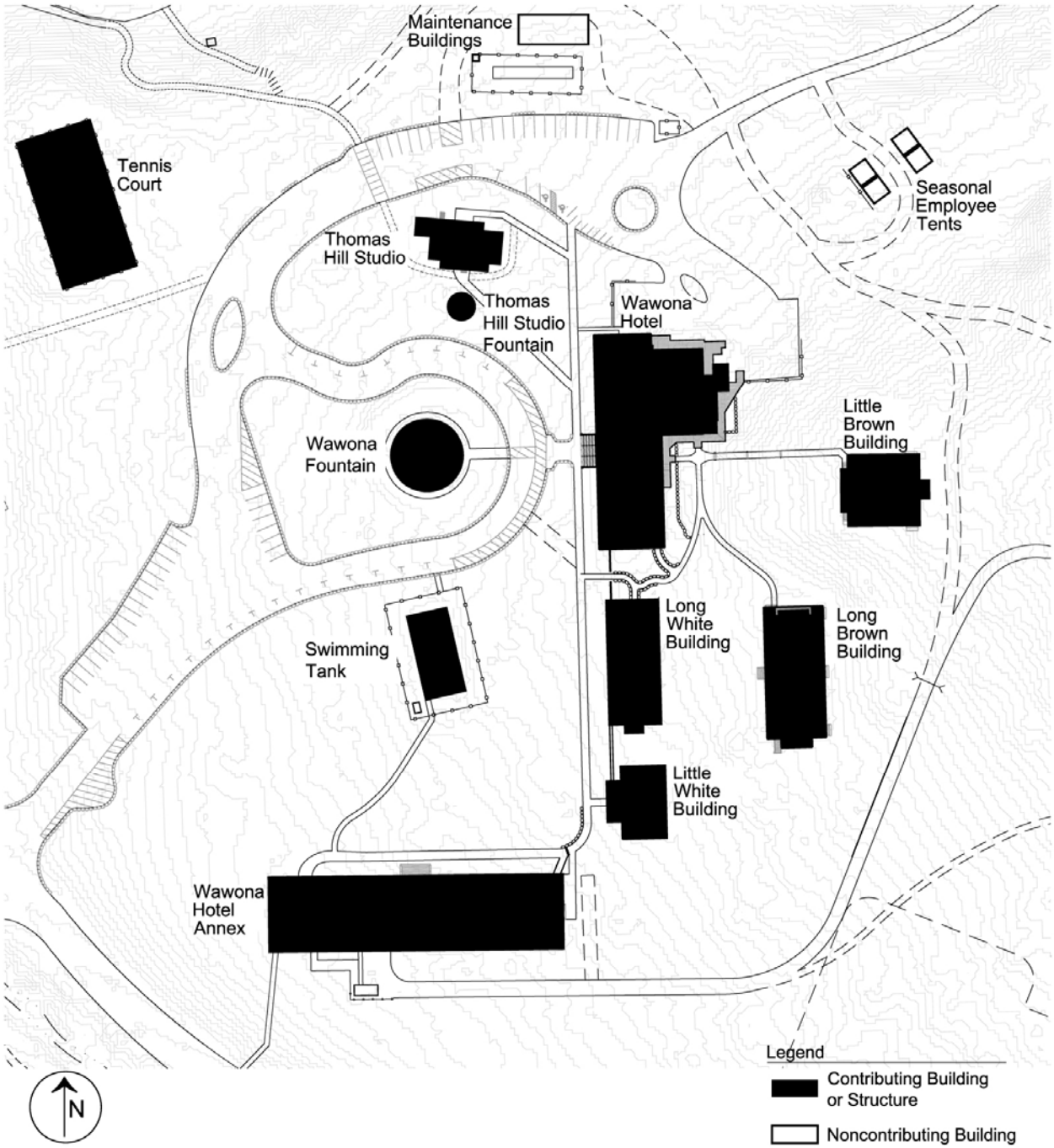


Figure 1-105. Wawona Hotel Buildings and Structures (MBD).

Buildings and Structures

General

Wawona is the largest existing Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with such a high level of integrity, making it an important contribution to American architecture. [64]

Clarence Washburn's assumption of hotel operations in the early 1900s coupled with automobiles becoming the primary transport into Yosemite National Park triggered the resort development of Wawona Hotel. Recreational amenities such as the swimming tank, Wawona Fountain, and tennis court were built to entice visitors to extend their stay at Wawona Hotel rather than simply stopping for the night on their way to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias or Yosemite Valley.

The complex of seven buildings that constitute the Wawona Hotel are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are designated as a National Historic Landmark district for their significance in the area of art, regional significance in the areas of commerce, conservation and transportation, and local significance in the area of exploration and settlement.[65]

The Wawona Hotel Complex includes several structures that assist in creating its resort atmosphere. These include two fountains, a tennis court, and a swimming tank. Other structures such as bridges on the golf course, and utilities such as the boiler provide specific functions or are necessary for the operation of the hotel.

Wawona Hotel

The Wawona Hotel's seven primary buildings include the Wawona Hotel, Long White Building (Clark Cottage), Little White Building (Manager's Cottage), Long Brown Building (Washburn Cottage), Little Brown Building (Moore Cottage), Thomas Hill Studio (Hill Studio), and Wawona Hotel Annex (Hotel Annex). A detailed assessment, analysis, and treatment recommendation for these buildings is presented in the 2012 Historic Structure Report for the Wawona Hotel Complex (2012 HSR).[66]

Ancillary buildings within the hotel grounds include two maintenance buildings and four seasonal employee tents in the service area. Structures within the hotel grounds include those that provide recreational amenities and those necessary for hotel operations such as the interim steam boiler. The existing condition and analysis of those ancillary buildings and structures are presented in this section.

[64] Chappell, *NHL Inventory—Nomination Form for the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion*.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. 2012. *The Wawona Hotel Complex Historic Structures Report.* Emeryville, CA.



Figure 1-106. Comparison of the 1918 Wawona Fountain, top, ca. 1930, and extant fountain (existing condition), below, 2011 (source: Courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library, above, and MBD, below).

Existing Condition

This section documents the existing condition of the buildings not covered in the 2012 HSR, and documents the structures of the Wawona Hotel.

The forecourt is the main entrance to the hotel and is the primary location of the recreational structures. Two fountains, the swimming tank, and the tennis court occur in the forecourt.

- The **Wawona Fountain** (1918) is the centerpiece of the forecourt located on the direct east west axis of the Wawona Hotel's main entrance. The fountain is a two-tiered circular mortared cobblestone structure with four interior arched openings and a domed top surrounded by a shallow basin. The cylindrical base of the fountain is approximately 12 feet diameter by approximately 6 feet tall. The central structure is approximately 5 feet high from the top of the cylindrical base to the peak of the dome. The basin is defined by a cobblestone edge and an 8 inch wide concrete curb. A bentonite clay liner provides the waterproof layer for the basin and is covered by small rock. The basin is approximately 2 feet deep at the deepest point. A portion of the extant 1918 Wawona Fountain collapsed in 2008, and was rehabilitated by Yosemite National Park in 2011 to the original 1918 appearance. The work included masonry restoration, new pump and piping, and restoration of the surrounding gravel path. The Wawona Fountain is in good condition.
- **Thomas Hill Studio Fountain** (1918) is located on the south side of the Hill Studio and consists of a 17-foot diameter circular concrete basin with a central spout. The depth of the basin is 3-feet and the sides of the basin extend 18-inches to 2-feet above the adjacent grade. The fountain was rehabilitated in 2011, which included repair and replacement of the mechanical system including the fountain nozzle as well as rehabilitation of the basin. The Thomas Hill Studio Fountain is in good condition.
- The **swimming tank** (1917) is a 30 by 70 foot rectangular reinforced cast concrete basin painted blue with "Wawona 1918" stenciled on the southern face. An 8-inch concrete edge (bond beam) extends above the 30-inch wide concrete deck that surrounds the tank. The swimming tank ranges from 3 to 7-feet deep. A 3-foot tall white picket fence encloses the tank and the surrounding narrow lawn. The tank is currently drained by pumping the treated water at the end of each season and allowing it to drain across the forecourt lawn. The swimming tank is in its original location and has all of its original features. The swimming tank is in poor condition due to deterioration of the concrete basin and damaged drain system.



Figure 1-107. Comparison of swimming tank ca. 1920s, above, and existing condition, below, 2011. The extant concrete basin has been painted and a white picket fence surrounds the tank (source: Courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library, above, and MBD, below).



Figure 1-108. The tennis court is a concrete surface surrounded by an 8 foot tall chain-link fence. The concrete surface has cracked and some areas retain water, 2011 (MBD).

- The **tennis court** (1937) is a painted concrete surface surrounded by an 8-foot tall chain-link fence and concrete curb. Electrical wiring extends from the top rail of the fence to sockets and non-extant lights at the corners. The tennis court is in fair condition due to the cracked and settled concrete surface.
- An **interim steam boiler** (2010) is adjacent to the Hotel Annex's south side in a pre-fabricated boiler housing and a propane tank. The boiler housing's length and width is 18 by 6-feet. The steam produced by the temporary boiler is routed back to the Hotel Annex mechanical room via above-ground pipes set in a wooden box structure (32-inches wide by 40-inches tall). The pre-fabricated boiler housing is surrounded by a wood lattice fence that extends 32-feet to the south side and 11-feet to the west side. All elements are painted green. The interim steam boiler is in good condition.
- An early component of the Little Brown was a fountain located west of its front door. The fountain was a concrete octagon-shaped basin, painted white. The fountain is non-extant but remnants may exist below the surface. Where the fountain once existed, the topography remains level.[67]
- Two small **maintenance buildings** occur on the north side of the service drive, north of the golf cart storage area, and provide equipment storage for the Wawona Golf Course. One building has an approximate length and width of 50 by 20-feet with garage door openings on the north side. The other is approximately 5 by 5-feet with a narrow hinged door. Both are set on concrete foundations and are wood frame with wood siding painted white with green trim and wood shingle shed roofs. The smaller building is located in the northwest corner of the golf cart storage / charging area. Both buildings are utilized for Wawona Golf Course operations for equipment storage and repair and are in good condition.
- Four **seasonal employee tents** are set on wooden platforms and measure 12 by 14-feet. The canopies are supported by metal frames set on concrete pier blocks. They are located in the level area northeast of the hotel on the site of the non-extant Sequoia Hotel. The platforms remain year-round and the tent canopies are added during the spring and summer months. A 4-foot tall wood picket fence, on the north side of the employee tents, separates service activities and housing. The seasonal employee tents are in good condition.

[67] The fountain appears in a 1909 photograph.





Figure 1-109. Two small maintenance buildings occur on the north side of the service drive. The soft surface maintenance drive, north (left) of the maintenance building follows the historic drive alignment, 2011 (MBD).

The **service area** extends along the north edge of the study area behind the Hill Studio and Wawona Hotel, and includes the level space that was originally the site of the Sequoia Hotel. An area on the north side of the service drive is used for storage and charging golf carts and is enclosed by a chain link fence. Immediately adjacent to the north end of the Wawona Hotel is refrigeration equipment surrounded by green painted wood lattice, electrical distribution equipment surrounded by white painted lattice, propane tanks, fuel tank and concrete curb, dumpsters, trash receptacles, temporary trailers, parking for hotel guests and staff, miscellaneous storage containers and a temporary shade structure with picnic tables. The service area is in fair condition due to the underutilization of the area and the lack of separation between hotel operations and visitor use.





Figure 1-110. The service area is utilized for hotel operations, storage and utilities, visitor and employee parking and seasonal employee tents. The service area is disorganized and could be better utilized, 2011 (MBD).





Figure 1-111. The Thomas Hill Studio Fountain, ca. 1903 was originally built as a reflecting pool with a two-tiered cast-iron pedestal in the center. A short decorative fence circled the perimeter. The top of the concrete basin was closer to the surrounding grade, left. The NPS rehabilitated the fountain to return it to a reflecting pool, including a new concrete basin and modern mechanical and plumbing equipment (source: Courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library, left, and MBD, right).

Analysis

The buildings and structures remain in their historic locations and function in relatively the same role as they did during the recommended period of significance. The one exception is the non-extant Sequoia Hotel which burnt in 1977 and was demolished. Wawona Hotel, Long White Building, Little White Building, Long Brown Building, Little Brown Building, Thomas Hill Studio, and Wawona Hotel Annex were all built during the recommended period of significance. These buildings continue to provide hotel accommodations, and to distinctly define the spatial arrangement of the complex.

The resort atmosphere of the Wawona Hotel is enhanced by a series of structures and recreational amenities that define the forecourt. All of the structures built during the resort development or prior, primarily 1917 through 1918, remain and include the tennis court, swimming tank, Wawona Fountain, and Thomas Hill Studio Fountain.

- The extant 1918 **Wawona Fountain** remains a prominent feature of the Wawona Hotel forecourt.
  - The Wawona Fountain was built to replace the earlier fountain. The previous fountain, built ca. 1880s, was an elevated water feature with a circular basin surrounded by a low ornamental iron fence with a pedestrian path that accessed the Wawona Hotel and circled the fountain.
  - The extant 1918 fountain originally had a tall single jet, spraying water into the air; today the fountain's jet has a much lower circular spray.
- The extant **Thomas Hill Studio Fountain** basin remains in the same location it was built ca. 1895. Rehabilitation of the Thomas Hill Studio Fountain in 2011 by the National Park Service restored this fountain back to the grandeur of the reflecting pool present during the recommended period of significance.
  - The Thomas Hill Studio Fountain originally had a two-tiered cast-iron

pedestal situated in the center of the concrete basin / reflecting pool. Along the perimeter of the basin was a short decorative fence that encompassed the reflecting pool. The fountain pedestal was removed prior to 1910.
  - After the recommended period of significance, the fountain was no longer used, but the basin was used as a reflecting pool and later filled in with soil and used as a planter.
  - The grade surrounding the concrete basin appears to be lower than the historic grade. The existing concrete basin extends several inches higher than the historic grade.
- The **swimming tank** remains from when it was originally built in 1917, including the concrete basin, raised concrete edge and surrounding concrete paving.
  - The forecourt lawn originally extended uninterrupted to the edge of the concrete paving surrounding the swimming tank.
  - A modern white picket fence surrounds a portion of the lawn adjacent to the swimming tank. The existing fence interrupts the once open feeling surrounding the swimming tank, but is required by code for safety. The existing fence does not meet the 5-foot code requirement and the fence design is not compatible with the historic character of the site.
  - The original drain and piping to the sanitary sewer were plugged due to leakage in the 1990s. The sanitary system, once used to drain the pool, no longer functions and the current practice of pumping pool water out at the end of the season does not meet existing code requirements.
  - Although the raised concrete curb surrounding the swimming tank is extant, it does not meet current building code for universal access in and out of the tank.
- The **tennis court** location, size, alignment and materials remain from its construction by the CCC in 1937.
  - As part of the original recreational amenities of the resort, a tennis court was built in 1917, located west of the entrance drive. This court was removed when the extant court replaced it in 1937.
  - In close proximity to the 1937 court, another tennis court was built in 1922 that is no longer extant.
  - The extant tennis court's prominence of anchoring the west side of the forecourt has been lost due to the encroaching and maturing vegetation that limits the visibility between the Wawona Hotel and the tennis court. Informal parking on the east side of the tennis court also contributes to blocking this historic visual relationship.
- The **interim steam boiler** south of the Hotel Annex was installed in 2010 when the boiler located in the Hotel Annex failed. The interim steam boiler location and size is non-contributing and interrupts the view between Wawona Road and the Hotel Annex and detracts from the historic character of the site.
  - The original boiler system was housed in the Annex Boiler House built in 1917. It was located down the slope south from the Hotel Annex (1918). The Annex Boiler House provided steam and hot water for the Long White, Little White, Wawona Hotel, and Hotel Annex. The

Annex Boiler House was removed in 1933 when the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. built a boiler room in the Hotel Annex. Wawona Road was built at the same time and was routed through the location of the Annex Boiler House.

- The interim steam boiler was installed as a temporary measure until the heating system of the Wawona Hotel complex could be evaluated and a determination made on the most appropriate heating system to pursue for the Complex since the original location of the Annex Boiler House is lost due to the Wawona Road alignment (1933).

The non-contributing maintenance buildings and seasonal employee tents are located within the vicinity of the non-extant Wawona store and Sequoia Hotel. These ancillary buildings were built after the recommended period of significance for hotel operations.

- Two small **maintenance buildings** were built in the 1980s. These buildings are non-contributing, but do not detract from the historic character as they are screened from visitor services.
- The **seasonal employee tents** were added in the early 1980s and are situated in the level area of the former Sequoia Hotel. The location and visibility of the non-contributing tents detracts from the complex's historic character.

The **service area** retains its original uses of visitor parking and access for hotel visitors. However, the stores north of the hotel are non-extant as well as the Sequoia Hotel forecourt that anchored the east end of the service area which is now utilized for hotel operations storage, equipment and seasonal employee tents. Due to these significant changes since the recommended period of significance, the service area is non-contributing.

- A courtyard originally occurred in the space north and east of the Wawona Hotel. This space extended from the east side of the non-extant Sequoia Hotel to the north side of the hotel. This space remains, primarily as a service area and is filled with refrigeration equipment, electrical distribution, trash receptacles, and a wood ramp. Additional asphalt paving has been added in the original Sequoia Hotel (1923) forecourt area.
- The Sequoia Hotel burned in 1977 leaving level open topography, which is currently utilized for tent accommodations for seasonal employees, storage containers, dumpsters, and soft surface employee parking.
- The service area provides many necessary uses for hotel operations, parking for hotel guests, as well as pedestrian access to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Features related to visitor use and hotel operations conflict due to inadequate organization. The informal maintenance circulation patterns have created dirt tracks causing erosion throughout the service area.

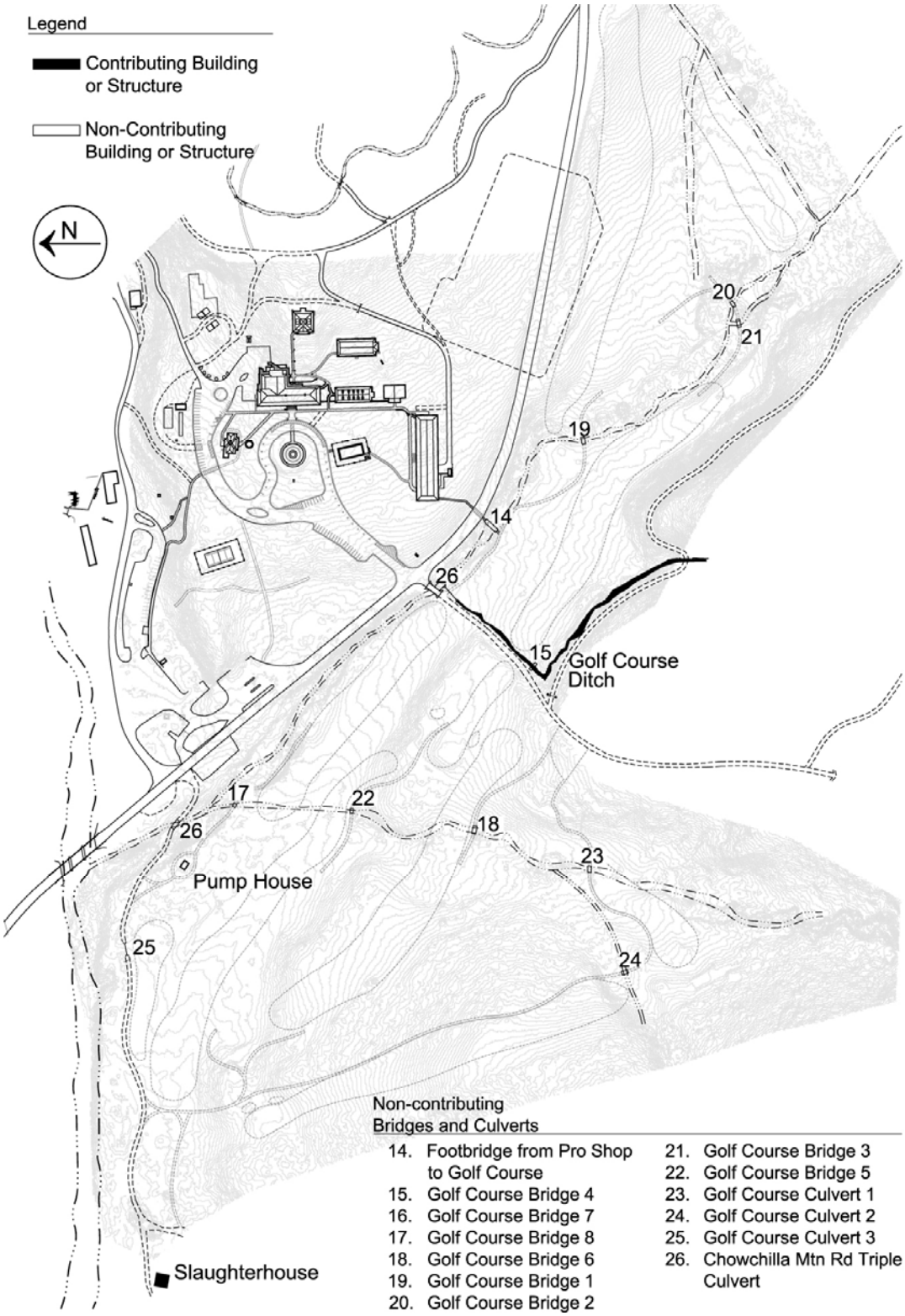


Figure 1-112. Wawona Golf Course Buildings and Structures Contributing and Non-contributing Features (MBD).

Wawona Golf Course

Existing Condition

The Wawona Golf Course includes two buildings – the slaughterhouse, west of the eighth tee, and the pump house, north of the ninth tee.

- The **slaughterhouse** is a rectangular building with a small lean-to. It is approximately 15 by 19-feet (the lean-to is 7-feet by 3-feet on the south side) and has a board-form concrete foundation that extends several feet above the adjacent grade. The walls are weathered board-and-batten wood with red-brown paint (weathered). Square screened vents are located at each gable end. The building has 8-lite windows on its north side. A remnant pulley system is on the front (west-side) of the building. The roof is a steep corrugated metal gable roof. The slaughterhouse is in poor condition due to weathered and rotted siding and missing window panes. The slaughterhouse is located outside the study area, but is used by the concessionaire for golf course storage.
- The **pump house** measures approximately 17 by 17-feet, has a concrete foundation, horizontal plank-wood siding (painted white) and a wood shingle gable roof. On the south side is a low fence (also horizontal siding, painted white) which is adjacent to the building and screens two sides of a high voltage power box (used for the golf course irrigation system pump). The pump house is in good condition.



Figure 1-113. The 1929 slaughterhouse is located outside the study area but is used for golf course storage. The building has board-and-batten siding and a corrugated metal roof, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-114. The pump house houses the booster pump that operates the Wawona Golf Course irrigation system. A transformer is located on the right side, surrounded by a low wall matching the building materials, 2011 (MBD).

Structures associated with the Wawona Golf Course include bridges and culverts that provide vehicular and pedestrian crossings over drainages within the golf course. A man-made ditch also conveys flows through the golf course. There are nine bridges and four culverts associated with the golf course. A number of these bridges are pre-fabricated and identical in aesthetics. These include bridges 1, 2, 3, and 5.

- The **Golf Course Ditch** is lined with granitic cobbles in the section that parallels the Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road (360 feet) and bisects the golf course. The depth and width of this portion is approximately 1-foot 6-inches by 4-feet. It extends east, adjacent to the Meadow Loop Road, and becomes an earthen ditch, in this section the depth and width measures approximately 2 by 5-feet. The ditch is in good condition.
- **Footbridge from Pro Shop to Golf Course** is a narrow pedestrian bridge that crosses the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road and provides access between the Hotel Annex and the golf course via the golf course walkway to the Golf Pro Shop. The bridge measures 5-feet 5-inches by 40-feet (52-feet including the concrete ramps which lead to the bridge decking). The bridge has two steel I-beam girders and concrete abutments. The bridge has 2x6 decking with 2x4 railing and 4x4 posts. The wood is painted green and a non-slip black traction pad covers the entire length of the deck. The wood railing is approximately 33-inches in height. A low cobble wall retains the slope on the golf course approach to the bridge. The bridge is in good condition.



Figure 1-115. The Golf Course Ditch is lined with granite cobbles and extends along Chowchilla Mountain Road and Meadow Loop Road, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-116. The Footbridge from Pro Shop to Golf Course provides pedestrian access from the pro shop in the Hotel Annex to the Wawona Golf Course, 2011 (MBD).

- **Bridge 1** crosses the tributary between the first tee and the first fairway. The pre-fabricated bridge (approximately 8 by 18-feet) is a steel frame with a 36-inch high steel railing set on concrete abutments and wing walls. The bridge surface is wood plank decking. The bridge is in good condition.
- **Bridges 2 and 3** provide crossings over the tributary between the second green and third tee. The pre-fabricated bridges (which vary in length, 8 by 16 –18-feet) are steel frame with a 36-inch high steel railing set on concrete abutments and wing walls. The bridge surface is wood plank decking. These bridges are in good condition.
- **Bridge 4** is a simple wood plank bridge with wood joists (7 by 7-feet) that crosses the golf course ditch adjacent to Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and the third fairway. The bridge does not appear to have an abutment. The bridge is in good condition.
- **Bridge 5** crosses a tributary at the fourth fairway. The pre-fabricated bridge (approximately 8-feet wide by 12-feet long) is a steel frame with a 36-inch high steel railing set on concrete abutments and wing walls. The bridge surface is wood plank decking. The bridge is in good condition.
- **Bridge 6** (approximately 12-feet wide by 20-feet long) is a steel I-beam structure with wood plank decking surface and wood block curbing set on cobblestone abutments with wing walls. The bridge crosses the tributary at the fifth fairway. The bridge is in good condition.



Figure 1-117. Bridge 1 (pre-fabricated) is located across the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road between the first and third fairways, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-118. Bridges 2 and 3 (both pre-fabricated) are in close proximity to one another, and occur over the tributary between the second green and third tee, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-119. Bridge 4 spans Golf Course Ditch, adjacent to Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and the third fairway, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-120. Bridge 5 is located over a tributary adjacent to the fifth fairway, 2011 (MBD).

- **Bridge 7** is a vehicular wood bridge set on cobblestone abutments that crosses the tributary from Wawona Road to the slaughterhouse at the west end of the golf course. The bridge (10-feet wide by 26-feet long) has railings that are approximately 16-inches in height. The bridge is in poor condition as the side rails are damaged and the railings have collapsed.
- **Bridge 8** (11-feet wide by 9-feet long) is a steel I-beam structure with wood plank decking surface and wood block curbing. The bridge crosses the tributary between the ninth tee and ninth fairway. The bridge is in fair condition due to considerable damage to the railings.
- **Chowchilla Mountain Road Triple Culvert** is part of Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and provides a vehicular crossing over the tributary at the intersection of Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and Wawona Road. The culvert consists of three 4-foot diameter corrugated pipes with metal aprons set in a sloped concrete abutment with a rubble stone masonry veneer. The culvert directs flows of an unnamed stream that flows through the Wawona Meadow and Wawona golf Course. The colored concrete surface of the culvert was replaced in 2011. The pavement above the culvert is sloped to the center to help contain / direct high flows of water when necessary. The culvert is in good condition.



Figure 1-121. Bridge 6 is located over a tributary adjacent to the sixth fairway, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-122. Bridge 7 is located over the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road across from the access to the Wawona Store. This bridge has a damaged deck and the west rail is missing, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-123. Bridge 8 is located between the ninth tee and ninth fairway, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-124. Chowchilla Mountain Road Triple Culvert provides flows under Chowchilla Mountain Road for the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road, 2011 (MBD).

- **Culvert 1** is a corrugated steel pipe culvert with various sized cobble surrounding the pipe. The culvert provides access over the tributary between the sixth tee and fairway. The culvert is in good condition.
- **Culvert 2** is a corrugated steel pipe culvert with various sized cobble surrounding the pipe. The culvert provides access over the tributary between the seventh tee and fairway. The culvert is in good condition
- **Culvert 3** is a corrugated steel pipe culvert with various sized cobble surrounding the pipe. The culvert provides cart path access over the tributary between the seventh tee and fairway. The culvert is in good condition.





Figure 1-125. Wawona Golf Course Culvert 1 is a stone culvert located at the tributary and golf cart path adjacent to the sixth fairway, above. Wawona Golf Course Culvert 2 is located between the sixth green and the seventh fairway, below, 2011 (MBD).

Analysis

The slaughterhouse is the only building (1929) and the Golf Course Ditch (1870-1900) is the only structure that remains from the recommended period of significance within the Wawona Golf Course.

The **slaughterhouse** was an integral part of the self-sustaining complex the Washburn family maintained while operating the hotel. The building provided a location for butchering; the food going to hotel guests. The slaughterhouse is extant from 1929 and although the buildings use has changed from being utilized for butchering purposes to storage for the Wawona Golf Course, the location, size and materials of the building remain intact and the building retains integrity.

- The slaughterhouse was rebuilt by Clarence Washburn in 1929. Several slaughterhouses located in close proximity to the extant slaughterhouse predated the current building. The building was historically used for butchering when the Washburn's owned and operated the hotel. Today, it is used for storage of golf course equipment and concessionaire supplies.

The **pump house** is a non-contributing building built in 1983, in conjunction with the Wastewater Treatment Facility located north of the South Fork of the Merced River. The building houses the pump for the golf course reclaimed water irrigation system. Although the pump house was installed outside the recommended period of significance, it provides an important function in maintaining the historic Wawona Golf Course.

Structures such as the extant bridges, culverts, and ditches have historically been an integral part of the Wawona Golf Course. Footpaths, bridges, and culverts provided access to players on foot until 1967 when golf carts were introduced. The use of golf carts likely influenced modifications to

the footpaths, bridges, and culverts (widening, realigning). It is assumed locations of the bridges and culverts are similar to original bridges and culverts. There is not adequate documentation to determine the exact extent and location of these original structures. It appears all bridges and culverts were built after the recommended period of significance. However, their locations and aesthetic are generally compatible with the golf course.

The Golf Course Ditch is the only contributing structure within the Wawona Golf Course. This structure was built between 1870 and 1900, when water conveyance through a series of ditches was used for agricultural purposes. The ditch was stabilized by the CCC in the 1930s and continues to provide water conveyance through a portion of the Wawona Golf Course.

- "The **Golf Course Ditch** consists of the remains of a water-conveyance ditch that supplied water to the Wawona Hotel from the Mount Adeline (now Mt. Savage) spring. Although it is unknown when this ditch was constructed, Albert Gordon's association of the feature with Wawona Hotel indicates use prior to the development of other sources at Wawona, suggesting a date of construction from 1870 to1900. It is likely the stone in the stone-lined section of the ditch was installed by the CCC during the 1935-1936 work seasons at Wawona. Although the ditch is no longer used for agricultural or drinking water purposes, it still conducts large volumes of water around the Wawona Golf Course, particularly during the spring thaw. Although dates of operation of the ditch were not indicated in historic references, testimony by longtime Wawona resident Albert Gordon in 1998 indicates that the ditch was in use from 1870-1900. It is likely the ditch was modified over the years for stock and agricultural needs. It was useful in reducing water saturation and increased drainage of the Wawona Golf Course and the short-lived Wawona air strip (no longer extant)."[68] The contributing Golf Course Ditch continues to convey water around the Wawona Golf Course to the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road.

Bridges were part of the original pedestrian paths within the golf course, and appear to have been similar to the construction type and aesthetic of the extant Footbridge from Pro Shop to Golf Course.[69] Exact locations, quantities and dates of historic bridges are unknown. The locations of historic crossings were likely to have been similar to those of the existing bridges.

- **Bridge 6** was constructed by the NPS Wawona Utilities in 1983 in conjunction with the construction of the irrigation system.[70]
- The location of **Bridge 7** is extant; however the bridge was rebuilt in the 1980s using material from the Wawona Covered Bridge when it was repaired.[71]
- **Bridges 1, 2, 3,** and **5** were rebuilt after the 1997 flood.[72]
- Access from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road to the Wawona Hotel has existed since 1870, when this was the main stage route

[68] Schaible et al. *Draft Wawona Basin Cultural Landscape Inventory*. The CLI also makes note "The Historic Resource Recording at Wawona Meadow from 1998 shows the earthen portion of the ditch extending much farther to the southwest-almost to the southern end of the Wawona Meadow – which would represent an additional 5,800 feet. Although this portion of the ditch likely still remains, it is no longer maintained and it is largely naturalized, filled in with sediment and duff, and obscured by thick wetland vegetation."
[69] Review of historic photographs.
[70] Interview with Kim Porter, 2011.
[71] Ibid.
[72] Plaques are located on each bridge and are stamped with the date 1997.

from the Yosemite Valley. The original crossing appears to have been a bridge; the **Chowchilla Mountain Triple Culvert** was built ca. 1987 and is a modern addition replacing the previous culvert damaged during a storm in 1986.[73] The non-contributing culvert is compatible.

Contributing and Non-contributing Buildings and Structures

The Wawona Hotel Complex contributing and non-contributing buildings and structures are identified on the Wawona Hotel-Site Plan (Figure 1-155) and the Wawona Golf Course-Site Plan (Figure 1-156).

The number or letter adjacent to the feature represents the label on the Site Plan. Features without a label are identified on the Site Plan with the name adjacent to the feature.

Contributing-Wawona Hotel

- Long White Building (1876, C)
- Wawona Hotel, Main Building (1879, D)
- Thomas Hill Studio (1884, F)
- Little White Building (1884, G)
- Little Brown Building (ca. 1894, I)
- Long Brown Building (1899-1900, J)
- Wawona Hotel Annex (1918, M)
- Thomas Hill Studio Fountain (ca. 1895, #2)
- Swimming tank (1917, #6)
- Wawona Fountain (1918, #1)
- Tennis court (1937, #5)

Contributing-Wawona Golf Course

- Slaughterhouse (1929, N)
- Golf Course Ditch (1870-1900)

Non-contributing-Wawona Hotel

- Maintenance buildings (ca. 1980s, R)
- Seasonal employee tents (ca. 1980s, S)
- Interim steam boiler (2010, U)

Non-contributing-Wawona Golf Course

- Pump house (1983, T)
- Footbridge from Pro Shop to Golf Course (date unknown, #14)
- Bridge 1, 2, 3 and 5 (1997, #19, #20, #21, #22)
- Bridge 4, 8 (date unknown, #15, #17)
- Bridge 6 (1983, #18)
- Bridge 7 (1980s, #16)
- Chowchilla Mountain Road Triple Culvert (ca. 1987, #26)
- Culvert 1, 2 and 3 (date unknown, #23, #24, #25)

[73] Review of historic photographs and interview with Kim Porter, 2011.

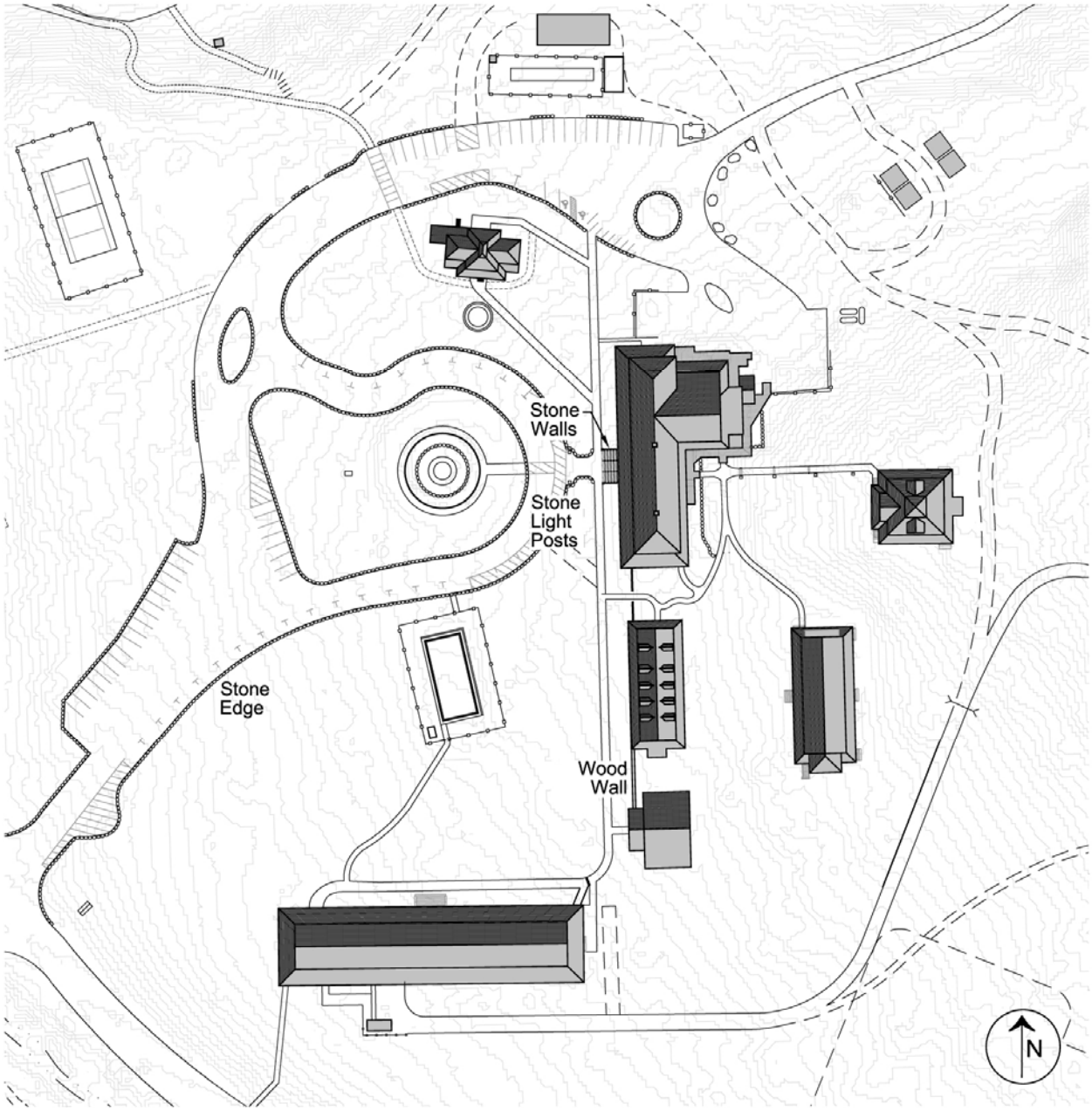


Figure 1-126. Wawona Hotel Contributing Small Scale Features provide the characteristic aesthetic that adds to the ambience of the historic hotel. Contributing features are labeled on the plan above (MBD).

Small Scale Features

General

The small scale features within the Wawona Hotel Complex and golf course provide a human-scale for the grounds, and assist in defining the historic character of the resort. These primary small scale features include the flagpole, site walls, stone light posts, and stone edges. Other features provide visitor amenities and include fencing, lighting, signage, and trash receptacles.

Wawona Hotel

Existing Condition

The small scale features of the Wawona Hotel share an aesthetic that contributes to the ambience and historic character of the hotel grounds. Stone (cobblestone) is a common material and is used in the stone walls, stone light posts, and stone edge that line the entrance and service drives and walkways. Wood is another common material used. The small scale features are presented by the areas in which they occur within the hotel grounds.

Small scale features within the forecourt include the flagpole, stone light posts and stone walls at the Wawona Hotel entrance. These features, as well as the Wawona Fountain (described under Buildings and Structures), are all stone construction.

- Two **stone light posts** flank the entrance to the hotel and consist of a 2-foot square base with a battered cobblestone column, approximately 7-feet 6-inches tall—including the 1-foot diameter opaque glass light fixture. The light posts are partially covered with Virginia creeper, which has spread from the adjacent barrel planters. The stone light posts are in good condition.



Figure 1-127. Overview of forecourt small scale features including stone light posts, stone edge (framing entrance drive) and flagpole, 2011 (MBD).

- The main pedestrian entrance into the Wawona Hotel is a broad wood staircase flanked by **two stone walls** and an ornamental wood railing (painted white). Two steel pipe hand railings extend down the center of the steps. The stone walls are 2-feet wide and step up with the staircase in two levels. Each is 2-feet 6-inches at the lowest level, and 4-feet 6-inches at the highest level. Temporary wood planter boxes are set on top. The stone walls are in good condition.
- The **flagpole** is located just west and slightly downhill of the Wawona Fountain. The flagpole is a 40 to 50-foot tall white fiberglass flagpole with a U.S. flag set on a mortared cobblestone base (approximately 3-feet 6-inches by 5-feet 6-inches with a maximum height of 2-feet 9-inches). A commemorative plaque (noting the designation of the Wawona Hotel as a National Historic Landmark) for the Wawona Hotel occurs on the west side of the base. The flagpole is in good condition.



Figure 1-128. Two stone walls flank the central staircase into the Wawona Hotel. The walls are in good condition and date from ca. 1918; the planter boxes on the stone walls are non-contributing, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-129. The buildings and the concrete retaining wall define the east side of the forecourt. The non-contributing concrete wall is in fair condition, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-130. The wood wall between the Long White and the Little White conceals steam pipes. An exact construction date is unknown, but the wall likely dates ca. 1930. The boulder edge along the building foundation plantings is not from the recommended period of significance and is non-contributing, 2011 (MBD).

Stone edges occur along the entrance and service drives, portions of pedestrian walks and foundation plantings.

- The entrance and service drives are lined by a low **stone edge**, with stones that range from approximately 1-foot to 2-feet in diameter. The entrance and service drives were resurfaced in April 2011, which resulted in the dislodging and moving of the historic stone edge. Many stones remain and line portions of the entrance drive, however they are not properly set and many sections are missing, resulting in a poor condition.
- A low **stone edge** lines the southeast corner of the Main Walkway and the section of the Hotel Walkway between the Wawona Hotel and Long White. The stones range from approximately 1-foot to 18-inches in diameter. The stone edge is in good condition.
- A low **stone edge** lines the foundation plantings around all of the buildings. The stones range from approximately 1-foot to 18-inches in diameter. The stone edge ranges from good to fair condition, due to missing sections of stone.

Other small scale features occur in relation to the hotel buildings; these include low walls between Wawona Hotel and the Long White, and between the Long White and the Little White.

- Two **concrete retaining walls** occur between the Wawona Hotel and the Long White. They measure approximately 2-feet 7-inches by 20-feet (width and length). The walls retain the slope between the forecourt and courtyard. Steam pipes that connect to the buildings are located below grade behind the walls. Weep holes, 1-foot 8-inches wide, occur on both walls, approximately 4-feet 8-inches from either end. The soil has washed away in areas, exposing the footing and damage has occurred

at the opening to the hotel walkway. The concrete walls are in fair condition.

- The wall between the Long White and the Little White is a **wood wall**, 2-feet by 2-feet (painted green), and conceals the steam pipes underneath. The planting bed east of the wall has settled, pushing the wall west. The sides and cap of the wall are deteriorated. The wood wall is in poor condition.

The Wawona Hotel's other small scale features include the **hotel entry sign** at the intersection of Wawona Road and the entrance drive. It is a wood sign, painted white with a wood shingled cover, and is in good condition. A brown **block retaining wall** at the south east corner of the service area retains the slope between the southeast corner of the service area and the slope to the Little Brown. It is in good condition. A white **lattice fence** surrounds trash and recycling containers at the service area east of the Wawona Hotel. The fence is approximately 6-feet tall and is in fair condition due to deteriorated wood and paint.

Small scale features of the courtyard include stone retaining walls at the Wawona Hotel, four post top lanterns that line the Little Brown walkway, trash and recycling receptacles, and regulatory signs.

- Two **stone retaining walls** occur on the east side of the Wawona Hotel between the drainage swale that parallels the Wawona Hotel deck and the courtyard and are of similar construction to the stone features in the forecourt. These walls are dry-stacked and approximately 2-feet tall. The stone walls are in good condition.
- The four **post top lanterns** occur on the south side of the Little Brown Walkway. Spaced at 25-feet apart, their height measures 6-feet 6-inches tall, providing light at each staircase. The light posts are in good condition.

Common small scale features related to the function of the hotel include barrel trash and recycling receptacles, and regulatory signs. Bear-proof metal **trash and recycling receptacles** occur throughout the complex.

- Trash containers are typically painted brown and recycling containers green. These are in good condition. The **regulatory signs** include the ADA parking signs, a few signs to indicate accessible access, loading and fire signs, etc. These signs are in good condition.



Figure 1-131. Non-contributing stone retaining walls retain the slope for drainage between the Wawona Hotel deck and the courtyard, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-132. Four non-contributing post top lanterns occur on the south side of the Little Brown Walkway, 2011 (MBD).

Analysis

The small scale features that remain from the recommended period of significance assist in defining the character of the hotel. The features that contribute to the complex are the stone light posts, stone walls, stone edges along the entrance and service drives, and the wood wall between the Long White and the Little White.

The use of native stone in stone edging, light posts, walls and other features is a common and historically important feature within the hotel complex, particularly within the forecourt. These stones are present in historic photographs where they appear uniform in size and spacing, and were consistent with the aesthetic of the hotel resort. Several of the stone edges have been altered since the end of the recommended period of significance and the wood wall is in poor condition, but their continued presence is indicative of historic design intentions and therefore they are contributing features.

Within the forecourt the **stone light posts**, **stone walls**, and **stone edges** lining the entrance and service drives provide an identifiable entry experience and add to the ambience of the hotel. These features were built as part of the hotel's development as a resort in 1918. The stone light posts, stone walls and stone edge are consistent elements of these features and retain their orientation, materials, and form since the early years of the hotel complex. The addition of the railings at the staircase and planter boxes set on top of the stone walls at the main entrance to the hotel staircase detracts from the stone walls.

- The original **flagpole** (ca. 1918) was located in close proximity to the existing flagpole and consisted of a cobblestone base. The existing non-contributing flagpole was rebuilt in 1987 in a slightly different location, but is compatible as it reflects the original design.
- The two **stone light posts** (ca. 1918) frame the entrance to the Wawona Hotel and are made of battered cobblestone columns. Constructed as part of the resort improvements undertaken during the recommended period of significance, they are consistent in style and materials that characterize the complex. Today, they remain much as they were during the historic period and are contributing features.
- The broad staircase to the Wawona Hotel is flanked by **two stone walls** which were likely constructed ca. 1918 as part of the resort improvements. These appear in historic photographs from the recommended period of significance and contributed to the hotel's dramatic arrival sequence. These walls have not changed since the end of the recommended period of significance and contribute to the historic setting of the hotel.
- The **stone edge** of the entrance and service drives appears in historic photographs. The edge is slightly buried, approximately half submerged, rather than placed on the surface. Historically, the stones functioned as a way of delineating space within the hotel complex and continue to do so today. The integrity of these stone edgings has diminished, as they no longer appear as uniform in size and spacing as during the early years of the hotel complex.
- The low **stone edge** found at a portion of the Main and Hotel Walkways are modern additions that detract from the historic character by providing a false historical representation. The low stone edge was historically located only along the entrance and service drives.
- The low **stone edge** around the buildings' foundations was added after the end of the recommended period of significance. During

the recommended period of significance, stones were used to delineate space along the driveways, not around the buildings. These stones are not historic and detract from the historic character of the area.

- The **concrete retaining walls** between the Wawona Hotel and the Long White were built after the recommended period of significance. Historically, a retaining wall occurred in the same location and defined the forecourt as a space. The original wall extended uninterrupted between the buildings and appeared to have a less formal appearance (material unknown) than today's wall. Today, the wall has an opening in the center where the Hotel Walkway connects to the Main Walkway. Although the wall originally did not have an opening and had different aesthetics, the existing wall configuration is compatible as it provides an opportunity for an accessible pedestrian circulation connection to buildings in the courtyard.
- The **wood wall** between the Long White and Little White conceals the steam pipes. An exact date is unknown for the installation of this wall. It is likely to have been installed when the elevated walkways were removed between the buildings and appears in historic photographs ca. 1930s. Although the wood wall is in poor condition it remains as it was during the recommended period of significance and exhibits the thoughtfulness of site design and attention to detail that is characteristic of the hotel's development.
- **Post top lanterns** (4) along the Little Brown Walkway are modern additions. They are non-contributing and are not compatible with the historic character.



Figure 1-133. The hotel entry sign is non-contributing, 2011 (MBD).

- The **hotel entry sign** is a modern addition and is non-contributing. A hotel entry sign has historically been used as an identifying feature, but the existing sign is not compatible with the historic character.
- The **block retaining wall** and **lattice fence** at the south-east corner of the service area was built as part of modern additions to expand the service area to the east. The wall and fence are non-contributing features and detract from the historic character.
- The low **stone retaining walls** occur a few feet from the north and east façade of the Wawona Hotel. Although an exact date is unknown, the walls were likely installed during the recommended period of significance, as they exhibit the stone construction and aesthetic associated with the historic period. The stone retaining walls are contributing features as they enhance the historic setting of the hotel.
- **Trash and recycling receptacles** are modern additions that provide necessary functions for hotel operations. The receptacles are non-contributing and in some cases detract from the historic character of the site.
- **Regulatory signs** are modern additions that assist with safety and wayfinding. However, signs to direct guests to the accessible paths

and entrances are not always appropriately located. The signs are modern additions, and are non-contributing.

Wawona Golf Course

Existing Condition

The small scale features of the Wawona Golf Course provide essential visitor amenities such as boundary delineation, seating, trash disposal, and golf functions. The features include tree stump golf hole maps, a periscope, golf ball cleaners, benches, fences, trash receptacles, and boundary stakes.

- Features associated with golf functions occur at several of the tees and include **tree stump golf hole maps**, a steel **periscope** at the fifth tee for viewing the fifth green, **golf ball cleaners**, **water bottle holders**, and wood **benches** (painted green) with steel frame. All features are in good condition.
- A **wood fence** (1980s) occurs near the first tee and continues east along the south side of Wawona Road. The wood fence was installed to mitigate deer crossing conflicts, and is in good condition.[74]
- Bear-proof metal **trash and recycling receptacles** occur at each tee. Trash receptacles are set on a concrete pad and are typically painted brown and recycling containers green. Containers range in condition from good to fair; the ones in fair condition are damaged.

Analysis

All of the small scale features associated with the Wawona Golf Course were installed after the recommended period of significance and are non-contributing. However, these features provide functional amenities at the golf course, and generally do not detract from the complex's historic character.



Figure 1-134. Bear-proof trash and recycling receptacles are located throughout the Wawona Hotel Complex. Tree stump maps are located adjacent to each golf tee and ball cleaners are also located throughout the golf course, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-135. The wood fence adjacent to Wawona Road and the Washburn Orchard is non-contributing, 2011 (MBD).

[74] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 92.

Contributing and Non-contributing Small Scale Features

The Wawona Hotel Complex contributing and non-contributing small scale features are identified on the Wawona Hotel-Site Plan (Figure 1-155) and the Wawona Golf Course-Site Plan (Figure 1-156).

The number or letter adjacent to the feature represents the label on the Site Plan. Features without a label are identified on the Site Plan with the name adjacent to the feature.

Contributing-Wawona Hotel

- Stone light posts (ca. 1918, #9)
- Stone walls (ca. 1918, #9)
- Wood wall (ca. 1930s)
- Stone edge (ca. 1920s)

Non-contributing-Wawona Hotel

- Stone retaining walls (ca. 1980s)
- Block retaining wall with lattice fence (ca. 1980s)
- White picket fence (at swimming tank) (1981-1982)
- Hotel entry sign (ca. 1985)
- Flagpole (1987, #8)
- Trash and recycling receptacles (2008-2009)
- Steel light posts (date unknown)
- Concrete retaining walls (date unknown)
- Post top lanterns (date unknown)
- Regulatory signs (date unknown)

Non-contributing-Wawona Golf Course

- Wood fence (adjacent to Wawona Road) (1980s)
- Tree stump golf hole maps (ca. 1990s)
- Trash and recycling receptacles (2008-2009)
- Periscope (date unknown)
- Golf ball cleaners (date unknown)
- Boundary Stakes (golf course) (date unknown)
- Golf course benches (date unknown)
- Water bottle holders (date unknown)

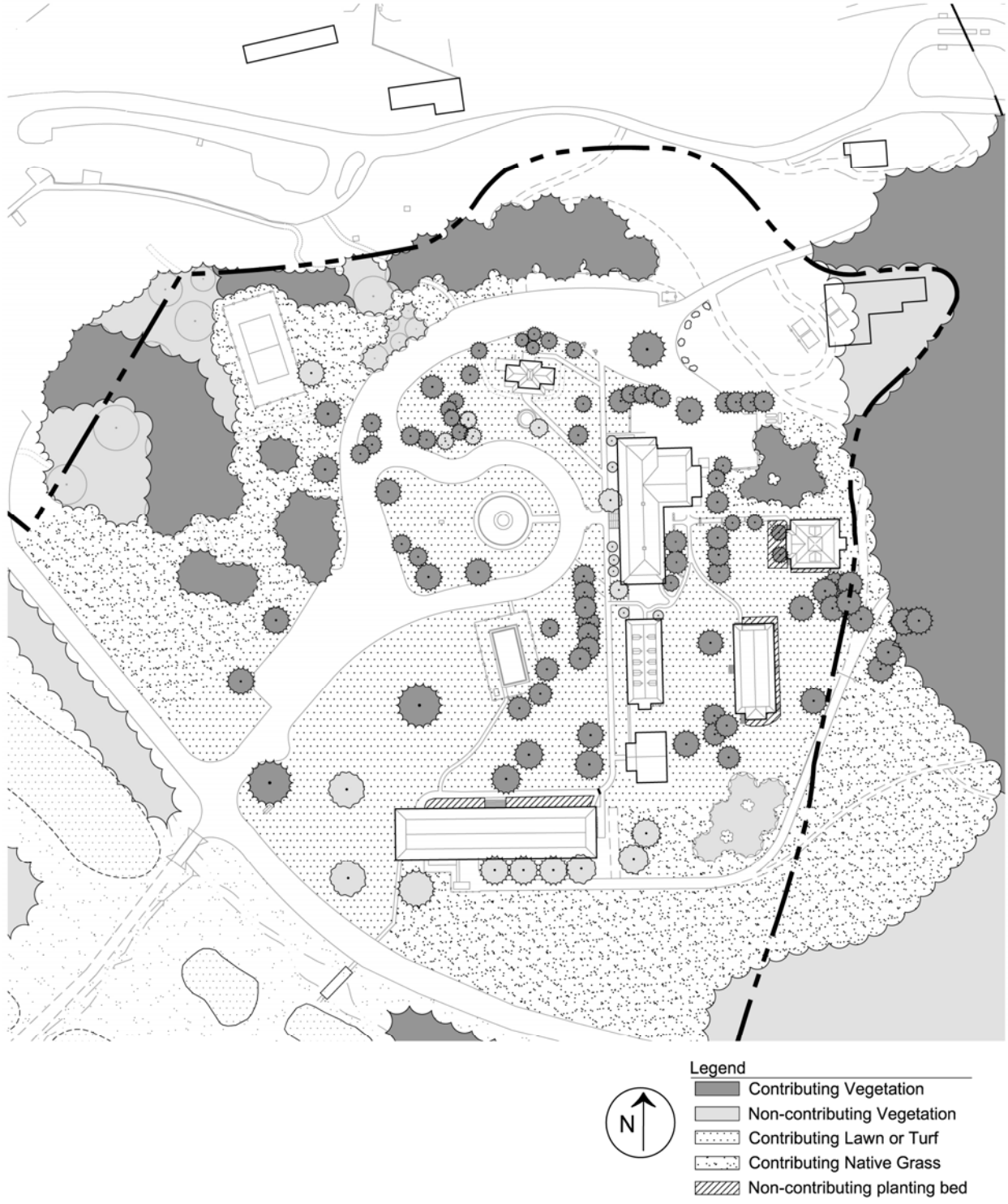


Figure 1-136. Wawona Hotel Contributing and Non-contributing Vegetation (MBD).

Vegetation

General

The vegetation of the Wawona Hotel complex consists of manicured grounds at the hotel and mown fairways, green and trees, both of which are enclosed by massings of evergreen trees. The vegetation of the Wawona Hotel grounds is a mown lawn with a formal arrangement of trees, surrounded by mixed evergreen forest. The forest enclosures the hotel grounds and golf course, and separates it from adjacent mountains.

The Wawona Golf Course vegetation consists of evergreen forest that defines the edges of the golf course, and the roughs, fairways, tees, and greens.

Riparian vegetation occurs within tributaries of the South Fork of the Merced River that extend through the golf course, and the remaining trees of the Washburn and Galen Clark Orchards provide a glimpse of the importance of sustenance living in years past at the hotel.

Wawona Hotel

Existing Condition

The hotel grounds is a formal landscape of native grasses, mown lawn, and groupings of evergreen trees that define walkways. Loosely arranged individual evergreen trees provide a transition between the mountains and hotel grounds. Ornamental vegetation, consisting of shrubs, perennials, vines and deciduous trees define the formal arrangement of the hotel buildings.

A mixed evergreen forest surrounds three sides of the hotel creating a sense of enclosure. Large evergreen trees in formal and informal groupings line the walks and the formal mown lawn. The mown lawn creates courtyards between the buildings. Loosely clustered trees define smaller spaces. Ornamental plantings reinforce the formal arrangement along building facades, and at building entrances.

- The **evergreen trees** are primarily incense cedars (*Calocedrus decurrens*), ponderosa pines (*Pinus ponderosa*), and jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) set individually or in informal groups near the buildings. Rows of evergreen trees occur in the forecourt of the hotel, including seven cedars on the west side of Wawona Hotel, and a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees on the south side of the Hotel Annex. These trees are in good condition.



Figure 1-137. Individual evergreen trees, or informal groupings occur adjacent to the buildings on the west side of the hotel. The formal lawn was present during the recommended period of significance and contributes to the resort atmosphere, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-138. Building foundation plantings consist of shrubs, perennials and vines and forecourt vegetation consists of informal groupings or rows of evergreen trees, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-139. Apple tree at the southeast corner of the Wawona Hotel was planted during the recommended period of significance. Evergreen trees north of the apple tree have replaced historic apple trees, 2011 (MBD).

- Only a few **deciduous trees** occur on the site. These include California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii)* and live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*) east and south of the Hotel Annex (good condition) and one on the west side of the Wawona Hotel, willow (*Salix sp.*) west of the Hotel Annex (good condition), hawthorn (*Cratageus sp.*) adjacent to the Thomas Hill Studio Fountain (good condition) and apple trees (*Malus sp.*) on the southeast corner of the Wawona Hotel (fair condition) and southwest corner of the Little Brown (poor condition).
  - One **apple tree** occurs at the southeast corner of the Wawona Hotel (historically there were two). The apple tree is noted as having been planted by Wawona Washburn and her family. The *Orchard Management Guidelines* recommend preservation of this tree and replanting the missing tree.[75] Another apple tree occurs west of the Little Brown. The date for this tree is unknown and its removal is recommended by the *Orchard Management Guidelines* due to the poor condition of the tree.[76]
- The most notable trees are four **giant sequoias** (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) (noted to have been planted by the Washburns), occur in a north south row between the Wawona Hotel and the Little Brown and a very large incense cedar occurs within the service drive north of the Wawona Hotel dining room. [77] These trees are in good condition.

[75] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 95.
[76] Ibid.
[77] According to historical accounts, the four giant sequoia trees were planted by the Washburns—one for each brother.



Figure 1-140. Four giant sequoias (one for each Washburn brother) are located in the courtyard between Wawona Hotel and Little Brown, 2011 (MBD).

  - Four **giant sequoia Washburn trees** (noted to have been planted by the Washburns), occur in the courtyard, oriented in a north south row between the Wawona Hotel and the Little Brown.
- A **mixed evergreen forest** encloses the Wawona Hotel on two of its sides and a portion of its third, creating a backdrop for the hotel grounds on the north and east sides. Parts of the evergreen forest are mixed with oak woodlands. Trees on the north side occur on the slope that extends down to the South Fork of the Merced River from the hotel. Part of the east edge is forested, enclosing the hotel. The tennis court and Hill Studio are also enclosed by dense evergreen trees. These trees are in good condition.
- Ornamental vegetation occurs within the buildings' foundation **planting beds**, bordered by non-historic stone edges and covered with bark mulch. Vegetation within these planting beds includes: azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), viburnum (*Viburnum sp.*), lilac (*Syringa sp.*), spicebush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*), rosemary (*Rosmarius officinalus*), periwinkle (*Vinca major*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), columbine (*Aquilegia sp.*), bleeding heart (*Dicentra*), hops vines (*Humulus lupulus*), and bulbs including iris and daffodils. The ornamental vegetation is in fair condition due to non-historic use of stone; bark mulch not compatible with the historic character; plantings inconsistent with the historically formal plant arrangement and spacing; and use of invasive species.
- A **formal lawn** occurs throughout most of the hotel grounds, including within the forecourt, courtyard, and along Wawona Road at the hotel entrance. A putting green (manicured turf) is located on the west side of the Hotel Annex. The lawn ranges from fair to poor condition with issues that include burrowing animals, uneven grades, and sparse grass cover.
- **Native grasses** (*Poa spp.*) extend east behind the Little Brown, continuing up through the evergreen forest area and north and west of the tennis court and service drive. The native grass areas are in fair to good condition due to some deterioration from temporary maintenance access and informal parking disturbance.
- **Barrel planters** (4 foot diameter, wood) occur at the swimming tank, hotel entrance sign, and the Little Brown Walkway. These planters are used during the summer for annual (mostly pansies) flower plantings and are in good condition.
- Several non-native, invasive species are located within the hotel grounds. These

include periwinkle (*Vinca major)*, hops vines (*Humulus lupulus)*, and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea)*. These three species were planted as ornamentals but have escaped landscaped grounds and are spreading into nearby natural areas.[78] In 2009, the park treated several high priority species with herbicides, as part of the Invasive Plant Management Program. These species included bull-thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), and velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*). The majority of blackberry and bull-thistle were successfully removed, and similar treatment was undertaken in 2010. A test was undertaken on the effectiveness of herbicide on velvet grass in 2009 and 2010, in addition to hand-pulling.[79] Word during the 2010 season also included treatment of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), perennial sweet pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*), and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*).

Analysis

The vegetation of the Wawona Hotel remains very similar to that which existed during the recommended period of significance. The evergreen forest that surrounds the north, east and part of the west sides of the Wawona Hotel remains, creating the backdrop and sense of enclosure that is characteristic of the hotel setting, and contributes to the historic character.

The individual evergreen trees, four sequoia trees, apple tree, formal lawn, native grasses and ornamental planting beds contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.

Plantings have occurred after the recommended period of significance. These include the deciduous and evergreen tree plantings on the south and east sides of the Hotel Annex, hawthorn adjacent to the Thomas Hill Studio Fountain, and oak on the west side of the Wawona Hotel.

Foundation plantings have been added since the recommended period of significance along the north and east sides of the Hotel Annex and around the Little Brown and Long Brown, where lawn historically occurred.

Evergreen forest vegetation has encroached into historically open areas.

- The vegetation of the hotel and golf course was historically low growing plants and lawn that created an open character with edges defined by the evergreen forest. Forest vegetation has encroached into previously open areas including the area of the Sequoia Hotel, 1917 tennis court, and Washburn Orchard and Garden area (partially outside study area). Newer plantings have been added to the east and south portions of the Wawona Hotel grounds. These changes have created a separation between the hotel and the Wawona Meadow. The forest vegetation that has encroached into the hotel grounds has altered the historic open views between the Wawona Hotel and Wawona Meadow.
- The vegetation in the forecourt historically included individual evergreen trees set within a mown lawn, lining the walks. The forecourt remains a mown lawn, generally open, and most of the original trees remain. The extant mature evergreen trees are mostly those that were planted in the 1880s.[80]
- Dense evergreens occur on the west and north side of Hill Studio. Some of these trees were planted in the early 1900s, although additional

[78] Joy Baccei, *field notes.*
[79] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2010e. *Invasive Plant Management Program, 2010 Work Plan,* 6.
[80] Review of historic photographs.

trees have been added over time. This combination has resulted in a dense mass of vegetation, obscuring much of the Hill Studio.

- The evergreen trees on the north edge of the hotel grounds have become a dense massing, obscuring views between the hotel, and the South Fork of the Merced River, and Wawona Covered Bridge. This edge and embankment historically had trees; however, views were between the river and bridge, and the hotel were historically more open. The river was visually connected with the hotel.





Figure 1-141. The 1890 view from Wawona Meadow (now the golf course), top, was historically open, with a view of Wawona Dome. The 2010 view, bottom, illustrates how vegetation has encroached and matured, now blocking the historically open views (source: Courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library, above, and MBD, below).

- Some trees grow very close to the buildings and walkways and were planted this way in the 1880s. Due to their close proximity to buildings, a few trees are deemed hazardous by NPS.[81] Some have been removed by NPS to avoid damage to building foundations and others may need to be removed.
- The incense cedar located in the landscape island of the service drive north of the Wawona Hotel, pre-dates Clark's Station (as it appears mature in photos ca. 1885) and remains a focal point in the service area.
- Few **deciduous trees** were planted historically in the forecourt. Some deciduous trees, including the willows at the putting green, oaks on the south side of the Hotel Annex and west side of the Wawona Hotel; and hawthorn adjacent to the Thomas Hill Studio Fountain, were planted after 1939. Historically, the south façade of the Hotel Annex was open between Wawona Road and the building. Existing trees that occur along the south side of the building are not historic, obscure views to the hotel from Wawona Road, and between the hotel and Wawona Golf Course.

[81] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2008. *Pacific West Region Directive: Hazard Tree Management*. Oakland, CA: National Park Service—Pacific West Region.

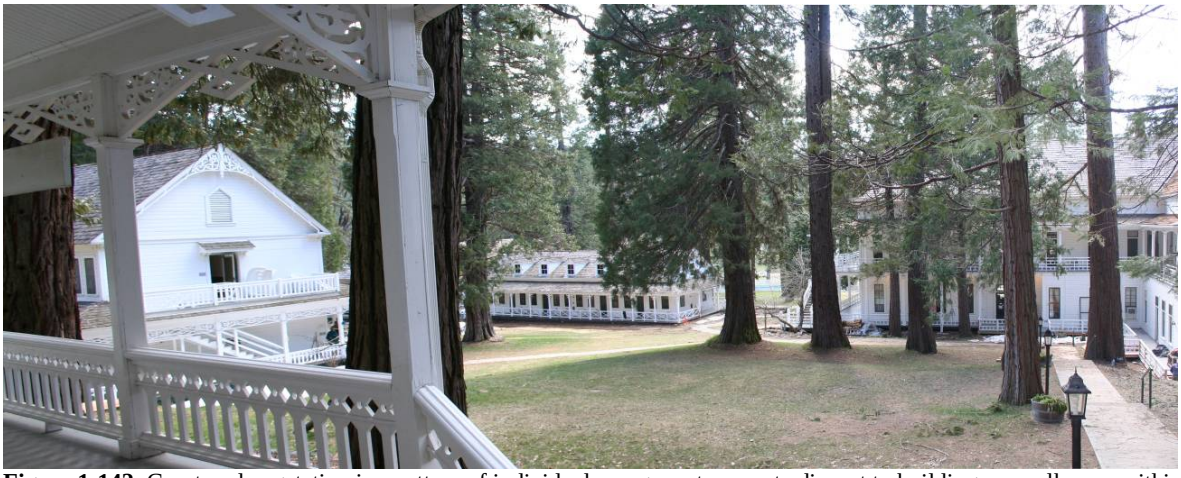


Figure 1-142. Courtyard vegetation is a pattern of individual evergreen trees, set adjacent to buildings or walkways within a formally mown lawn. The exception is the line of four giant sequoias, planted at the top of the slope, noted to have been planted by the Washburns, 2011 (MBD).

- **Planting beds** at building foundations occurred as early as the 1900s, consisting primarily of vines. It appears the extant hops vines were planted in the early 1900s. Hops vines historically occurred on all facades of the Little White, Long White, Long Brown, on the west and south facades of the Hotel Annex, on the west façade of the Wawona Hotel and on the south façade of Hill Studio (no longer present), all other buildings with vines were planted after the recommended period of significance. The spacing of the vines appears to have occurred regularly at each building column; however, fewer exist today than appear in the historic photos. Although the hops vines are a non-native, invasive species, they are a historic part of the hotel grounds, and are cut back at the end of each season to eliminate the ability to self seed.
    - Shrubs along the Main Walkway adjacent to the Little White, Long White and Wawona Hotel were likely planted during the recommended period of significance as they were mature in ca. 1940 photographs. Additional planting beds were added after the recommended period significance at the Hotel Annex, Little Brown and Long Brown and are non-compatible.
    - Existing shrubs and perennials appear to be newer plantings and although they are non-contributing they are compatible. Spacing of the shrubs and perennials are not consistent of the more formal historic arrangement that defined the historic character of the Victorian buildings. A few of the species are invasive and are recommended for removal by NPS. The stone edge defining the beds and the bark mulch is non-contributing and detracts from the historic character.
- The **formal lawn** was present during the recommended period of significance and exists today. The lawn is a characteristic of the resort atmosphere and contributes to the hotel.
- The **native grasses** were present during the recommended period of significance and exists today. The native grasses continue to provide the characteristic transition from the mountainous landscape to the formal landscape of the hotel grounds.
- The **barrel planters** are a more recent addition to the landscape. The barrel planters are non-contributing and detract from the historic setting.
- The date is not known for the introduction of the water lilies (*Nymphaea spp.*) were added to the fountain is unknown; historic photographs from the 1930s do not indicate water lilies in the basin. Water lilies were likely added after the recommended period of significance. These were not re-installed with the 2011 rehabilitation of the Wawona Fountain. NPS and DNC staff indicated the water lilies had become dense and overgrown prior to the fountain rehabilitation.

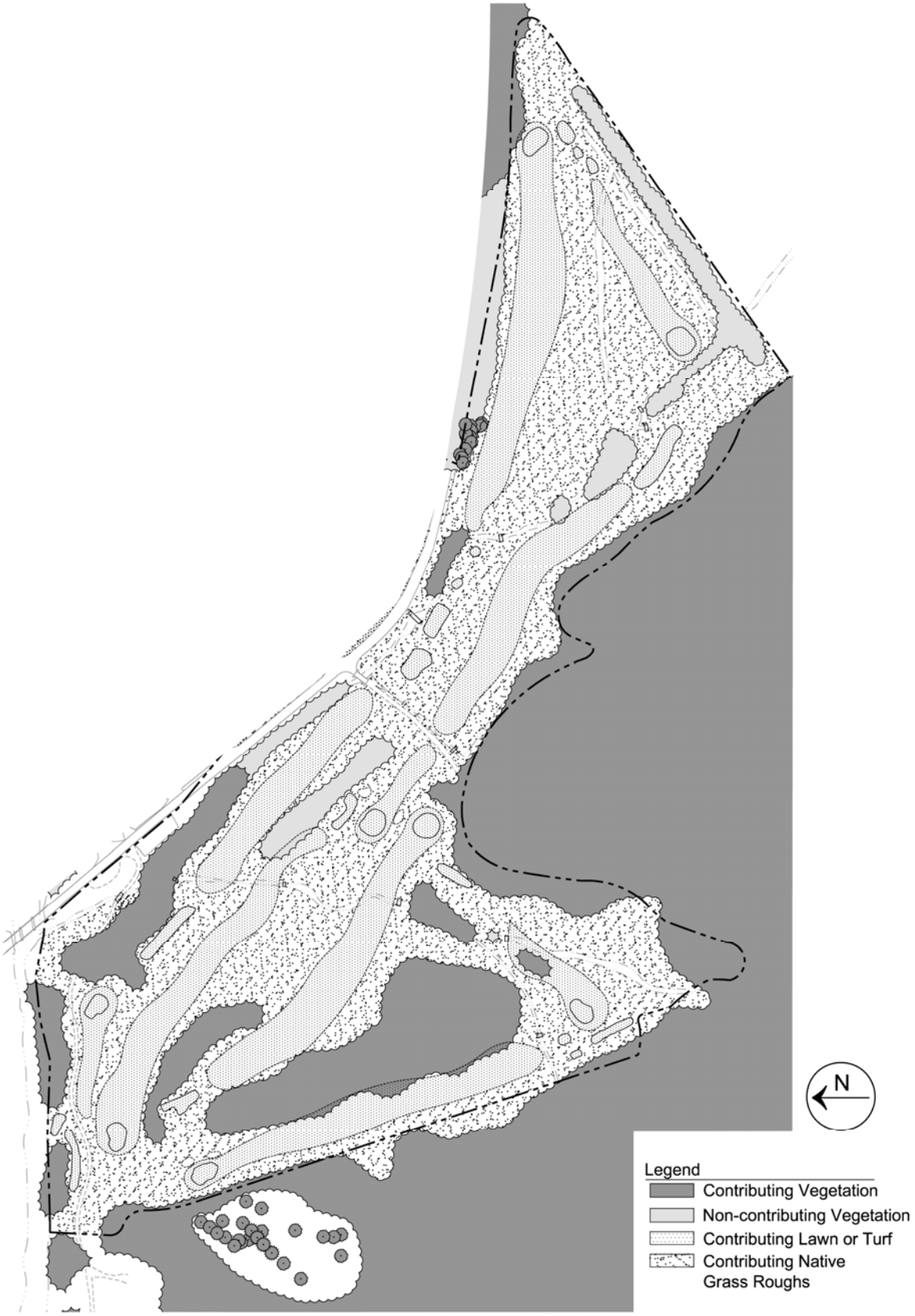


Figure 1-143. Wawona Golf Course Contributing and Non-contributing Vegetation (MBD).

Wawona Golf Course

Existing Condition

The Wawona Golf Course vegetation consists of broad openings of manicured lawn consisting of tees, fairways and greens that are surrounded by native grass roughs. Evergreen massings define the playable area of the course by flanking the roughs, fairways and greens. The golf course vegetation is dense to the west, where the landscape connects with the adjacent mountainous terrain and evergreen forest, providing a sense of enclosure. The vegetation is more open to the east, where the golf course extends toward Wawona Meadow, providing a sense of unity between the meadow and the golf course. Riparian vegetation defines some of the drainages throughout the course.

- The fairways are a rye grass (*Lolium sp.*) blend lawn, occurring within the broad openings defined by the evergreen forest massings. The tees are a rye blend (*Lolium sp.*) and greens are a bentgrass (*Agrostis sp.*) manicured lawn surrounded by roughs. The roughs consist of native grasses (*Poa spp.*) and forbs that extend into the adjacent evergreen forest. The tees, greens, fairways and roughs are in fair to good condition due to areas of depleted vegetation due to inconsistent irrigation and foraging by wildlife.
- The perimeter of the golf course is surrounded on the south and west sides by evergreen forests consisting primarily of incense cedars (*Calocedrus decurrens*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and white fir (*Abies concolor*). The evergreen forest is in good to fair condition as the forest density exceeds the normal range in some areas.
- The evergreen forest consists primarily of incense cedars (*Calocedrus decurrens*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and
- The south side has a dense evergreen forest extending from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road to the west end of the golf course. The east end of the golf course is open to the Wawona Meadow.
- Willow (*Salix sp.*), alders (*Alnus sp.*), dogwoods (*Cornus sp.*), and native grasses (*Poa spp.*) occur within many of the drainages on the golf course and are in good condition.
- Remnants of the Galen Clark Cabin Orchard occur west of the seventh fairway (outside the study area) and include sixteen trees (fifteen apple trees and one pear). The trees are



Figure 1-144. Mixed evergreen forest vegetation defines the golf course fairways, 2011 (MBD).

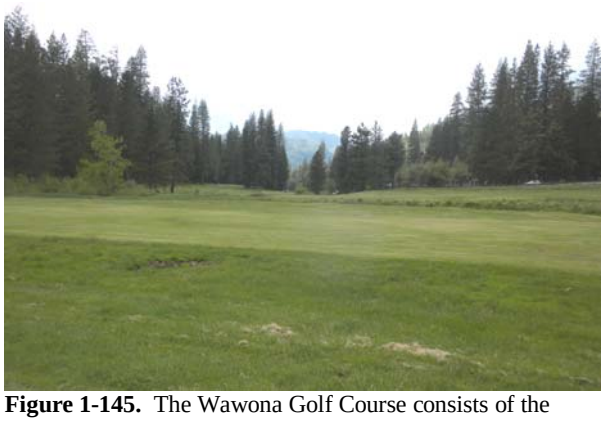


Figure 1-145. The Wawona Golf Course consists of the manicured lawns of tees, greens, fairways, and roughs framed by evergreen forest vegetation, 2011 (MBD).

loosely clustered around an open area. The condition assessment prepared by Skach et al. found that five of the trees are in poor condition, four are in fair to poor condition, four are in fair condition, and three are in good condition.[82]

- Four giant sequoias are located at the Galen Clark Cabin site and appear to be in good condition.
- Remnants of the Washburn Orchard are located between Wawona Road and Wawona Golf Course adjacent to the first fairway. The remnant orchard consists of thirteen apple trees spaced approximately 20 feet apart. The condition assessment prepared by Skach et al. found that five of the trees are in poor condition, three are in fair to poor condition, four are in fair condition, and one is in good condition.[83]



Figure 1-146. Galen Clark's Cabin Orchard is located in a clearing west of the seventh green. The trees are loosely clustered around the open area, 2011 (MBD).



Figure 1-147. The remnant Washburn Orchard is located between Wawona Road and Wawona Golf Course. It is likely a portion of the orchard was removed during the construction of Wawona Road, 2011 (MBD).

[82] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 95.
[83] Ibid.

Analysis

The vegetation within the Wawona Golf Course remains very similar to the end of the recommended period of significance. The exception is the on-going encroachment of evergreen vegetation into previously open areas, including north of the fifth green (today, trees block historic views between the golf course and the hotel), and the increased density of the forest vegetation framing the fairways. The Galen Clark Cabin Orchard and Washburn Orchard remain from the recommended period of significance. The vegetation of the golf course is important to the historic character of the golf course and is one of its most important defining characteristics. The vegetation is also important for providing wildlife habitat, which is one of the guiding principles of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.[84]

- The vegetation of the golf course was modified in 1917, transitioning from the historic meadow to golf course plantings. While much of the golf course was built in this open meadow, large portions were carved out of the hillside and forest vegetation was cleared for the fairways (674 trees were initially removed).[85]
- The surrounding forest vegetation on the south and west sides of the golf course is similar to that which existed at the time of the 1917 construction of the golf course. However, massings of evergreen trees have extended further into previously open areas. The evergreen forest has extended to Wawona Road on the north side of the golf course between Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and the west end of the golf course, blocking

[84] Audubon International. *Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses*. http://acsgolf.audubooninternational.org.
[85] Pioppi, *To the Nines*, 118.

the historically open views between Wawona Hotel and the golf course.

- The lawn grass blends of the tees, fairways, and greens are non-native, but are necessary to accommodate golf course play.
- Riparian vegetation occurs along all of the golf course drainages, including the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road, the South Fork of the Merced River, and the Golf Course Ditch. The size and density of this vegetation has increased in all of the drainages.
- The extant Galen Clark Cabin Orchard was planted between 1858 and 1864 in a low-lying wet meadow near a spring.[86] "The sixteen extant trees in Clark's orchard once were part of a larger homestead orchard. The extant trees do not occur in any coherent pattern and they may have been loosely clustered around Clark's cabin rather than placed in straight rows. The site still retains the aesthetic of a small farm clearing and because it has not become re-forested, the site's history is rather easy to envision."[87] The apple trees are not currently maintained or pruned; however, the trees still produce fruit.
- The extant four Giant Sequoias were planted by Galen Clark (ca. 1863).
- The extant Washburn Orchard was part of the large orchard and vegetable garden located south of the Wawona Hotel and planted between 1879 and 1885.[88] The produce of the orchard and non-extant vegetable garden was used by the hotel. A large portion of the orchard was removed in the 1930s when Wawona Road was completed. The orchard is not actively maintained. Deer actively graze on fallen apples, creating a nuisance due to the proximity of the Wawona Road.[89]

[86] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 84.
[87] Ibid.
[88] Ibid, 91.
[89] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 91.

Contributing and Non-contributing Vegetation

The Wawona Hotel Complex contributing and non-contributing features are identified on the Wawona Hotel Contributing and Non-Contributing Vegetation Plan (Figure 1-135) and the Wawona Golf Course Contributing and Non-Contributing Vegetation Plan (Figure 1-142).

Contributing-Wawona Hotel

- Washburn giant sequoia trees (4) – (date unknown)
- Apple tree at southeast corner of Wawona Hotel – (date unknown)
- Individual trees throughout hotel grounds (various dates)
- Formal lawn (1930s)
- Native grasses (date unknown)
- Hops vines (*Humulus lupulus*) (date unknown)

Contributing-Wawona Golf Course

- Four giant sequoias at Galen Clark Cabin Site (ca. 1863)
- Galen Clark Cabin Orchard (1858-1864)
- Washburn Orchard (1879-1885)

Non-contributing-Wawona Hotel

- Willow's west of Hotel Annex (date unknown)
- Hawthorn adjacent to the Thomas Hill Studio Fountain (date unknown)
- Oak west of the Wawona Hotel (date unknown)
- Evergreen's and deciduous trees south side of Hotel Annex (date unknown)
- Encroaching evergreen forest vegetation into Sequoia Hotel area (date unknown)
- Encroaching evergreen forest vegetation into Washburn Orchard (date unknown)
- Encroaching evergreen forest vegetation along north ridge between Wawona Hotel and Wawona Covered Bridge (date unknown)
- Waterlilies (*Nymphaea spp.*) (date unknown)

Non-contributing-Wawona Golf Course

- Encroaching evergreen forest vegetation north of fifth green (date unknown)

Utilities

General

Existing utilities for the Wawona Hotel Complex include electrical system, phone service, water systems for the buildings and irrigation, heating system via boiler, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer which includes surface drainage. The utilities are illustrated on the Wawona Hotel Complex – Utility Map at the end of this section.

Wawona Hotel

Existing Condition and Analysis

Electrical Distribution occurs via an overhead utility line, which enters the site along the north property line and ends at a location northwest of Wawona Hotel. The existing distribution system is currently 1,000 Amps at 208 / 120v, 3 Phase which accommodates the current needs of the facility. The existing electrical system is supplemented by a temporary standby generator.

The first electric lighting system was installed in 1908, and was supplemented by gasoline and diesel generators. Beginning in 1908, hydroelectric power was generated with water diverted from the nearby Washburn Ditch. In 1948, an electrical system was installed, replacing the hydroelectric power system.

There is an existing 480 Volt transformer near the pump house for the irrigation system for the golf course. This system was installed in 1983 and is currently operational.

- The cart charging facility is currently damaged. Some electrical material, such as Romex cabling, is used for this system but is not intended to be used outdoors.
- Conduit going to a receptacle and light mounted on a tree is held together with electrical tape. Future deterioration can be avoided by implementing a more permanent solution.
- An existing electrical line is wrapped against a tree. This installation is hazardous due to the likelihood of falling branches during inclement weather.
- The standby generator is a temporary generator with temporary connection cables; however, it appears that this generator is being utilized in a permanent fashion.
- Per the National Electrical Code, when an electrical service serves more than one building on a particular site there is a requirement for an exterior disconnect at each of the buildings for service. This exterior disconnect has not been installed at all of the facilities. There are some exceptions which would allow the installation; however, this will need further review.
- The Hotel Annex has a main electrical distribution panel with a 200 amp main disconnect, yet it appears that this building is fed via a 150 amp feeder from the MDC.
- Grounding for the MDC appears to be limited to a single ground rod located within the pad of the MDC.

Phone Distribution is provided by overhead telephone poles, located at the northeast corner of the site on the slope behind the service area. The lines are routed down the utility pole, underground, and into the main telephone board within the Wawona Hotel service corridor. All other phone lines are routed underground to other buildings from the main telephone board. The Hill Studio has a separate phone utility service pole on the northwest corner of the site which only feeds this building.

- There are existing overhead phone lines running between buildings that are no longer in use.

- The existing phone cabling distribution between buildings appears to have been added over time on an as-needed basis.

Exterior Lighting at the Wawona Hotel occurs as pedestrian and security lighting, and lighting for select amenities. Historically, outdoor lighting included two stone light posts outside the front entrance of the Wawona Hotel, ca. 1918; these are still in use.

- Security lighting occurs by the seasonal employee tents, adjacent to the Little Brown, and mounted to trees adjacent to the swimming tank.
    - Four 5-foot tall post top lanterns occur along the Little Brown Walkway between the Little Brown and Wawona Hotel.
    - Two area lights are mounted on the trees located at the swimming tank.
    - The parking areas currently have minimal lighting. The current level of lighting makes it difficult to see at night, creating safety and security hazards.
    - Two stone pillars with post top lights occur at the hotel's main entry.
    - The lighting at the tennis court is not currently operational and is damaged. It appears the tennis court was lit at one time.



Figure 1-148. The phone distribution is located at the southeast corner of the Hotel Annex, 2011 (AEDG).



Figure 1-149. Electrical distribution is located in the service area north of Wawona Hotel. The electrical distribution and lattice screening is in the view of visitors in the Wawona Hotel dining room, 2011 (AEDG).



Figure 1-150. Lights fastened to trees are not historic, 2011 (AEDG).

The Wawona **Domestic and Fire Water** network includes interconnected and looped 8, 10, 12, and 16-inch main lines with two pressure zones. A potable water system was installed in 1934 to provide water to the Wawona Hotel Complex. This water system originally consisted of a single 150,000 gallon tank that served the entire site.

- A more modern water system was installed in the 1980s that included a looped water line around the Wawona Hotel for fire protection and new water tanks. Water is removed from the South Fork of the Merced River, treated at a water treatment plant on the north side of the river, and then pumped (via booster pump) and stored in tanks above the Wawona Hotel. Two 250,000 gallon tanks (1985 and 2003) provide water storage in the lower storage zone for the Wawona Hotel, Hotel Annex, Long White, Long Brown, Little Brown, Little White, and Hill Studio.
  - The higher pressure zone is located east of the Wawona Hotel Complex and lower pressure zone tanks and has two 337,500 gallon storage tanks. This higher pressure zone mainly serves the eastern side of the distribution network including the residential in-holding community, but also serves as a reserve water source for the hotel complex as it is connected by a 12-inch main and pressure reducing valve to the lower pressure zone tanks.
  - There are two 10-inch water loops that provide domestic and fire water to the hotel complex and service station to the northwest. The 10-inch loop is connected to the distribution network through the 12 -inch main and to the steel water tanks with a 16-inch main. The 10-inch water loop supplies nine fire hydrants within the complex.
  - A fire sprinkler system was added to all complex buildings in the 1980s and the system is tested on a regular basis. An overall fire water supply has not been prepared for the complex, but the Fire Marshall is generally comfortable with their ability to access buildings and fight fires within the complex. The fire department is located within a quarter mile however it is not staffed at all times. Park Rangers are trained and considered part of the extended fire protection service. The Fire Marshall and Authority Having Jurisdiction use the International Fire Code, latest edition, for all determinations.
  - The fire hydrants have been regularly flow tested since the distribution system was upgraded. Tests indicate each hydrant can deliver 1250 to 1500 gpm with a residual pressure around 40 psi, indicating a good overall network capacity.
  - Static water pressure in the complex ranges from 60 to 70 psi where domestic water meters and building service lines also connect to the 10-inch loop. A 2-inch meter and service feeds the Wawona Hotel. A 2-inch meter and service feeds the Little White, the Long White and the Long Brown. The Little Brown is fed from a separate ¾ inch service and meter. Service and main lines appear to be buried at an adequate depth as line freezing has not been reported. Lead and copper testing is performed every three years. Water usage for the complex is approximately 3,410,000 gallons per year.



Figure 1-151. The water tap and backflow preventer for hotel grounds irrigation is located southeast of the Little Brown amongst the clump of evergreen trees. It does not include a cover, 2011 (source: 360).

The Wawona Hotel has an **irrigation system** that operates from a single 2-inch tap and backflow preventer located adjacent to the grouping of evergreen trees at the southeast corner of the Little Brown. Water is supplied from the lower pressure zone to this system. There are multiple below grade boxes with hose bibs and shut-off valves throughout the complex that allow for hand watering of the grounds. All bibs are properly isolated from the domestic water supply by the backflow preventer. During the recommended period of significance, irrigation water was provided by the Washburn Ditch, which irrigated the hotel's garden and orchard. This irrigation system was utilized until the 1930s.

- The water treatment plant utilizes water from the South Fork of the Merced River. Occasionally, flows in the South Fork of the Merced River drop below 3 cubic feet per second. During these times, the treatment plant must reduce its intake and subsequently, the NPS initiates a conservation program where ground watering is not permitted. During these times, the NPS continually monitors and maintains the nearby water storage tanks to a minimum fire flow reserve of 250,000 gallons.

The **Mechanical System** consists of electric and steam heat. Buildings on site are heated via a steam boiler and electric baseboards. The original Annex Boiler House (1917) provided steam and hot water for the Long White, Little White, Wawona Hotel, and Hotel Annex, until it was removed in 1933 and replaced with a boiler room in the Hotel Annex by the Yosemite Park & Curry Company. It is likely that the new Wawona Road construction required removal and relocation of the boiler building.

- In late May 2010 the existing boiler on the lower level of the Hotel Annex failed. An interim steam boiler is located behind the Hotel Annex in a pre-fabricated boiler housing.
  - A propane tank is located adjacent to the boiler housing to assist in starting the boiler.
  - The above ground diesel fuel tank appears to include internal secondary containment.
- The steam and condensate lines that are routed between Little White and Long White are installed above ground and are in poor condition.
- Propane tanks (1997) have been added behind the Wawona Hotel to supply the kitchen equipment and kitchen boiler.

The **Sanitary Sewer** system within the Wawona Hotel Complex is connected to a wastewater treatment plant located north of the complex and the South Fork of the Merced River. The waste water treatment plant was built in 1983 and is owned and operated by the NPS Wawona Utilities. The distribution system is comprised of 6, 8, and 12-inch main lines typical for the collection network size. The wastewater treatment plant is located near the elevation of the South Fork of the Merced River and not down-gradient of the facilities it serves. There are many lift stations (park managed and maintained) to pump sewage to the plant for treatment.

- Sanitary sewer service lines connect the Hotel Annex and Long Brown buildings to a sanitary main line that extends north south across the site on the west side of the Wawona Fountain. In addition, a sanitary sewer service line connects the swimming tank to this main.
- A grease interceptor is located north of the hotel kitchen and is maintained by a private contractor for the NPS. Sewer releases from the interceptor along with regular sewer from the Wawona Hotel and Little Brown are connected to an east west sewer main located under the service roads, north of the complex.
    - Weekly observations of grease interceptor are conducted to inspect solids buildup. Proper operation is generally reported. Recent reports of grease buildup in the service line may promote more frequent observations and maintenance.
- The water treatment plant and a new (or upgraded) sanitary collection network were built in the 1980s. A system-wide management and maintenance plan for the park was developed in 2011.



Figure 1-152. The interim boiler and above grade steam line to the Hotel Annex is a temporary installation until a new heating system is installed. The interim boiler is non-contributing, 2011 (MBD).

- The NPS maintains, televises, and monitors sewer main lines that occur within the collection area and into the hotel complex. The park mains were last televised in 2009. The park main lines terminate at manhole #12, located just north of the hotel, and at manhole #14, located just north of the Hotel Annex. Service lines, measuring 6-inches, extend from the main lines to the buildings.
- The swimming tank sanitary sewer service is damaged and is abandoned. Pumps are now used to empty the swimming tank.



Figure 1-153. Grading modifications to make a swale and install a french drain associated with the building foundations minimizes storm run-off to the foundations, but does not completely remedy the situation, 2011 (MBD).

The **storm sewer and drainage** system within the Wawona Hotel Complex is located on steep slopes where primary conveyance occurs as overland sheet flow from the east to west. The complex receives runoff from an extensive forested watershed located above and to the east. The grades in the hotel complex facilitate good overland sheet flow away from the Wawona Hotel Complex. The ultimate receiving water is the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road and the South Fork of the Merced River. Major storm drainage facilities are not prevalent due to this condition except for a few culverts that pass drainage along the Wawona Road, under the entrance drive or under Wawona Road.

- A concrete curb exists along a short section of the service road east of the Long Brown building that diverts mountain runoff and sediment around the Little White building and Hotel Annex.
- The complex has storm sewer infrastructure including area drains and french drains installed between or uphill of buildings during their recent foundation rehabilitation. Generally, the storm sewer is not an interconnected network. Instead, collected drainage transmits through the storm sewer to shallow below ground boxes with grates, where flow bubbles up and out through the grate. Many of these release points are partially buried or full of sediment.
- Drainage generally sheet flows across the steep and well vegetated common spaces between the hotel buildings. Mild swales direct some of the flow around buildings, but there are many low points that do not drain well.
- The uphill or east sides of the Long White, Little White, and Long Brown buildings have mild easterly slopes that promote drainage away from the buildings. At the toe of these slopes are below grade perforated pipes or "french" drains, where the slopes meet the natural slope of the hillside. The "french" drains were constructed during the recent Foundation Repair Project. Inlets have been constructed in various locations along these perforated pipes to collect drainage. There are some concerns that without these inlets, drainage will not percolate through the ground to the perforated piping.
- Along the eastern side of the complex is a paved and unpaved service road. Exposed tree bases and roots along with depressed areas between the trees indicate significant soil erosion has occurred in the past. A diversion curb and berm was constructed along the south side of the Courtyard Drive to route major drainage flows around the Long Brown and Little White Buildings.
- All four sides of the Hotel Annex have rain gutters and a below ground collection pipe that transmits drainage to the west. This storm drain leads away from the building's southwest corner to a below ground box and drain grate. The box fills with sediment and likely requires regular maintenance. Similar storm drain outfall conditions exist down gradient of the Long Brown, Long White, Little White, and Wawona Hotel buildings.
  - Sand bags are stacked along the south side of the Hotel Annex to divert flows and transmitted sediment away from the Hotel Annex back porch and the temporary external boiler. This condition is exacerbated by insufficient slopes away from the Hotel Annex.
  - A low area occurs in the paving near the northwest entrance to the Hotel Annex. Sand bags are occasionally used to

prevent flooding. The gutter downspout at this location is not connected to the below ground collection pipe which makes the condition worse.

- The concrete retaining wall that meets the south end of the Long White traps and diverts drainage under the building's western porch. This condition is exacerbated by insufficient storm sewer between the Long and Little White buildings along with insufficient slopes away from the building.
- The Little Brown building does not have a continuous gutter system and the ground around the perimeter of the building shows signs of erosion from the dripping roof edges.

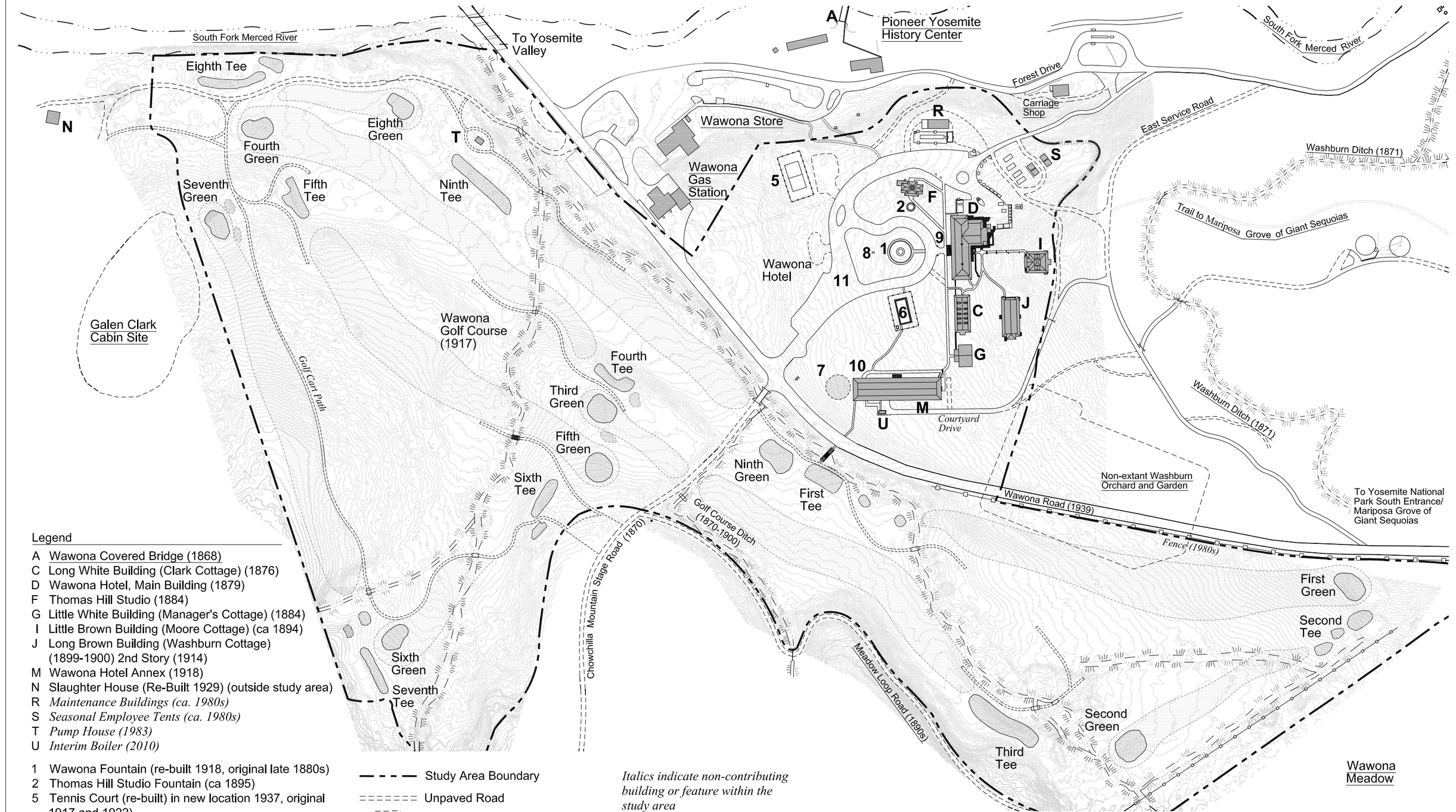
Wawona Golf Course

Existing Condition and Analysis

The **water system** for the golf course is utilized for irrigation. During the recommended period of significance, the Wawona Meadow was irrigated by the Washburn Ditch, which no longer serves that function.

- Treated effluent from the sanitary sewer treatment plant is circulated through a re-use distribution system. This water is used to irrigate the Wawona Golf Course, which was installed in 1983 and is in need of replacement. The life span of this type of effluent system is typically eighteen to twenty-three years.
- The Wawona Golf Course serves as a sprayfield for the sanitary sewer treatment plant.

The **storm sewer and drainage** for the golf course includes many natural and man-made drainages and irrigation ditches that transverse this low lying golf course. These drainages cross the golf cart paths and maintenance drives through small bridges or culverts. Corrugated metal culverts typically exist for the irrigation ditch, road, and golf cart path crossings, and usually have dry stacked or mortared river rock head walls of the period. The culverts appear to convey minor storms and should allow access during non-rainy days. Some of the culverts are partially buried or covered with debris. Some drainages cross the fairway or golf cart paths in an un-regulated sheet flow condition. These areas exhibit soft or mushy soil conditions which must be avoided by lawn mowers, maintenance vehicles, and golf carts.



Legend

A Wawona Covered Bridge (1868)
C Long White Building (Clark Cottage) (1876)
D Wawona Hotel, Main Building (1879)
F Thomas Hill Studio (1884)
G Little White Building (Manager's Cottage) (1884)
I Little Brown Building (Moore Cottage) (ca 1894)
J Long Brown Building (Washburn Cottage) (1899-1900) 2nd Story (1914)
M Wawona Hotel Annex (1918)
N Slaughter House (Re-Built 1929) (outside study area)
R *Maintenance Buildings (ca. 1980s)*
S *Seasonal Employee Tents (ca. 1980s)*
T *Pump House (1983)*
U *Interim Boiler (2010)*

1 Wawona Fountain (re-built 1918, original late 1880s)
2 Thomas Hill Studio Fountain (ca 1895)
5 Tennis Court (re-built) in new location 1937, original 1917 and 1922)
6 Swimming Tank (1917)
7 Putting Green (1933-previous Ninth Green 1917),
8 *Flagpole with cobblestone base (1987)*
9 Stone light posts and stone walls (ca 1918)
10 Golf Pro Shop in Hotel Annex (1920)
11 *Parking (1940s)*

Study Area Boundary
Unpaved Road
Disturbed Area
Paved Road
Trail / Social Trail
Golf Cart Path
Fence
River / Tributary / Ditch

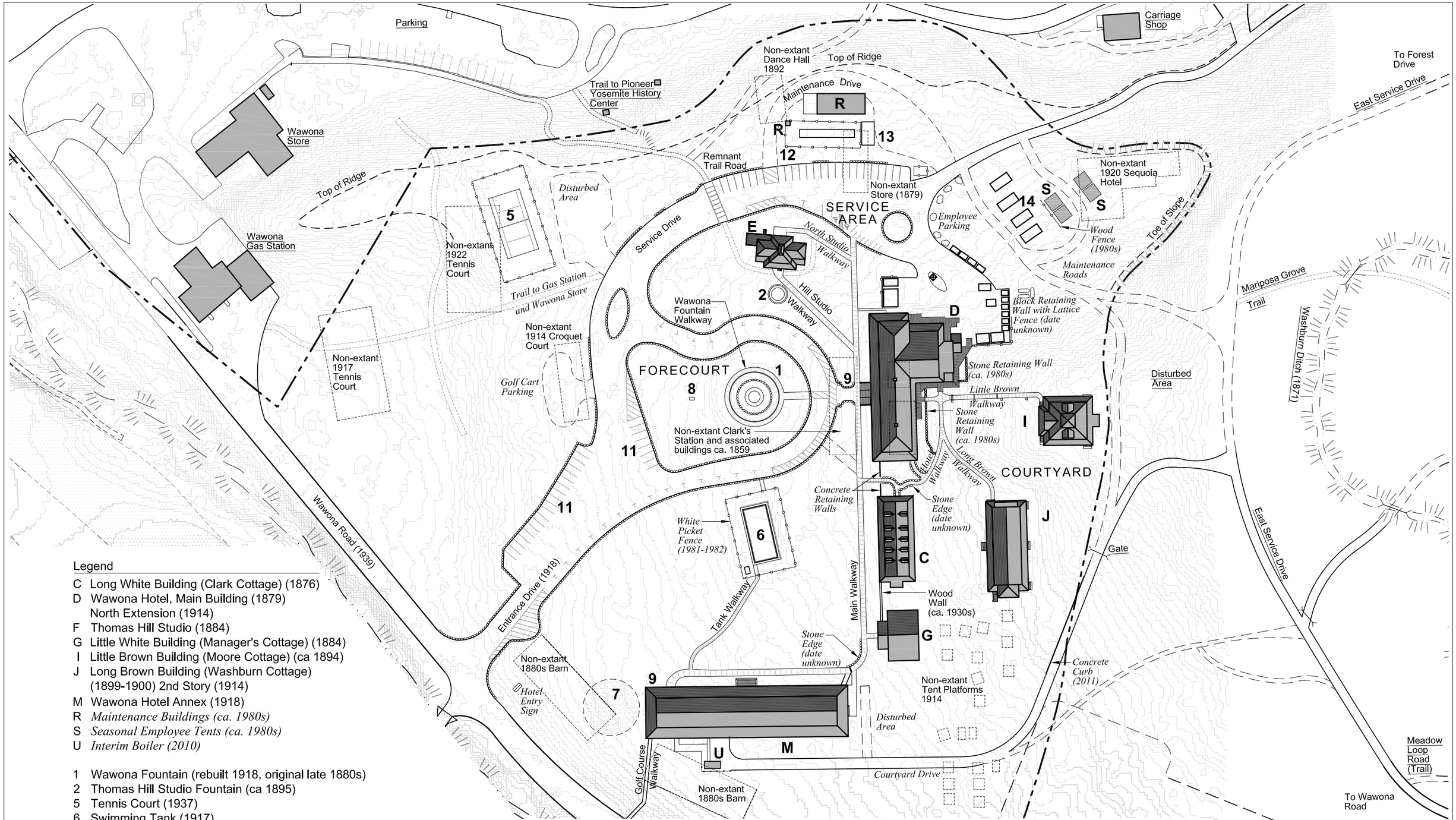
Italics indicate non-contributing building or feature within the study area

Underline indicates building or feature outside study area not included in evaluation of contributing or non-contributing

N W E S
0 230 460

FIGURE 1 - 154

August 2012	TITLE OF PROJECT: WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX	TITLE OF DRAWING: STUDY AREA - SITE PLAN
	NAME OF PARK: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
	REGION: PACIFIC; COUNTY: MARIPOSA; STATE: CALIFORNIA



Legend

C Long White Building (Clark Cottage) (1876)
D Wawona Hotel, Main Building (1879) North Extension (1914)
F Thomas Hill Studio (1884)
G Little White Building (Manager's Cottage) (1884)
I Little Brown Building (Moore Cottage) (ca 1894)
J Long Brown Building (Washburn Cottage) (1899-1900) 2nd Story (1914)
M Wawona Hotel Annex (1918)
R *Maintenance Buildings (ca. 1980s)*
S *Seasonal Employee Tents (ca. 1980s)*
U *Interim Boiler (2010)*

1 Wawona Fountain (rebuilt 1918, original late 1880s)
2 Thomas Hill Studio Fountain (ca 1895)
5 Tennis Court (1937)
6 Swimming Tank (1917)
7 Putting Green (1933) (Originally Ninth Green, 1917)
8 *Flagpole with cobblestone base (1987)*
9 Stone light posts and stone walls (ca 1918)
10 Golf Pro Shop in Hotel Annex (1920)
11 *Parking (1940s)*
12 *Golf Cart Storage / Charging Area (date unknown)*
13 *Golf Course Maintenance Area (ca. 1980s)*
14 *Portable Storage Containers (date unknown)*

Study Area Boundary
Unpaved Road
Disturbed Area
Paved Road
Concrete Paving
Stone Edge / Wall
Trail / Social Trail

Italics indicate non-contributing building or feature within the study area

Underline indicates building or feature outside study area not included in evaluation of contributing or non-contributing

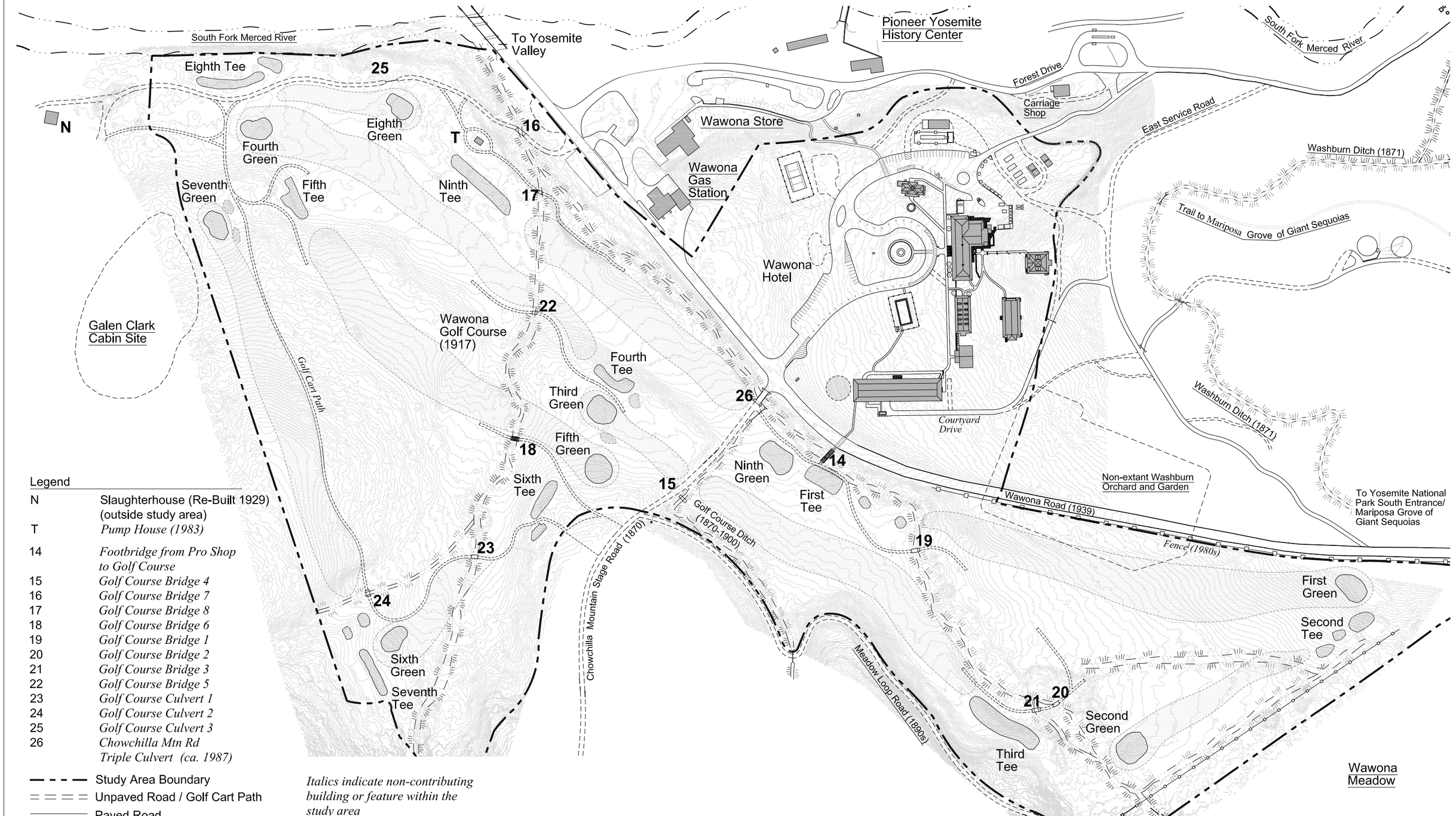
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FIGURE 1 - 155

August 2012

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX

TITLE OF PROJECT
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
TITLE OF DRAWING
WAWONA HOTEL - SITE PLAN
NAME OF PARK
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
REGION PACIFIC | COUNTY MARIPOSA | STATE CALIFORNIA



Legend

N	Slaughterhouse (Re-Built 1929) (outside study area)
T	*Pump House (1983)*
14	*Footbridge from Pro Shop to Golf Course*
15	*Golf Course Bridge 4*
16	*Golf Course Bridge 7*
17	*Golf Course Bridge 8*
18	*Golf Course Bridge 6*
19	*Golf Course Bridge 1*
20	*Golf Course Bridge 2*
21	*Golf Course Bridge 3*
22	*Golf Course Bridge 5*
23	*Golf Course Culvert 1*
24	*Golf Course Culvert 2*
25	*Golf Course Culvert 3*
26	*Chowchilla Mtn Rd Triple Culvert (ca. 1987)*

Study Area Boundary
Unpaved Road / Golf Cart Path
Paved Road
Trail / Social Trail
Golf Cart Path
Fence
River / Tributary / Ditch

Italics indicate non-contributing building or feature within the study area

Underline indicates building or feature outside study area not included in evaluation of contributing or non-contributing

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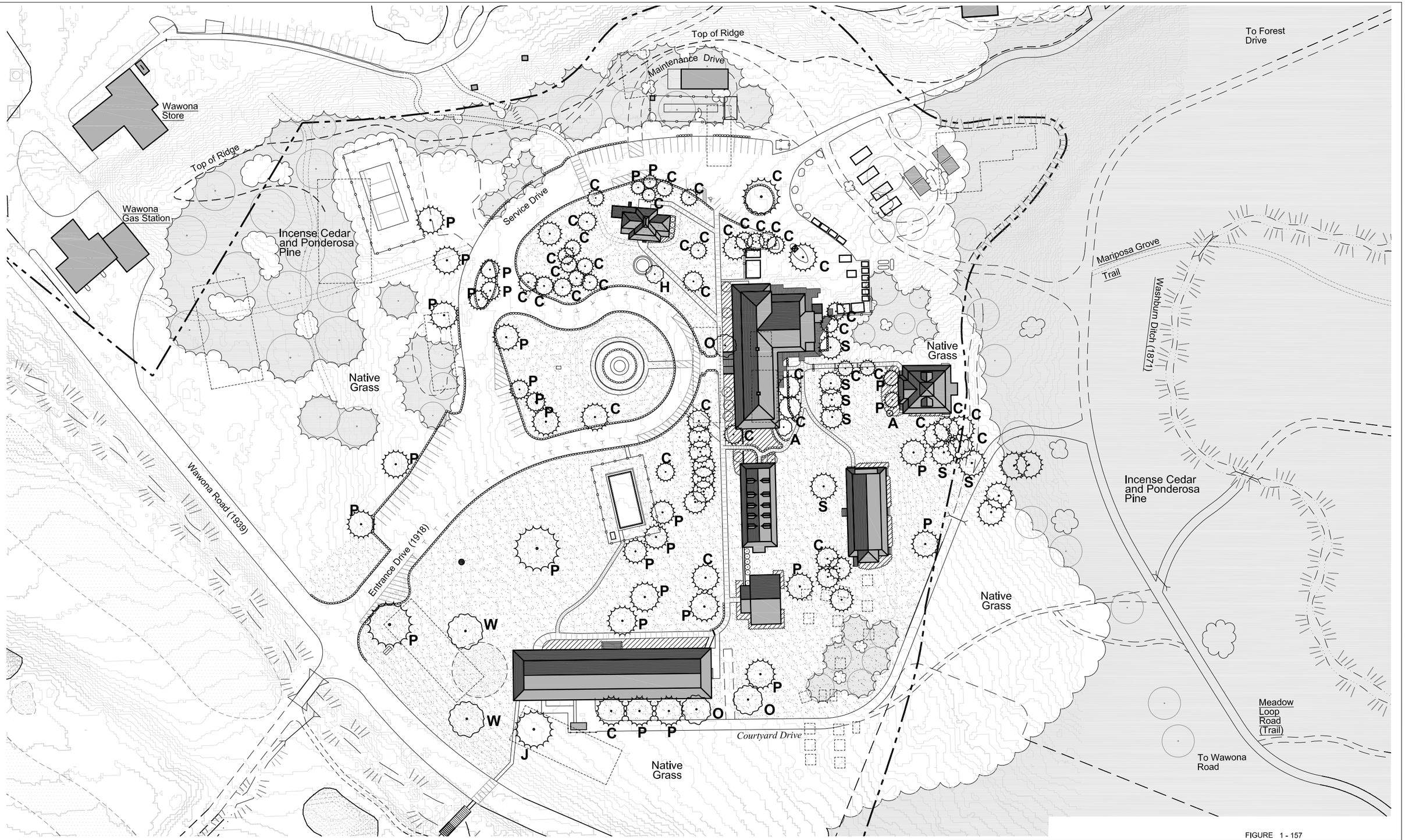
FIGURE 1 - 156

August 2012

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX

TITLE OF PROJECT
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
TITLE OF DRAWING
WAWONA GOLF COURSE - SITE PLAN
NAME OF PARK
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

REGION	COUNTY	STATE
PACIFIC	MARIPOSA	CALIFORNIA



Legend

A Apple	**H** Hawthorne	**P** Ponderosa Pine	Study Area Boundary	Top of Ridge	Underline indicates building or feature outside study area not included in evaluation of contributing or non-contributing
C Incense Cedar	**J** Jeffrey Pine	**S** Giant Sequoia	Trail / Social Trail	Planting Bed with Stone Edge	
F White Fir	**O** California Black Oak	**W** Willow	Lawn	Shrub	

N W E S

0 100 200

FIGURE 1 - 157

August 2012

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX

TITLE OF PROJECT
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
TITLE OF DRAWING
WAWONA HOTEL - VEGETATION SITE PLAN
NAME OF PARK
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

REGION	COUNTY	STATE
PACIFIC	MARIPOSA	CALIFORNIA

South Fork Merced River

South Fork Merced River

Forest Drive

East Service Road

Washburn Ditch (1871)

Trail to Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

Remnant Galen Clark Cabin Orchard (1858-1864)

S S S S

Native Grass

Native Grass Roughs, Typ.

Golf Cart Path

Courtyard Drive

Washburn Ditch (1871)

Incense Cedar and Ponderosa Pine

Non-extant Washburn Orchard and Garden

Wawona Road (1939)

Golf Course Ditch (1870-1900)

Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road (1870)

Remnant Washburn Apple Orchard (1875-1885)

Native Grass Roughs, Typ.

Incense Cedar, Ponderosa Pine, and White Fir Forest

Meadow Loop Road (1890s)

Original Wawona Road

Wawona Meadow

Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- S Giant Sequoia
- Fruit Tree (Apple or Pear)
- Evergreen / Deciduous Massings
- Fairway
- Tee / Green

Underline indicates building or feature outside study area not included in evaluation of contributing or non-contributing

N W E S

0 230 460

FIGURE 1 - 158

August 2012

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX

TITLE OF PROJECT
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

TITLE OF DRAWING
WAWONA GOLF COURSE-VEGETATION SITE PLAN

NAME OF PARK
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

REGION PACIFIC | COUNTY MARIPOSA | STATE CALIFORNIA

South Fork Merced River

South Fork Merced River

Forest Drive

Washburn Ditch (1871)

Trail to Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

Lower Zone Storage Tanks

Washburn Ditch (1871)

Golf Cart Path

Wawona Road (1939)

Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road (1870)

Meadow Loop Road (1890s)

Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Irrigation Head
- Irrigation Water Line
- Water Line
- Sanitary Sewer
- Fire Hydrant
- Manhole

Underline indicates building or feature outside study area not included in evaluation of contributing or non-contributing

N W E S

0 230 460

FIGURE 1 - 159

August 2012	TITLE OF PROJECT: WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX	TITLE OF DRAWING: WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX - UTILITY MAP SITE PLAN
	NAME OF PARK: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
	REGION: PACIFIC; COUNTY: MARIPOSA; STATE: CALIFORNIA

CLR Part 2. Treatment

CLR Part 2. Treatment

Introduction

The CLR is the principal treatment document, and the primary tool for the long-term management of the Wawona Hotel Complex's cultural landscape. This section presents treatment recommendations for the entire study area and for each of the landscape character areas. Treatment recommendations provide for the monitoring, protection, and stewardship of the complex's significant contributing features and its cultural landscape.

These treatment recommendations are founded on review of historic documentation, analysis of existing conditions and site history, and the use of the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes.[1]

These treatment strategies represent the management objectives of both entities: NPS, as the owner of the historic hotel and grounds with responsibility for long-term preservation and stewardship; and the concessionaire with responsibility for long-term maintenance of the facility as well as the operational and financial viability of the property.

Treatment Approach

Preservation is the treatment approach for the buildings and the cultural landscape of the Wawona Hotel Complex. This approach is appropriate as it concurs with the 1980 GMP for Yosemite National Park and NPS-28, Cultural Resources Management Guideline (CRMP1997), and is consistent with NPS policies, NPS director's orders (DO 28), NPS guidelines and other existing park planning decisions.[2]

Preservation is "the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and material of the historic property."[3] Treatment, including measures to protect or stabilize the property, focuses on maintenance and repair of contributing features or spaces rather than extensive replacement or new construction. Preservation also allows for "the limited and sensitive upgrading" of utility systems (mechanical, electrical and plumbing), and other code-required work to ensure the historic property is made functional.[4]

The treatment approach of preservation is well-suited for the Wawona Hotel Complex, as the complex is a cultural landscape that has a continuity of use with few modifications since the end of the recommended period of significance (1876 to 1939). The complex's distinctive materials, features and spaces are essentially intact, and the continuation of its historic use does not require additions or extensive alterations. Those characteristics that shaped the complex historically are present today in much the same way as they were originally. As such, the complex has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Preservation of the cultural landscape will be undertaken holistically with a full understanding of the complex and the inter-relationship of its features. Individual contributing features and spaces will be preserved, as will those landscape characteristics that have been instrumental in

[1] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.*

[2] Each of these documents presents preservation as the most universally appropriate treatment.

[3] Page et al. *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes and Techniques*.

[4] Adapted from *The Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* as amended and annotated 1995.

shaping the land, including land use, patterns of spatial organization, and circulation.

This treatment approach will enable the NPS and concessionaire to preserve contributing resources while accommodating continued use and related operations, as well as protecting natural systems.

Treatment Goals and Objectives

The preservation of the cultural landscape at the Wawona Hotel Complex involves three basic approaches: slowing the rate at which historic material is lost, retaining historic character, and providing preservation treatment strategies to allow continued use of the complex as a historic hotel resort destination within the national park.

Goals

1) Preserve the Wawona Hotel Complex's cultural landscape, its individual features, and overall historic character that contribute to the NHRP and NHL districts, and as defined by this CLR.
2) Address operational needs and code deficiencies such as accessibility, utility system and distribution, and fire and life safety in a manner that preserves the cultural landscape.
3) Provide an authentic experience with ease of access to historic buildings, parking and pedestrian circulation, and with greater connectivity to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, and the greater Wawona historic context.
4) Maintain Wawona Golf Course as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and in a manner that preserves it as a cultural landscape.

Objectives

1) Preserve cultural resources through preservation, stabilization, restoration, and repair. Preserve known, potential and unknown archeological resources.
2) Restore contributing landscape characteristics, including features and vegetation that convey the character of the Wawona Hotel Complex.
3) Restore the complex's historic spaces, and the historic physical and visual connections within and between landscape character areas that contribute to the complex's historic character.
4) Establish a centralized heating system that is compatible with the cultural landscape and consistent with the HSR.[5]

Treatment Terminology

The treatment recommendations provide guidance for the preservation of the cultural landscape through specific actions.

All actions will be undertaken in keeping with the overall treatment approach of preservation. The following terminology is used in this CLR to describe recommended actions. [6]

Preserve/Preservation refers to those measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of the contributing features of the Wawona Hotel Complex. It allows for measures that focus on sustaining extant features or areas rather than replacement. Preservation allows for maintenance, repair, restoration, and sensitive upgrading of systems and code-required work.

[5] Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc, *The Wawona Hotel Complex Historic Structure Report*.
[6] Adapted from *The Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* as amended and annotated 1995.

Maintain/Protect refers to those standard maintenance practices that are necessary to retain a feature or area as a contributing resource. Maintenance activities are usually not classified as repair, however minor repair such as replacement of posts or segments of paving or painting or cleaning of features are considered maintenance. Limited and sensitive upgrading of systems (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) and other code related work is appropriate as is pruning, thinning, fertilization, or pest control to maintain the health and vigor of vegetation.

Rehabilitate/Rehabilitation refers to the act or process of allowing a compatible use through repair, alteration, or additions as long as those features that convey the historical, cultural, or architectural values are preserved.

Repair refers to those measures that are necessary to sustain a contributing feature with methods that are more extensive than regular maintenance. It allows for undertaking work necessary to bring a contributing feature or area to a good condition.

Restore/Restoration refers to those measures necessary to accurately depict a feature or area, and its character as they appeared historically. It allows for the replacement of missing features and the removal of features from other periods where a property's significance during that period outweighs the loss of extant elements from other periods, and where substantial physical and documentary evidence exists. Restoration may include repair of a feature so that it appears as it did historically or may include replacement of missing features such as replacement of a section of a contributing walkway or restoring a view.

Retain are those actions that are necessary to allow a feature (contributing or non-contributing) to remain in place in its current configuration and condition.

Stabilize/Stabilization refers to those measures that require more work than standard maintenance practices, and that are necessary to prevent the further deterioration, failure, or loss of contributing features.

Treatment Recommendations

The treatment recommendations for the Wawona Hotel Complex propose preserving the cultural landscape through measures that protect, stabilize, restore or repair contributing features to convey the full historical significance of the complex.

Treatment recommendations that address the study area are presented first. These include strategies for preserving the complex's historic character through recommendations for archeological sites, spatial organization, circulation, views and vistas, and vegetation.

Treatment recommendations specific to the preservation of the two landscape character areas follow. Treatment for the Wawona Hotel landscape character area is presented next. These are followed by treatment recommendations specific to the preservation of the Wawona Golf Course landscape character area.

The preservation of all contributing features, and preservation of all landscape characteristics that contribute to the historic character of the complex are included. Contributing features for the Wawona Hotel Complex include circulation, buildings and structures, small scale features, and vegetation. Landscape characteristics that contribute to the complex's historic character

include archeological sites, spatial organization, views and vistas, and vegetation.

Recommendations for utilities and drainage, as they relate to the study area, are presented last.

Study Area Recommendations

The following treatment recommendations address the study area (Figure 2-16). They provide treatment strategies for preserving the Wawona Hotel Complex comprehensively, and include measures for preserving all landscape characteristics that contribute to the significance of the complex.

General treatment recommendations are presented first and they provide strategies for preserving the complex holistically including protecting natural systems.

Treatment recommendations for the study area's landscape characteristics follow. These include strategies for preserving archeological sites, spatial organization, views and vistas, circulation, and vegetation.

General Treatment

1) Preserve those features that contribute to the significance of the Wawona Hotel Complex, including buildings, structures, small scale features, and vegetation.
   - Stabilize features or repair and / or replace deteriorated contributing features as needed.
   - Repair contributing features to meet current building codes, accessibility standards, and to ensure safety for visitor use using methods that protect the historic fabric.
2) Preserve the land use, topography and landform, spatial organization, and arrangement of the Wawona Hotel Complex as these qualities contribute to its historic character.
3) Protect natural systems and their associated cultural resources including the South Fork of the Merced River and its tributaries.

Archeological Sites

Archeological sites within the Wawona Hotel Complex are relevant to the research of permanent and semi-permanent historic and prehistoric settlement within the Wawona Basin and the South Fork of the Merced River.

These archeological sites represent more than 3000 years of occupation, and include sites and artifacts from both prehistoric and historic periods such as previous building and structures, foundations, scattered remains, and trash dumps.

1) Preserve known archeological sites and undertake measures to preserve areas of potential archeological significance.
   - If the site cannot be preserved, sites should be treated according to established guidelines.[7] This may entail archeological monitoring, data recovery, interpretation, and / or other measures.
2) Preserve those known archeological sites that contribute to the historic character of the Wawona Hotel Complex.[8]
   - CA-MRP- 173/327/H (in Wawona Hotel landscape character area):
     - Loci A through F
     - Area 6

[7] Kathleen Hull et al., *Archeological Synthesis and Research Design, Yosemite National Park, California;*
Baloian et al., *Archeological Investigations at the Wawona Hotel Complex, Yosemite National Park, California.*
[8] Anderson et al., *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form: Wawona Archeological District* and Mundy, *1984 Archeological Monitoring at the Historic Wawona Hotel Complex.*

  - Trash dump near Hill Studio
- Rocky Point Site (4-MRP-327) within the area of the hotel
- CA-MRP-173/H that includes the burnt remains of Clark's Station.
- CA-MRP-655[9] (in Wawona Golf Course) near the South Fork of the Merced River
- Golf Course Site (4-MRP-170), a lithic scatter[10]
- Hotel View Site (4-MRP-653) (in Wawona Golf Course) near the third hole of the golf course[11]
- Butcher Shop dump by slaughterhouse[12]
- Wawona Meadow Ditch System (in Wawona Golf Course)
- Wawona Meadow Fence System (in Wawona Golf Course)
- Butcher Shop
- CA-MRP-1721/H, on the west end of Wawona Meadow that includes the remains of Galen Clark's first cabin.

3) Undertake and complete archeological investigations for proposed projects in advance of any other work on the project, including demolition. Integrate archeology investigations with all construction activities.
   - Prior to excavation, consult with the Division of Resource Management and Science, Yosemite National Park for requirements of archeological investigations specific to each project.
   - Perform data recovery investigations and monitoring during any excavations, recovering any artifacts that may provide new data.
   - Include archeological monitoring when undertaking protection and stabilization measures to identify and analyze potential archeological resources that might be associated with either the landscape character area or with an individual feature.

4) Preserve known, and potential, archeological sites by locating new improvements such as utilities or excavations in previously disturbed locations.

5) Consider performing archeological investigations for the non-extant historic Washburn Orchard and garden north of Wawona Road to determine extent of the garden and orchard, plant species and their spatial arrangement, irrigation, paving, etc.
   - Collect seeds and perform archeological investigations to determine historic plant species.

6) Consider performing archeological investigations for the non-extant 1917 tennis court and croquet area, and the area associated with the Little Brown Fountain to determine the specific treatments used with regard to surfacing, arrangement, materials, use, etc.

7) Consider performing additional archeological investigations within the area of the non-extant Sequoia Hotel and its grounds to provide additional information not available from existing sources as to arrangement, building materials, surfacing materials, and small scale features that may have existed, potential dumpsites, plantings, etc.

[9] Hull, *1985 and 1986 Wawona Archeological Excavations*, 50.
[10] Ibid, 224.
[11] Ervin, *Test Excavations in the Wawona Valley, Report of the 1983 and 1984 Wawona Archeological Project.*
[12] Whittaker, *Archeology in Yosemite National Park: The Wawona Testing Project.*

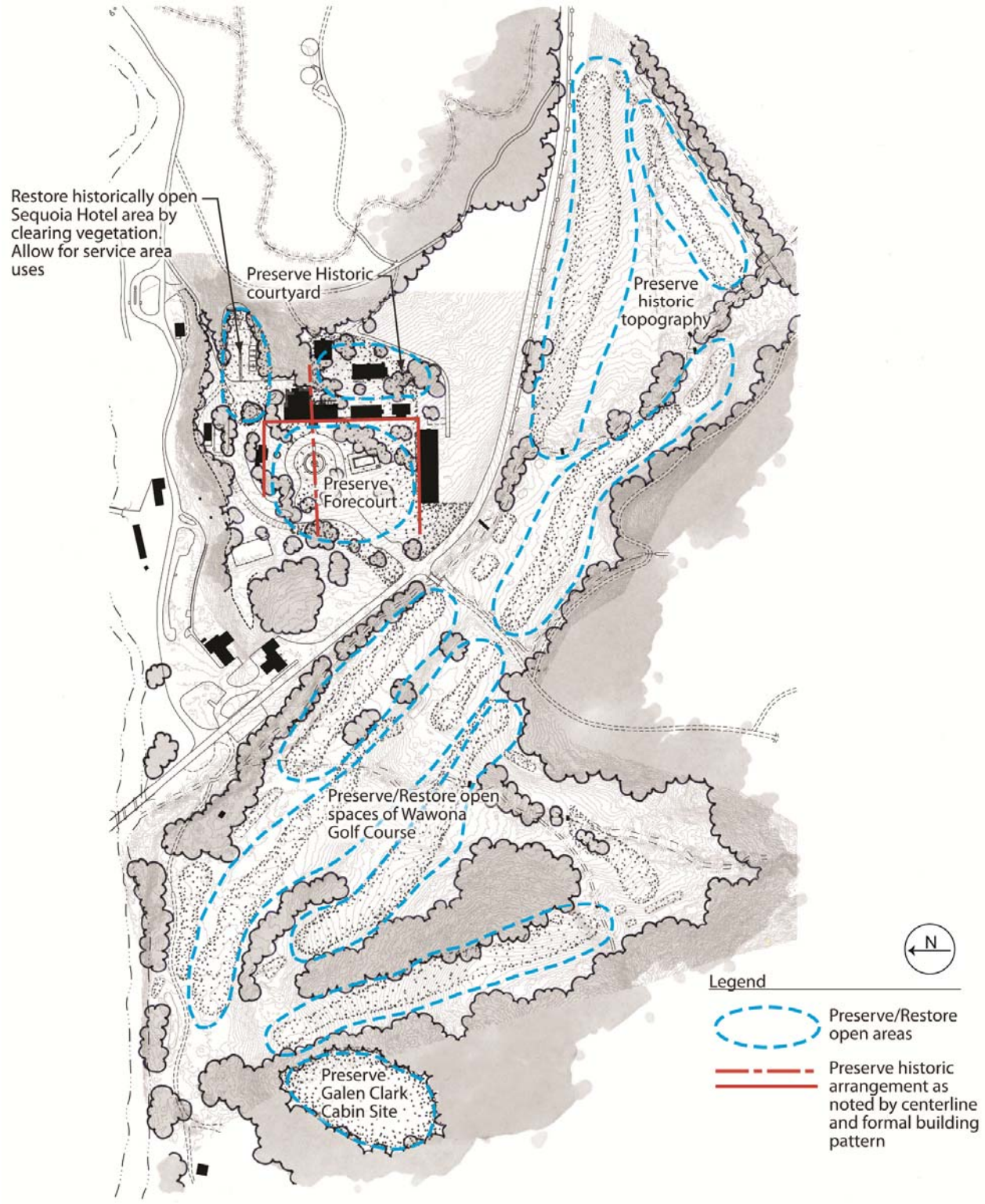


Figure 2-1. Spatial Diagram. Preserve Wawona Hotel Complex's spatial organization by preserving those features (buildings, topography, and vegetation) that create its historic patterns, and by restoring historically open spaces such as the Sequoia Hotel area, historic forecourt and courtyard, and portions of the golf course (MBD).

Spatial Organization

1) Preserve those characteristics and features (buildings, topography and landform, and vegetation) that create the spatial organization of the Wawona Hotel Complex (Figure 2-1).
    - The Wawona Hotel buildings are oriented along the four cardinal directions. Preserve this building arrangement including the formal pattern that creates a large open forecourt on the west, and a smaller open courtyard on the east.
    - The forecourt is the front door of the Wawona Hotel. Preserve the features and vegetation that create the spatial organization of this space to preserve the historic character of the complex.
    - The Wawona Golf Course is oriented northeast to southwest, along the long open topography that was originally part of the Wawona Meadow. Preserve and restore the series of long narrow open spaces, defined by topography and masses of evergreen trees that define the golf course.
2) Restore the spatial organization of select historic spaces within the study area including the area associated with the non-extant Sequoia Hotel, service area, forecourt and courtyard associated with the hotel, and open fairways associated with the golf course.
    - Consider improving the service area immediately north of the hotel to restore its historic circulation and vegetation patterns. Consider relocating the refrigeration unit, electrical distribution panel, and other maintenance operations to the area of the non-extant Sequoia Hotel to restore the experience and view from the dining room of the Wawona Hotel to its historic condition.
    - Improve service, vehicular, and pedestrian circulation. Improve pedestrian circulation to the west and north sides of the Wawona Hotel using the historic spatial routes and arrangements to guide improvements.

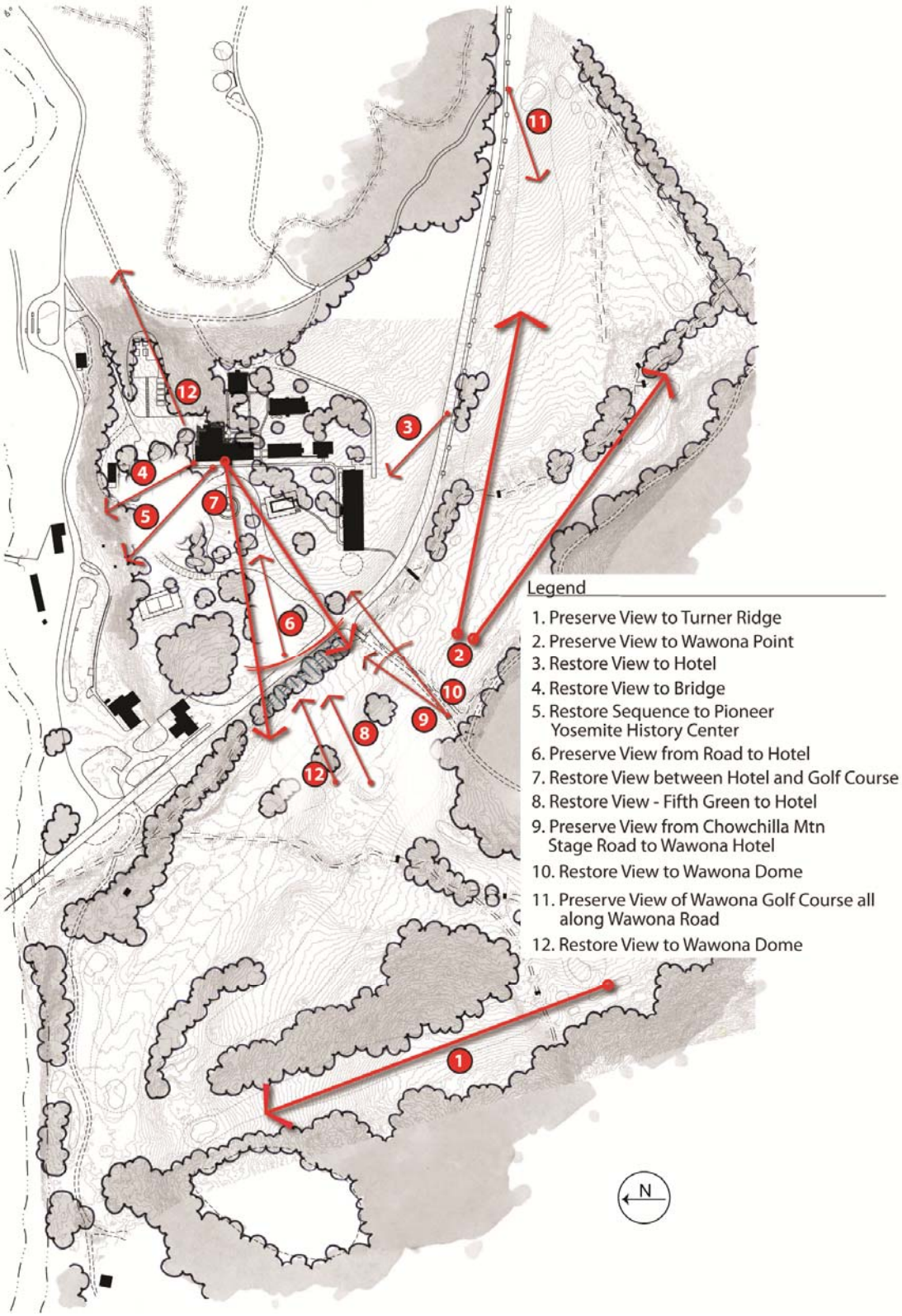


Figure 2-2. Views and Vistas Diagram. Restore historic views between the Wawona Hotel and Wawona Golf Course (and between the hotel and Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road) and from key locations of the cultural landscape to surrounding peaks (MBD).

Views and Vistas

1) Undertake measures to preserve historic views and vistas to and from the Wawona Hotel Complex that contribute to its historic character. These measures include preserving existing views, and restoring select historic views and vistas (Figure 2-2).
   - Preserve the view from Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road to Wawona Hotel and Wawona Dome as the original view for travelers entering the Wawona Basin and arriving at the hotel.
   - Comply with the Scenic Vista Management Plan for Yosemite National Park for clearing and thinning practices and management of vistas for all views and vistas.

2) Restore historic views from Wawona Hotel to the Wawona Covered Bridge.
   - Consider undertaking selective thinning of the evergreen forest to restore views towards the Wawona Covered Bridge from Wawona Hotel. Avoid extensive thinning that may open up views of parking at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

3) Restore the views between the Wawona Hotel and Wawona Golf Course.
   - Consider selectively thinning vegetation in the tributary adjacent to Wawona Road that interrupts historic views and vistas.
   - Consider removing vegetation to provide visual openings between the third green and the ninth fairway.

4) Restore views and vistas from the Wawona Hotel Complex to surrounding natural peaks and landforms.
   - Restore the view from Wawona Road to the Wawona Hotel and Wawona Dome (behind Wawona Hotel) by relocating parking below Wawona Fountain (See Figure 2-2), and by selectively thinning evergreen forest vegetation in the service area and northeast of Wawona Hotel.

5) Preserve historic views from Wawona Golf Course to surrounding natural peaks, features and landforms, and reestablish specific views.
   - Preserve the view from Wawona Golf Course seventh tee to Turner Ridge.
   - Preserve the view from Wawona Golf Course third fairway to Wawona Point.
   - Reestablish specific views as noted for each landscape character area.

6) Preserve and restore historic views from Wawona Road to the hotel and golf course, and reestablish specific historic views.
   - Reestablish the view from Wawona Road to the Hotel Annex by removing non-contributing trees on the south and west sides of the Hotel Annex.

Circulation

1) Preserve the historic vehicular and pedestrian circulation system of the Wawona Hotel Complex, including all features (drives and walkways) of this system that contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.
   - Preserve the Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road, Entrance Drive, Wawona Road, Service Drive, Maintenance Drive, Main Walkway, Hill Studio Walkway, Tank Walkway, Wawona Fountain Walkway, and Golf Course Walkway.
2) Preserve extant historic materials through on-going care, and minor repair.
   - Preserve original materials.
   - Restore or repair original materials before replacement. Use materials from the same source as the original, of the same color, texture, and finish.
   - If replacement of materials is necessary because original material is not available use material similar in color and texture with the same finish.
3) Provide universal accessibility to those historic buildings and features as noted within this CLR and the 2012 HSR.
   - Provide accessibility in a manner that respects the historic character and preserves contributing features.
   - Provide access to accessible accommodations as recommended by the 2012 HSR.[13]
4) Refer to each landscape character area for detailed descriptions of preservation treatment recommendations for vehicular and pedestrian circulation, and accessibility improvements.

[13] Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., *The Wawona Hotel Complex Historic Structures Report.*

Vegetation

1) Preserve vegetation or vegetation patterns that contribute to Wawona Hotel Complex's historic character, and that have a role in defining the complex's spatial organization, and views and vistas (Figure 2-2).
   - Manage vegetation massings that define the historic spatial arrangement and openings that contribute to the character of the Wawona Hotel Complex.
   - Allow selective thinning, and limbing of trees where identified to restore select historic views and vistas.
   - Maintain tree stand diversity (species and age class) when thinning vegetation.

2) Preserve vegetation that contributes to the significance of the Wawona Hotel Complex.
   - Contributing vegetation includes the Washburn giant sequoias, Galen Clark Cabin Orchard and giant sequoias, Washburn Orchard, apple tree at southeast corner of Wawona Hotel, hops vines, formal lawn, and individual trees as noted on Figure 2-18.
   - Manage contributing vegetation by implementing a plant replacement program to replace contributing trees as they die or become hazardous. If contributing trees are removed, remove tree and stump, and replace with in-kind species.

3) Allow vegetation removal for safety reasons (hazardous trees), and to eradicate invasive species or non-contributing vegetation as long as measures to preserve the cultural landscape are undertaken.
   - Comply with the recommendations of the NPS Pacific West Region Directive: PW-062 Hazard Tree Management for removal of hazard trees for public safety and protection of the Wawona Hotel buildings.
   - Allow removal of non-contributing or overgrown vegetation (volunteer trees and shrubs) to preserve the historic character of the Wawona Hotel Complex.
   - Allow removal of non-contributing, invasive plant species.

4) Allow for non-historic vegetation to be used as replacements for historic ornamental plantings as long as the species are of a similar habit, form and growth rate (in-kind species).
   - Allow the use of a mix of indigenous, historic ornamental and hardy plant species as replacements for historic ornamental plantings.



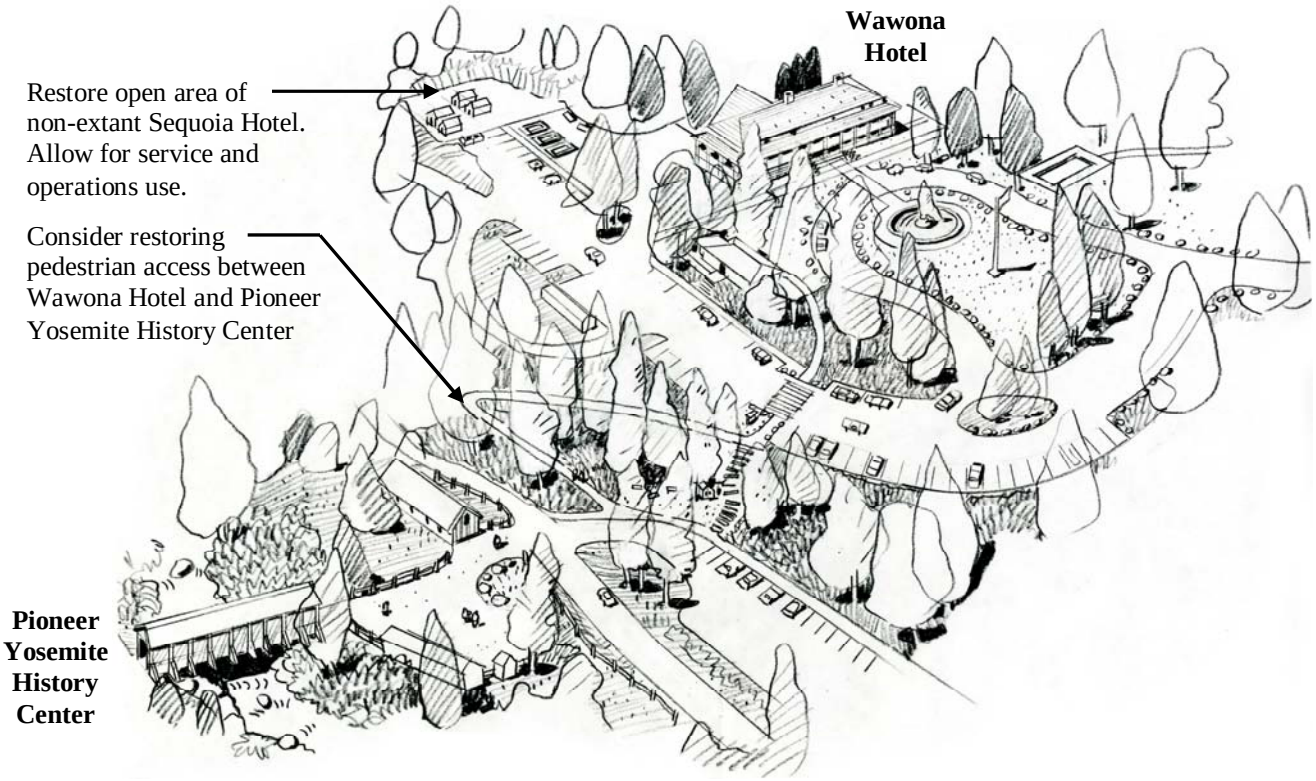


Figure 2-3. Historic spatial arrangement and character of Wawona Hotel, ca. 1926, top. Preservation recommendations, bottom, include preserving historic circulation patterns, increasing connectivity to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, reconfiguring parking, restoring historic patterns of spatial organization, reorganization of the area of the Sequoia Hotel, and restoring views and vistas (sources: Wawona Washburn Hartwig Collection, above, and MBD, below).

Wawona Hotel

The Wawona Hotel cultural landscape will be preserved using acceptable preservation techniques. All contributing features will be preserved as will all elements that contribute to the historic character of the hotel.

Contributing features will be stabilized, restored, or repaired. Deteriorated features will be repaired. Non-contributing features will be allowed to be removed, and replaced with new features that are compatible with the historic character. Non-contributing features will be allowed to remain where they do not impact the integrity of the hotel or diminish historic character.

The historic character of the Wawona Hotel is derived in part to its relationship to the Wawona Golf Course and the broader Wawona setting. The general treatment recommendations for the study area are presented beginning on page 2-3. These general recommendations should be referred to when undertaking any modifications to the Wawona Hotel.

Spatial Organization

1) Preserve the spatial organization of Wawona Hotel as a complex of buildings arranged in a formal pattern along the four cardinal directions.
   - Preserve those characteristics and features that create this spatial organization (buildings, topography and landform, and vegetation).
   - Preserve the formally arranged site as defined by buildings and topography and that includes the large open forecourt at the hotel's entrance on the east, enclosed by buildings.

2) Restore the historic spatial organization of the service area, and the area associated with the non-extant Sequoia Hotel (Figure 2-1 and 2-3).
   - Preserve the open level topography of the non-extant Sequoia Hotel. Consider removing evergreen forest vegetation that has encroached into the historically open area. Consider relocating the seasonal employee tents to this cleared area, where the building originally stood.
   - Restore the historically open area of the Sequoia Hotel and allow this area to be used for service and operations (See Figure 2-3).
   - Consider reorganizing this area to accommodate service and operational uses, and to be more functional.
     - Allow a physical separation between service area uses and adjacent visitor parking on the east.
     - Consider removing the non-contributing block retaining wall adjacent to existing trash receptacles and storage trailer. If replacement of the wall is necessary when reorganizing the service area, use a simple concrete retaining wall.
     - Remove the natural surface maintenance access road cut in 2011 to remove hazard trees between the employee tents and the Little Brown and allow the area to naturalize.
     - Consider providing an organized, screened, easily serviceable location for the propane tanks within this area.

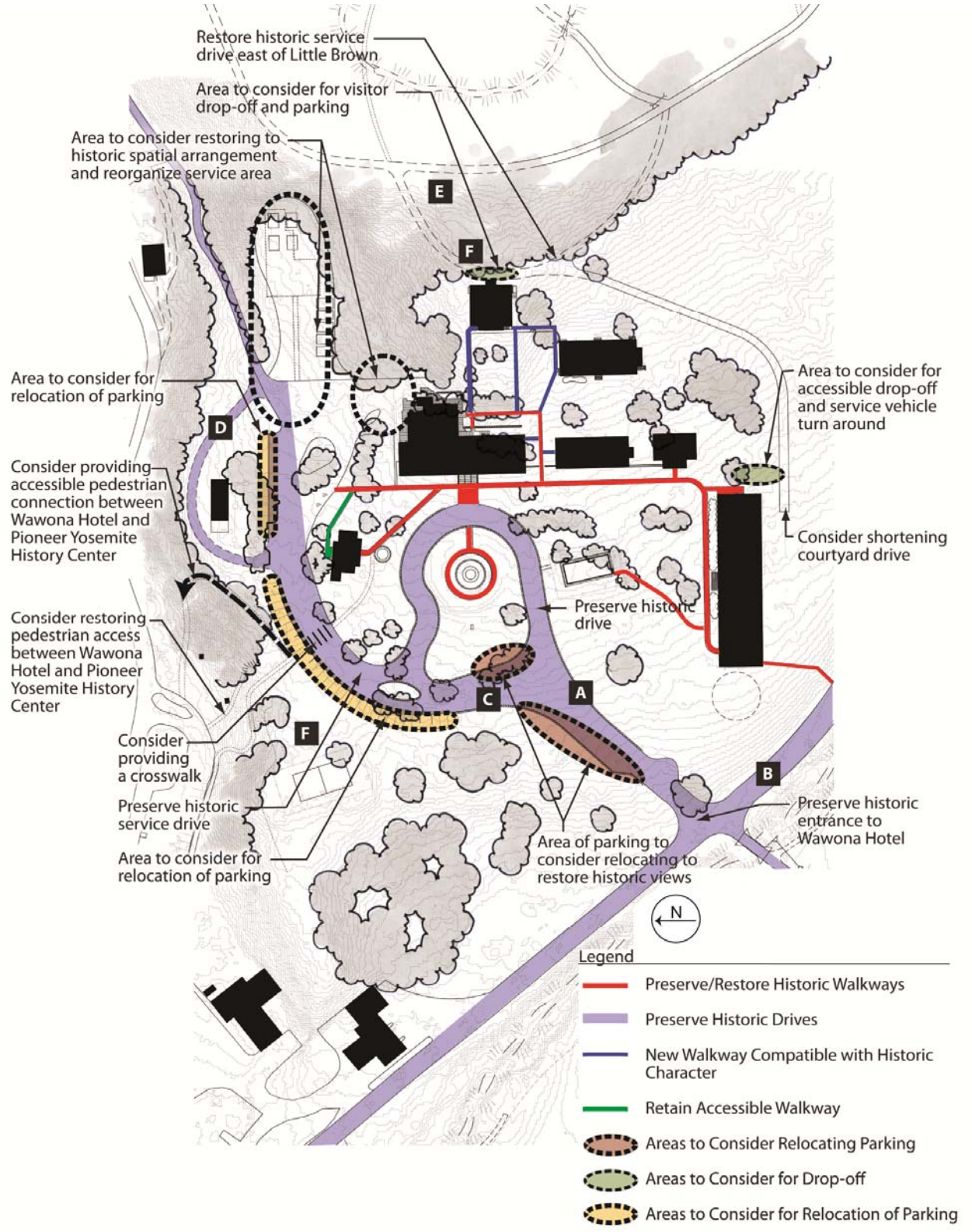


Figure 2-4. Circulation Diagram. Preserve the historic vehicular and pedestrian circulation of the Wawona Hotel. Preserve the circulation patterns of the north edge of the hotel grounds. Allow modifications to improve parking and service, as long as improvements are compatible with the historic character of the Wawona Hotel (MBD).

Circulation

1) Preserve historic vehicular circulation patterns, and those features that contribute to the pattern associated with the Wawona Hotel (Figures 2-4, 2-17).
   - **A** Preserve the historic entrance into Wawona Hotel, where the entrance drive intersects Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road and Wawona Road. Preserve the entrance and service drives' location, alignment, and asphalt paving surface.
   - **B** Preserve the Wawona Road location, alignment and asphalt paving surface.
   - **C** Consider relocating non-contributing parking along the west side of the entrance drive and below Wawona Fountain to restore historic views to the hotel from Wawona Road and the Wawona Golf Course. Maintain the current quantity of parking spaces. Consider relocating parking spaces to the service drive.

2) Preserve the circulation patterns of the north edge of the hotel grounds, and allow modifications to improve parking and service. Ensure improvements are compatible with the historic character (Figures 2-4, 2-17) of the Wawona Hotel.

3) Preserve contributing circulation features of the Wawona Hotel.
   - Preserve Wawona Road, Entrance Drive, Service Drive, Maintenance Drive, Main Walkway, Hill Studio Walkway, Tank Walkway, and Wawona Fountain Walkway.

4) Preserve and restore historic drives that connect the hotel to Wawona and Wawona Road.
   - **D** Preserve the maintenance drive along the top of the ridge north of the Hill Studio where the small maintenance buildings occur. Restore the road to a consistent width and natural surfacing (gravel).
   - **E** Restore the historic alignment of the drives east of the hotel buildings. Restore the drive adjacent (east) to the Little Brown for hotel guest access and use. Provide security gates at the east service drive to restrict access for use by NPS, DNC, and hotel guests only.

5) Maintain the Courtyard Drive for utility and fire access, and as an accessible vehicular drop-off for accessible rooms in the Hotel Annex (Figures 2-4, 2-17).[14]
   - Consider providing two accessible parking spaces adjacent to the north side of the Hotel Annex.
   - Consider shortening the Courtyard Drive, south of the Hotel Annex once the temporary boiler is relocated. Re-grade and restore vegetation to provide positive drainage away from the building.

6) Restore open areas that are sometimes used informally for parking, to their historic condition as landscape areas.
   - **E** Restore the historic service drive east of the Little Brown. Consider providing a narrow gravel pavement area for use as a visitor drop-off and short-term parking space near the cottage's east entrance. Consider signage noting fifteen minute parking only to control use.

[14] Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., *The Wawona Hotel Complex Historic Structures Report.*



Figure 2-5. Preserve the historic entrance drive, and consider relocating parking away from the drive to restore historic views to the hotel, and between the hotel and golf course (MBD).

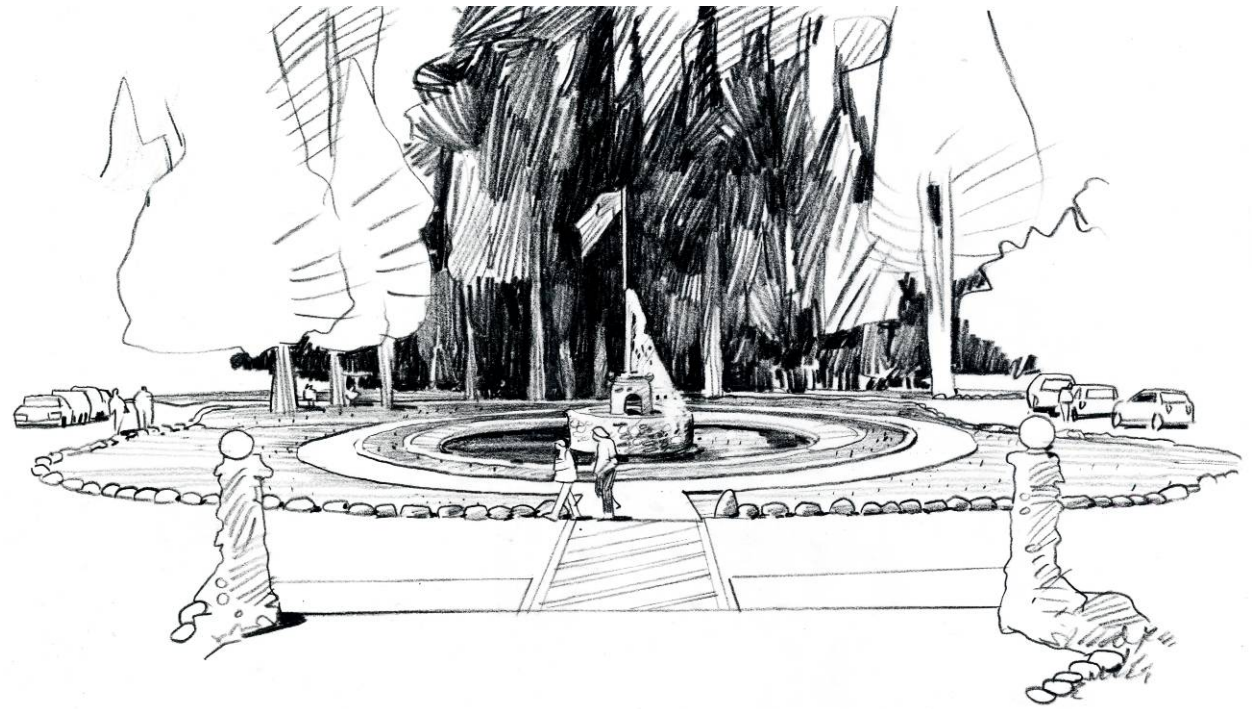


Figure 2-6. Restore contributing features of the forecourt and restore the view from Wawona Hotel to the west by relocating parking below out of the viewshed (MBD).

F Restore the hillside east of Little Brown, and the area adjacent to the tennis court.

- Repair areas utilizing re-vegetation techniques to stabilize slopes, and to repair storm drainage run-off.

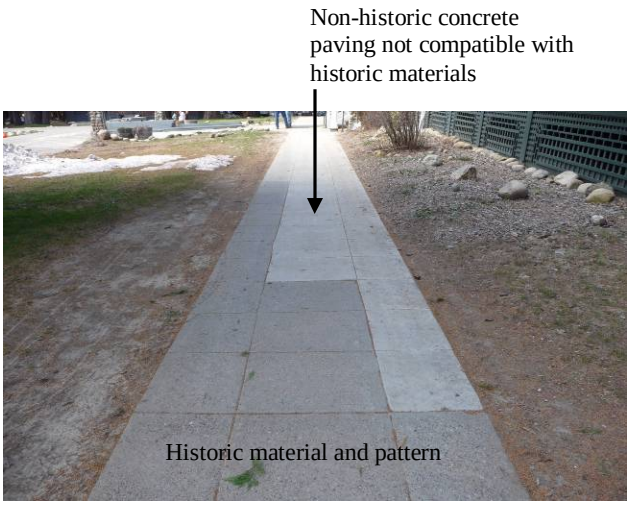


Figure 2-7. Restore contributing walkways, including the Main Walkway (above) using paving materials, color, texture, finish and workmanship compatible with the historic materials, including matching the historic scoring pattern (MBD).



Figure 2-8. Consider removing and replacing non-contributing Hotel Walkway between Wawona Hotel and Long White (MBD).

7) Preserve contributing walkways within the forecourt including the Tank Walkway, Main Walkway, Hill Studio Walkway, and Wawona Fountain Walkway, and remove / replace non-contributing features (Figure 2-4, 2-17).
   - Preserve alignment, material, width, texture and scoring pattern of contributing walkways.
   - Repair contributing walkways using materials that match the color, texture (including scoring pattern), finish and workmanship of the historic materials.
   - Remove non-contributing stone edge along pedestrian walkways.
   - Consider removing the non-contributing Hotel Walkway between Wawona Hotel and the Long White. Replace with a walkway consistent with the historic character of the grounds, similar in alignment with the historic pattern (recti-linear), and similar to the material, color, texture and finish of the Main Walkway. Ensure new walkway meets current accessibility (ADA-ABA) standards.
8) Consider improving circulation around the Hill Studio (Figure 2-4, 2-17).
   - Maintain the non-contributing studio north walkway.
   - Consider removing the social paths on the east and west sides of Hill Studio, stabilize with vegetation, and restore historic turf lawn.
   - Consider providing a clear pedestrian route between Hill Studio with the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Consider providing an accessible walkway that follows the historic trail and road alignments (Old Wawona Road, as it



Figure 2-9. Historic alignment and location of walkway steps between Wawona Hotel and the Little Brown, ca. 1909. Restore the Little Brown Walkway and missing walkways to their historic alignment using concrete and simple steel handrails. Preserve extant historic topography and area of non-extant fountain when undertaking improvements (source: Yosemite Research Library).

- connects the hotel with the Wawona Covered Bridge) (Figure 2-3, 2-4).

9) Restore the courtyard walkways to follow historic alignments and to reflect their historic character (Figure 2-4, 2-17).
   - Conduct additional research to confirm the alignment of non-extant historic walkways.
   - Restore Little Brown Walkway to follow the historic alignment and grade including the historic series of steps. When restoring walkway, maintain existing grades around existing trees.
   - Reestablish non-extant walks between Little Brown, Long Brown, and Wawona Hotel to follow historic alignment and grade, including steps using contemporary materials compatible with the hotel's historic character (Figure 2-9).
   - Preserve extant historic topography and area of non-extant fountain when reestablishing the walkways between the hotel and Little Brown.
   - Restore walkways to ensure that new walkways are distinguishable from extant materials. Use simple, but compatible materials such as simple concrete paving in a color, texture, finish, and workmanship that reflects the extant historic Main Walkway, and simple steel handrails. Meet current accessibility (ADA-ABA) standards for handrails, walkway widths, and stair treads.
   - Repair all contributing walkways using materials that match historic materials in color, texture (including scoring pattern), finish, and workmanship.
   - Remove non-contributing stone edge along walkways.

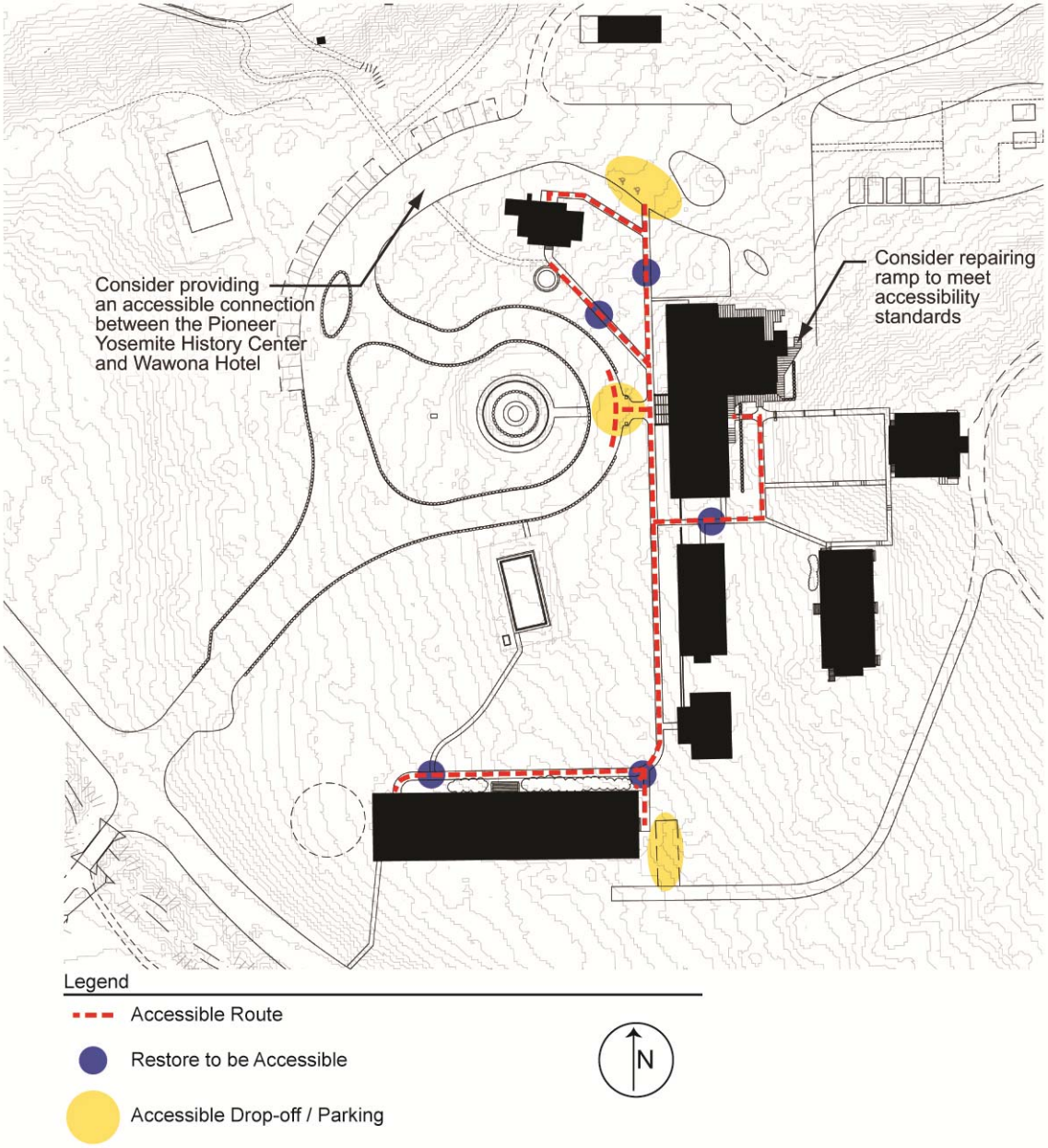


Figure 2-10. Accessibility Treatment Plan. Provide pedestrian accessibility to Wawona Hotel, and accessible rooms and hotel amenities in a manner that preserves the historic character and contributing features of the Wawona Hotel Complex (MBD).

10) Provide pedestrian accessibility to Wawona Hotel, accessible rooms, and hotel amenities in a manner that preserves Wawona Hotel's historic character and contributing features, and that meets ADA-ABA guidelines where appropriate (Figure 2-10).
    - As the Main Walkway is restored, ensure that the longitudinal slopes are accessible slopes. Improve the slope from the Hill Studio Walkway to the service area and the accessible visitor parking spaces to ensure the walkway is at a less than 5% gradient.
    - As the walkway from the Main Walkway to the rear of the hotel is removed and replaced, ensure that accessibility standards are met for the new walkway, including a maximum 2% cross slope gradient.
    - Provide universal access to restrooms at the Hotel Annex, including ensuring an accessible route from the Main Walkway into the terrace at the golf shop (where the restrooms are located). Allow modifications to the longitudinal and cross slopes of the walk at the west end, extending the walkway to ensure current accessibility standards are met.
    - Provide universal access to accessible rooms in the Hotel Annex by replacing the ramp at the northeast corner. Rebuild the ramp to extend parallel to the north building façade. Provide landings and handrails that meet ADA-ABA guidelines. Coordinate with the recommendations of the 2012 HSR.
    - Remove and replace the existing ramp between the service area and the Wawona Hotel (on the north side of the hotel, into the kitchen) to ensure current accessibility standards are met. Provide handrails on both sides of the ramp and modifying the ramp slope to be less than an 8% gradient.

Topography and Landform

1) Preserve the topography and landform of the Wawona Hotel, as it contributes to the hotel's historic character.
    - Preserve the topography of the forecourt including the gentle slope and the terraced slope of the Wawona Fountain.
    - Preserve the topography of the courtyard, including the sloping hillside and terraced slope between the Little Brown and Wawona Hotel.

2) Preserve the contributing buildings and features by directing run-off from large stormwater events away from the buildings and off-site.
    - Repair Courtyard Drive and culverts east of the hotel complex to direct stormwater away from the courtyard and off-site to the south. Consider adding a drain pan, curb or both (or a storm inlet and piping system that would provide the same benefit) along the road edge to divert storm water. Consider providing a sediment trap at the north and south ends of the diversion to capture mobilized sediment from the hillside and prevent its transmission to creeks or irrigation ditches.

3) Provide positive drainage away from, and around the buildings.
    - Consider improving the existing system of piping, inlets and french drains to better facilitate drainage. Consider replacing the fill material over the

existing french drains with material (small and uniform particle size distribution) that facilitates rapid infiltration to the below-ground perforated storm pipe, which prevents clogging.

- Consider extending the existing french drain outfall pipes to a lower elevation to "daylight" the system at grade (similar to the new drain below the rehabilitated fountain). Consider protecting and stabilizing these outfalls.
- Consider allowing a narrow gravel bed defined by a simple clean edge at building foundations to provide positive roof drainage away from the building.
- Consider extending the Long White building veranda foundation to the west (to meet the existing concrete retaining wall) to divert drainage away from the building.
- When the Hotel Walkway is replaced, integrate measures in the new paving to facilitate efficient drainage away from the buildings

Buildings and Structures

1) Preserve those buildings that contribute to the significance of Wawona Hotel.
   - Preserve the Wawona Hotel, Hill Studio, Long White, Little White, Little Brown, Long Brown and Hotel Annex on the hotel grounds.
   - Refer to the 2012 HSR for preservation of the contributing buildings.[15]
2) Preserve those structures that contribute to the significance of the Wawona Hotel.
   - Preserve the Thomas Hill Studio Fountain, Swimming Tank, Wawona Fountain and Tennis Court.
3) Preserve the restored Wawona Fountain, including all associated elements such as crushed granite paving, the fountain and its systems, and the topography and landform.
4) Preserve the restored Thomas Hill Studio Fountain.
5) Preserve the Swimming Tank by repairing historic materials, and providing a setting compatible with its historic character.
   - Repair the concrete basin, concrete edge, sanitary sewer connection and drain.
   - Preserve the tank's concrete paving, repairing as needed using materials to match the historic materials and quality of workmanship.
   - Remove and replace the white picket fence with a new fence that meets current codes (the existing fence is shorter than required by code). Provide a new fence that is more transparent and compatible with the historic character of Wawona Hotel.
6) Preserve the tennis court by repairing the surface, net, and chain-link fence. Use materials and quality of workmanship to match the historic condition.

[15] Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc, 2012. *The Wawona Hotel Complex Historic Structures Report.*

7) Maintain the area of the golf course maintenance buildings and golf cart charging station north of the service area parking.
   - Allow removal and replacement of these non-contributing buildings and structures. Ensure replacement structures are small in mass and scale, and of materials that are compatible with the hotel's historic character.
   - Consider screening the golf cart storage area to be less visible to visitors. Consider using less transparent fencing in keeping with the complex's historic character or add a vegetative screen.

8) Consider reorganizing the service area to accommodate a more formal arrangement of service needs, employee parking, and seasonal employee tents.
   - Consider relocating and re-orienting the seasonal employee tents once vegetation has been cleared on the level topography at the east end of the site of the non-extant Sequoia Hotel.
   - Consider screening portions of the service area in keeping with the historic character.

9) Provide a centralized heating system for the complex to meet current operational needs and building codes. Ensure that the system is accomplished in a manner that preserves the historic character and contributing features of the Wawona Hotel Complex.
   - Remove the interim non-contributing steam boiler and all of its associated above-grade structures once the new system is operational.
   - Restore historic vegetation in area of removed boiler and associated features.
   - Allow the reuse of existing underground vaults, piping, or other facilities.
   - Follow the recommendations of the 2012 HSR for allowances in the use of contributing buildings, including the use of the Hotel Annex.[16]
   - Allow removal of the extant above-grade steam piping located between the Wawona Hotel and Long White, and between Long White and Little White, if it is no longer needed. However, preserve the historic line and separation that the above-grade piping and associated walls provide. Allow removal of the non-contributing concrete wall, as long as a new wall or separation is built to match the height of the non-extant historic wall and to continue this edge as a separation. Preserve and repair the contributing wood wall between the Long White and Little White. Refer to small scale features for further treatment recommendations for walls.
   - If additional above-grade structures are required in association with the new centralized heating system, locate these in the service area as part of the re-organized area of the non-extant Sequoia Hotel.

[16] Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., *The Wawona Hotel Complex Historic Structures Report.*



Figure 2–11. Ca. 1930s historic photo showing low stone edge installation adjacent to drive, above. Existing low stone edge installation with inconsistently sized stones, regular alignment and spacing, and not partially buried, below. Reset stone edge to match historic installation including regular spacing, alignment, size, and depth below grade (source: Yosemite Research Library, above, and MBD, below).

Small Scale Features

1) Preserve contributing small scale features including the stone edge, stone light posts, stone walls at Wawona Hotel main entrance, and the wood wall between Little White and Long White.
   - Preserve the stone light posts and stone walls at the main entrance. Consider removing the non-contributing wood handrails at the front entrance (next to and obscuring the stone walls) and replace with a steel handrail.
   - Repair the stone edge along the entrance drive and service drive to match the historic installation. Reset stones to be abutting, use stones of a consistent size and shape (more round than angular) to the historic stone, and bury cobblestone partially below grade (Figure 2-11).
   - Repair the wood wall at the steam lines between Little White and Long White. Repair wall using materials and workmanship to match historic condition.
2) Consider removing non-contributing features that detract from the historic setting.
   - Consider removing the non-historic stone edge along walkways and that define the planting beds at the buildings.
3) Allow non-contributing features to remain or be replaced for the use of functional hotel operations.
   - Retain existing flagpole (reconstructed in 1987).
   - Allow non-contributing stone retaining walls behind (to east) of Wawona Hotel to remain.
   - Repair the concrete retaining wall between Wawona Hotel and Long White using compatible materials, color, texture, and workmanship.
   - Consider replacing non-contributing trash / recycling receptacles with a uniform style of contemporary bear-proof receptacles. Consider painting the receptacles to be compatible with the contributing buildings.
   - Consider placing trash / recycling receptacles in functional locations that are compatible with the historic character, and set these on level, paved surfaces.
4) Consider developing a sign plan and sign vocabulary to provide identification and wayfinding, in a manner compatible with the complex's historic character.
   - Consider replacing the Wawona Hotel identification sign (near Wawona Road) with a sign more compatible with the historic character of the Wawona Hotel Complex. Consider using a modern simple design of compatible materials.
   - Consider providing wayfinding signage for visitors between the Wawona Hotel and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.



Figure 2-12. Foundation plantings appear in historic photographs of the 1940s, and are of an age that implies they were planted several years earlier, possibly by 1939. The vines date to the recommended period of significance and were regularly spaced along the building façade (source: Yosemite Research Library).



Figure 2-13. Historically no trees were located on the south and west side of the Hotel Annex (source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Location Survey Report on Wawona Road*, 1932).

Vegetation

1) Preserve contributing individual vegetation and vegetation massings that contribute to the complex's historic character. Refer to the Treatment Plan for Wawona Hotel Vegetation (Figure 2-19) for further information on those trees and massings to preserve, and for recommendations on restoring vegetation.
   - Preserve evergreen trees within the forecourt including those that line the Main Walkway and the swimming tank, and select trees at the Hill Studio.
   - Preserve evergreen tree massings between the entrance drive and the gas station and Wawona Store.
   - Preserve the four giant sequoias (Washburn trees) in the courtyard.
   - Preserve the contributing apple tree on the southeast corner of Wawona Hotel as recommended by the Orchard Management Guidelines.[17] Retain the existing apple tree (use for propagation) and replant the second using a cutting from the extant historic apple tree.
   - Preserve incense cedar in the landscape island of the service drive north of the Wawona Hotel.
   - Preserve select evergreen trees within the courtyard including ponderosa pines and incense cedars.
   - Manage contributing vegetation by implementing a plant replacement program to replace contributing trees as they die or become hazardous. If contributing trees are removed, remove tree and stump, and replace with in-kind species.
2) Consider removing non-contributing trees within the forecourt and courtyard, along the service drive, and between the Hotel Annex and Wawona Road.
   - Consider removing the non-contributing hawthorn tree near the Hill Studio Fountain.
   - Consider removing the non-contributing California black oak tree north of the Wawona Hotel front entrance.
   - Consider removing non-contributing willow trees on the west side of the Hotel Annex (Figure 2-13).
   - Consider removing non-contributing jeffrey pine, incense cedar, ponderosa pines and California black oak on the south and west sides of the Hotel Annex (Figure 2-13).
   - Consider selectively thinning and limbing up evergreen trees between the Hill Studio and entrance drive to open up historic views.
   - Consider removing non-contributing evergreen trees that have encroached into the historically open space of the non-extant Sequoia Hotel.
   - Consider removing non-contributing evergreen trees that have encroached into the historically open area of the non-extant Washburn Orchard and Garden.
   - Consider providing evergreen tree plantings to screen the views between the Little Brown and the service area. Allow forest naturalization to occur in the disturbed area west of Little Brown.

[17] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 97-98. "One of these trees has already died, but the neighboring tree is alive. These two trees should be stabilized and preserved. These two trees are associated with the early history of the Wawona Hotel and therefore contribute to the pending Wawona Basin Historic District. The dead tree behind the Wawona Hotel should be replaced. The replacement tree should be propagated using cuttings from the surviving tree behind the Wawona Hotel."



Figure 2-14. Consider reestablishing the historic pattern of regularly spaced ornamental plantings, ca. 1940s (source: Yosemite Research Library).

3) Preserve the historic foundation plantings at the Wawona Hotel, Long White, and Little White.
   - Preserve contributing shrubs including azalea, lilac, spicebush and rosemary within these historic beds (at the Wawona Hotel, Long White, and Little White).
   - Preserve extant hops vines at these building foundations and manage vines to avoid self-seeding (cut the vines back at the end of summer).
   - When planting new shrubs, follow the historic pattern of regularly spaced plantings. Refer to 1940s photographs.
   - Remove non-contributing and invasive perennials including periwinkle and foxglove.
   - Remove existing bark mulch in historic planting beds, and replace with small decorative wood mulch in a natural color.
   - Consider removing non-contributing stone edge at all planting beds. Allow the use of a simple steel edge or pavement to define historic planting beds.
   - Consider removing the non-contributing planting beds on the north and east sides of the Hotel Annex and at the Little Brown and Long Brown and plant with turf consistent with the recommended period of significance.

4) Preserve the historic hops vines at the Wawona Hotel, Long White, and Little White, Long Brown and Hotel Annex.
   - Preserve extant hops vines at these building foundations and manage vines to avoid self-seeding (cut the vines back at the end of summer).
   - Restore the consistent historic pattern (1940s) of evenly spaced vines on the building facades by either adding or removing hops vines as needed to create the pattern.
   - Consider removing non-contributing hops vines in non-historic locations.

5) Restore plantings to reflect the formal arrangement that historically defined the hotel buildings.
   - Restore historic foundation plantings at the Wawona Hotel, Long White and Little White to reflect the historic formal arrangement. Use a mix of indigenous, historic ornamental and hardy plant species. Ensure that species are not invasive.
   - Allow use of more extensive ornamental plantings near the hotel and building entrances; and more indigenous plantings further from the buildings.
   - Allow the use of a mix of indigenous, historic ornamental and hardy species as replacements for historic ornamental plantings. Potential species include, but are not limited to *Aster sp., Paeonia sp., Syringa sp., Symphoricarpos sp., Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low', Viburnum trilobum 'Compactum', Spirea sp., Potentilla sp., Rosa sp., Arctostaphylos sp., Geranium*

cinereum, *Iris sp*., *Phlox sp.*, *Astilbe sp.*, *Kniphofia sp.*, *Heuchera sp.*, *Echinacea sp.*, *Campanula sp.* (dwarf species), *Fragaria*, and *Dicentra sp*.

6) Preserve historic lawns and the putting green in the forecourt, and the historic lawn in the courtyard and between the Hotel Annex and Wawona Road.
   - Repair lawn to have a smooth even grade with an even grass-stand.
   - Install an automatic underground irrigation system to irrigate historic lawns. Follow existing disturbed areas, such as utility corridors, where possible to preserve known and potential archeological resources. The irrigation system design should comply with Wawona water management guidelines.
   - Allow removal of existing grass, re-grading, and sod or seed to restore the historic lawn. Consider lawn suited for the ground's elevation and use.

7) Preserve the evergreen forest that defines the historic spaces (forecourt, courtyard, and service area) for the hotel.
   - Preserve evergreen trees that define the edges of the historic spaces.
   - Consider removal of evergreen trees that encroach into these historic spaces. Grind stumps after removal; provide soil preparation and landscape to match surrounding groundcover.
   - Consider limbing up trees that obscure spatial relationships of historic spaces.

8) Allow new non-invasive plantings to assist in screening storage and service areas as long as plantings do not interrupt or obscure historic views and vistas.
   - Consider using plantings vegetation to screen golf cart storage area.

9) Allow for non-historic vegetation to be used as replacements for historic ornamental plantings as long as the species are of a similar habit, form and growth rate (in-kind species).
   - Allow the use of a mix of indigenous, historic ornamental and hardy plant species as replacements for historic ornamental plantings
   - Implement maintenance practices and improve infrastructure to care for historic vegetation.
   - Preserve putting green, using maintenance practices recommended by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.[18]

[18] Audubon International. *Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses*.; and Appendix G.

10) Consider replacing non-contributing barrel planters and removing planter boxes on stone walls adjacent to the Wawona Hotel main entrance. Replace barrel planters with planters compatible with the historic character.
    - Allow use of simple planters at building entrances and at the entrance sign. Consider a simple wood planter painted white with horizontal wood construction (example – Figure 2-15).
    - Allow planting of non-invasive exotics within planter boxes.



Figure 2-15. Example of a simple compatible wood planter. Consider painting the planter white.

Utilities

1) Allow upgrading and improving utility systems to meet current needs and code requirements. Undertake improvements in a manner compatible with the hotel's historic character, and that preserves contributing features.
2) Improve electrical system to meet current codes and to provide a durable and safe electrical infrastructure.
    - Replace unsafe conditions, such as the temporary connection cables on the stand by generator, with more permanent connections.
        - Consider providing a pad mounted generator to replace the stand by generator, potentially with a base tank depending upon required fuel duration time, with all feeders routed within conduit to the MDC.
        - It appears that the existing service grounding electrode for the exterior MDC consists of a single ground rod. Consider testing the existing service ground resistivity to ensure that proper levels are maintained. Add additional service electrical grounding electrodes as required.
        - Replace missing cover panel on transfer switch section within MDC.
    - Consider upgrading the cart charging area electrical service from the meter box to the cart chargers to meet the needs of the cart charging station.
    - Remove overhead phone lines no longer in use.
    - Repair non-functioning drain line and install a new sanitary drain line at the swimming tank.

- Clean and repair existing electrical equipment at pool pump pit to ensure proper operation.

4) Treatment recommendations for drainage are presented under Topography and Landform pg. 2-21.

5) Preserve the historic character of the Wawona Hotel Complex when undertaking modifications to improve lighting, as the use of lighting at the complex was historically limited.

6) Allow lighting for safety and security as long as it is accomplished in a manner that preserves the historic character of the cultural landscape.
   - Allow removal of non-contributing light fixtures including the post top lanterns along the Little Brown Walkway, lights mounted to trees, and pole lighting along the service drive and within the service area.
   - Consider undertaking a lighting study / plan to create a holistic approach to lighting the site and buildings. The following should be taken into account in a lighting study and the placement of new posts or fixtures.
     - Preserve the low level of lighting for the site with illumination only for safety and security. Utilize ambient lighting from buildings to illuminate building entrances and adjacent paths to the greatest extent possible. Use a color of light that is soft and does not harshly illuminate features or areas.
     - Select or design a style that is contemporary, simple and utilitarian, and that does evoke a particular era or style; do not mimic the historic period. The style recommended by the Yosemite Lighting Guidelines is not appropriate for the Wawona Hotel Complex as it is too stylized and not compatible with the Wawona Hotel. Steel or aluminum poles or fixtures are appropriate and should be of a color that will 'disappear' and not be a focal.
     - Ensure that all new lighting is accomplished with "dark sky" rated exterior fixtures. All new fixtures shall maintain the low light levels of the complex.
     - Consider the replacing existing lights with energy efficient lighting in contributing light fixtures such as those at the stone light posts in the forecourt as long as the color of light and level of light match the historic.
   - Preserve the historic character of the entrance drive and forecourt by not allowing new poles or fixtures along the drive or adjacent within the forecourt.
     - Preserve the lighting at the hotel entry including the stone light posts and lighting from the building entrance.
   - Allow replacement poles and fixtures along the service drive and service area. Allow levels of lighting to meet minimum standards for service areas as noted by the Yosemite Lighting Guidelines.
     - Consider providing additional fixtures where lighting levels are lower than minimum standards to provide a safe environment for staff and guests. These would include areas of high pedestrian activity, and pedestrian

crossings of, or connections to the service drive.
    - Locate lighting near large trees to shield lighting from the hotel and building.
    - At a minimum, consider replacing existing light fixtures with new fixtures to meet dark sky standards and energy efficiency (for example: replace the wood post top poles and fixtures at the employee tents).
- Maintain existing light levels at the swimming tank to provide for safety and security.
    - Allow removal of the tree mounted area light at the swimming tank.
    - Allow replacement pole and fixture, set unobtrusively, using simple, and less stylized elements compatible with the historic character.
- Allow lighting along walkways that provide primary access such as the Main Walkway, Hotel Walkway, and Little Brown Walkway.
    - Maintain existing light levels at the Main Walkway and the Hotel Walkway. Consider providing additional lighting where the walkway meets the service drive (as noted above for service drive) or where there are access or security issues. Consider using ambient light from the buildings to light these walkways or other unobtrusive means of light distribution. Vertical poles or bollards are not appropriate at these locations.
    - Maintain existing light levels at the Little Brown Walkway for safety and security. Consider removing non-contributing light post top lanterns along the Little Brown Walkway, and allow replacing with poles and fixtures of a simpler, and less stylized elements, compatible with the historic character.
- Allow lighting for safety and security along secondary walkways such as the Long Brown Walkway and Little Brown Walkway.
    - Maintain existing light levels at all secondary paths. Consider using ambient lighting from the buildings to light these walkways.
    - Allow vertical poles at these locations, using simple, and less stylized elements, compatible with the historic character.
    - Use low level commercial grade 'dark sky' rated landscape lighting.
    - Maintain existing light levels at the entrance sign.
- Consider maintaining the Tennis Court as an unlit amenity removing lighting and electrical wiring, etc. at the Tennis Court in order to maintain the historic ambience.

7) Consider locating of the new condensing units, recommended in the 2012 HSR, in the reorganized service area, or an area that is in congruence with the CLR recommendations for utility equipment.

Wawona Golf Course

The Wawona Golf Course will be preserved using acceptable preservation techniques. All contributing features will be preserved as will elements such as spatial organization that contribute to the historic character. Refer to the Treatment Plan (Figure 2-16) for an illustrative depiction of the treatment recommendations for the golf course.

The historic character of the Wawona Golf Course is derived primarily by its spatial organization and orchestration of views and vistas created by its arrangement, landform and topography, and vegetation. The preservation of these characteristics is presented in the General Treatment Recommendations for the study area, beginning on page 2-4. Refer to this section when undertaking any modifications to the golf course.

Circulation

1) Preserve the circulation system of Wawona Golf Course as it contributes to the historic character of the Wawona Hotel Complex.
   - Preserve Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road as a contributing feature. Restore the road surface with gravel; and preserve the historic alignment, width, gradient, and connection to Wawona Road.
   - Preserve the location, gradient, alignment, and scale of the stream crossing where Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road connects to Wawona Road. Allow improvements to the surface and culverts, ensuring that any modifications are compatible with the roads historic character.
   - Preserve the Golf Course Walkway alignment, material and width.
2) Maintain the golf cart paths' circulation system and features.
   - Restore golf cart paths to a consistent width of 5-feet +/-.
   - Preserve natural surface (native soil) of golf cart paths, and stabilize where erosion and deterioration have occurred.
   - Consider replacing asphalt golf cart paths with natural surface where erosion has not occurred. Allow asphalt and other measures in areas of erosion to stabilize paths.
3) Maintain informal parking area east of the sixth green.
   - Consider re-vegetation when necessary to mitigate erosion.

Topography and Landform

1) Preserve the topography and landform of the Wawona Golf Course including the level areas of the tees, greens, and fairways, and the slopes, hillsides, and drainages that define these features.
2) Preserve existing tributaries of the South Fork of the Merced River.

Buildings and Structures

1) Preserve those buildings that contribute to the significance of the Wawona Golf Course.
   - Preserve the slaughterhouse located outside the study area, but utilized by the concessionaire for golf course storage.
   - Repair the wood siding and replace the missing window panes using matching materials and workmanship.

2) Allow non-contributing buildings and structures to remain if they provide important functions for the golf course.

   Maintain the pump house and its associated utilities as an important function of the golf course.
   - Maintain non-contributing bridges and culverts as necessary features that provide access for golf course players over drainages.
   - Retain non-contributing bridges and culverts in their current locations. Repair bridges and culverts with materials and workmanship to match existing when necessary.
   - Repair non-contributing Bridge No. 8's deteriorated and damaged side rails using compatible materials and workmanship.

3) Preserve contributing Golf Course Ditch.
   - Repair when needed to match historic materials and workmanship.

Small Scale Features

1) Maintain non-contributing small scale features as important to the function of the golf course, including course maps, golf ball cleaners, boundary stakes, water bottle holders, periscope (fifth tee), benches and trash and recycling receptacles.
   - Maintain all small scale features as necessary to keep them in operational condition.

2) Consider removing non-contributing wood fencing between the first hole and Wawona Road if the Washburn Orchard is removed.
   - Although the CLR recommends preserving the Washburn Orchard, the Orchard Management Guidelines recommends removal. In the event the Washburn Orchard is removed, removal of the wood fence is recommended.

Vegetation

1) Preserve the Wawona Golf Course greens, fairways, tees, and the contrast of these materials to the natural cover of the roughs.
   - Maintain maintenance practices established in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. [19]
   - Reseed turf areas as required due to visitor use, infestation, and wildlife foraging.
   - Consider replacing turf areas in-kind as necessary to maintain the playability of the course.

2) Preserve the Wawona Golf Course openings and evergreen forest density.
   - Preserve the historic openings of the Wawona Golf Course around the greens, fairways, and tees. Maintain these openings by removing encroaching trees.
     - Consider thinning evergreen forest and remove understory growth where appropriate to preserve historic openings.

[19] Refer to Appendix G for Environmental Management Practices.

3) Maintain riparian vegetation in natural and man-made drainages.
   - Preserve historic views and openings by maintaining the growth of the riparian vegetation by selective thinning when appropriate. Coordinate selective thinning practices with Yosemite Resource Management and Science.

4) Protect the historically open area of the Galen Clark cabin site.
   - Consider removing encroaching vegetation when necessary.

5) Preserve the orchards as contributing features to the Wawona Hotel Complex.
   - Preserve Galen Clark Cabin Orchard (outside the study area).[20]
   - Consider Preserving the Washburn Orchard as an important part of the sustenance history of the Wawona Hotel Complex during the recommended period of significance. Full restoration is not feasible as a portion was removed for construction of the Wawona Road in the 1930s.[21]
     - Preservation includes regular maintenance using standard stabilization techniques. Any unrepresented varieties should undergo germplasm conservation and should be propagated in the Lamon Orchard. If thereafter any trees in the orchard die, they should be replaced by this same stock.[22]

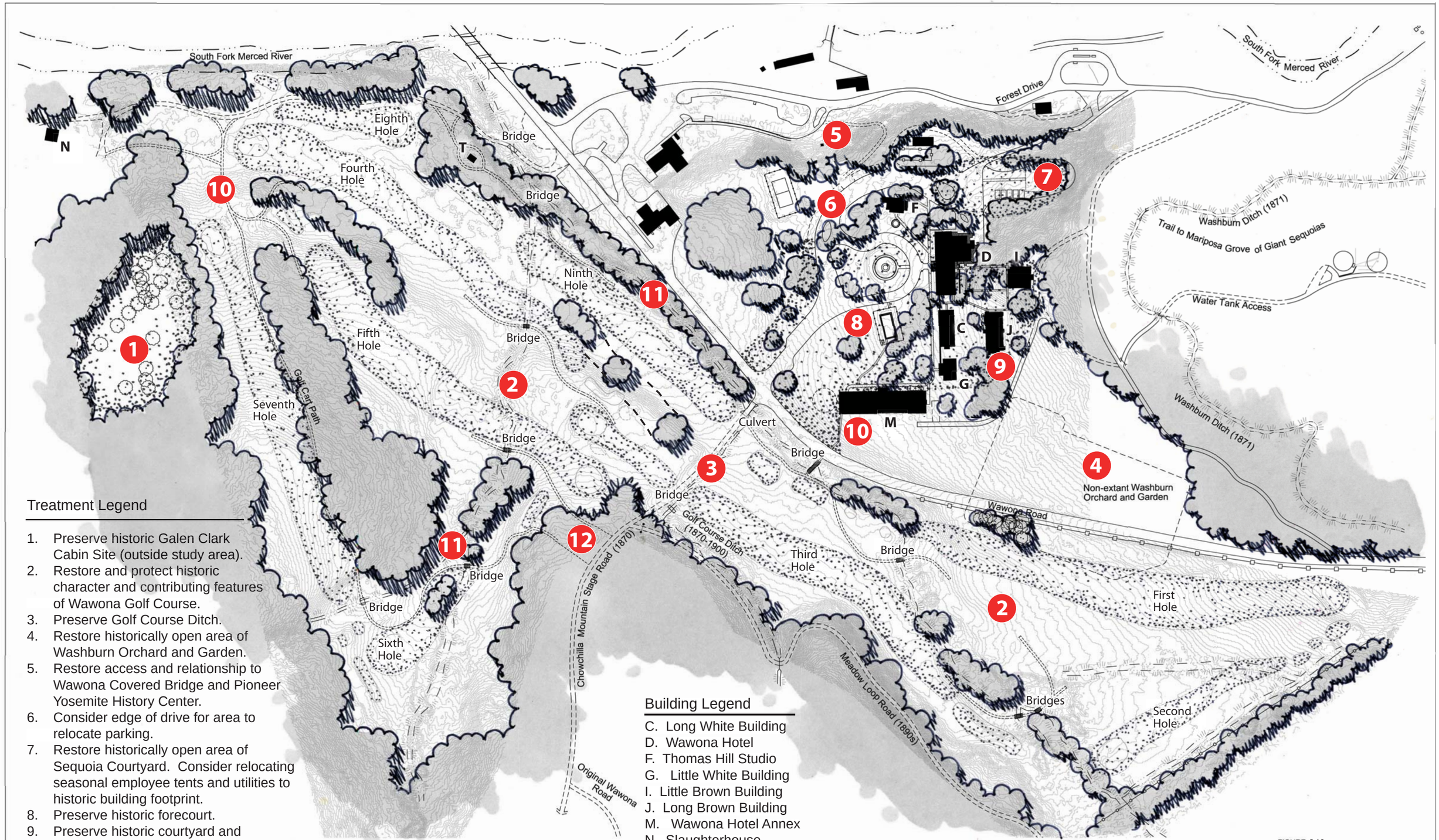
Utilities

1) Consider replacing the existing Wawona Golf Course irrigation system as it has exceeded its life expectancy and has functional issues.
   - The irrigation system was installed by NPS Wawona Utilities in 1983. The golf course serves as a sprayfield for effluent water from the wastewater treatment plant. The life span of an irrigation system using effluent water is eighteen to twenty-three years.
   - The existing system has exceeded its life expectancy and currently has issues with corrosion throughout the system.
   - Preserve the golf course and potential archeological sites by locating piping, electrical, pumps, etc. needed for a new irrigation system within areas already used for the existing system. For example, remove existing piping and replace with new using the same trench.

[20] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 87. The Orchard Management Guidelines note: "Due to its age and its value as a component of Galen Clark's homestead, this orchard should be stabilized and preserved. Restoration of the orchard is not feasible due to a lack of data regarding historic configuration. Any trees that are suspected root sprouts could be removed and replaced with historic varieties from adjacent trees. Preservation of this orchard would entail regular maintenance including standard stabilization techniques. Coniferous trees must be removed wherever they compromise the health of orchard trees. Any unrepresented varieties should undergo germplasm conservation and should be propagated in the Lamon Orchard. If thereafter any trees in the orchard die, they can be replaced by this same stock."

[21] Ibid, 95. The Orchard Management Plan recommends removing the Washburn Orchard due to low historic integrity, and conflicts with wildlife along the Wawona Road.

[22] Skach et al., *Orchard Management Guidelines*, 95.



Treatment Legend

1. Preserve historic Galen Clark Cabin Site (outside study area).
2. Restore and protect historic character and contributing features of Wawona Golf Course.
3. Preserve Golf Course Ditch.
4. Restore historically open area of Washburn Orchard and Garden.
5. Restore access and relationship to Wawona Covered Bridge and Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
6. Consider edge of drive for area to relocate parking.
7. Restore historically open area of Sequoia Courtyard. Consider relocating seasonal employee tents and utilities to historic building footprint.
8. Preserve historic forecourt.
9. Preserve historic courtyard and restore historic walkways.
10. Preserve the historic circulation system of Wawona Golf Course including Golf Course Walkway.
11. Preserve Natural Drainages.
12. Maintain informal parking area.

Building Legend

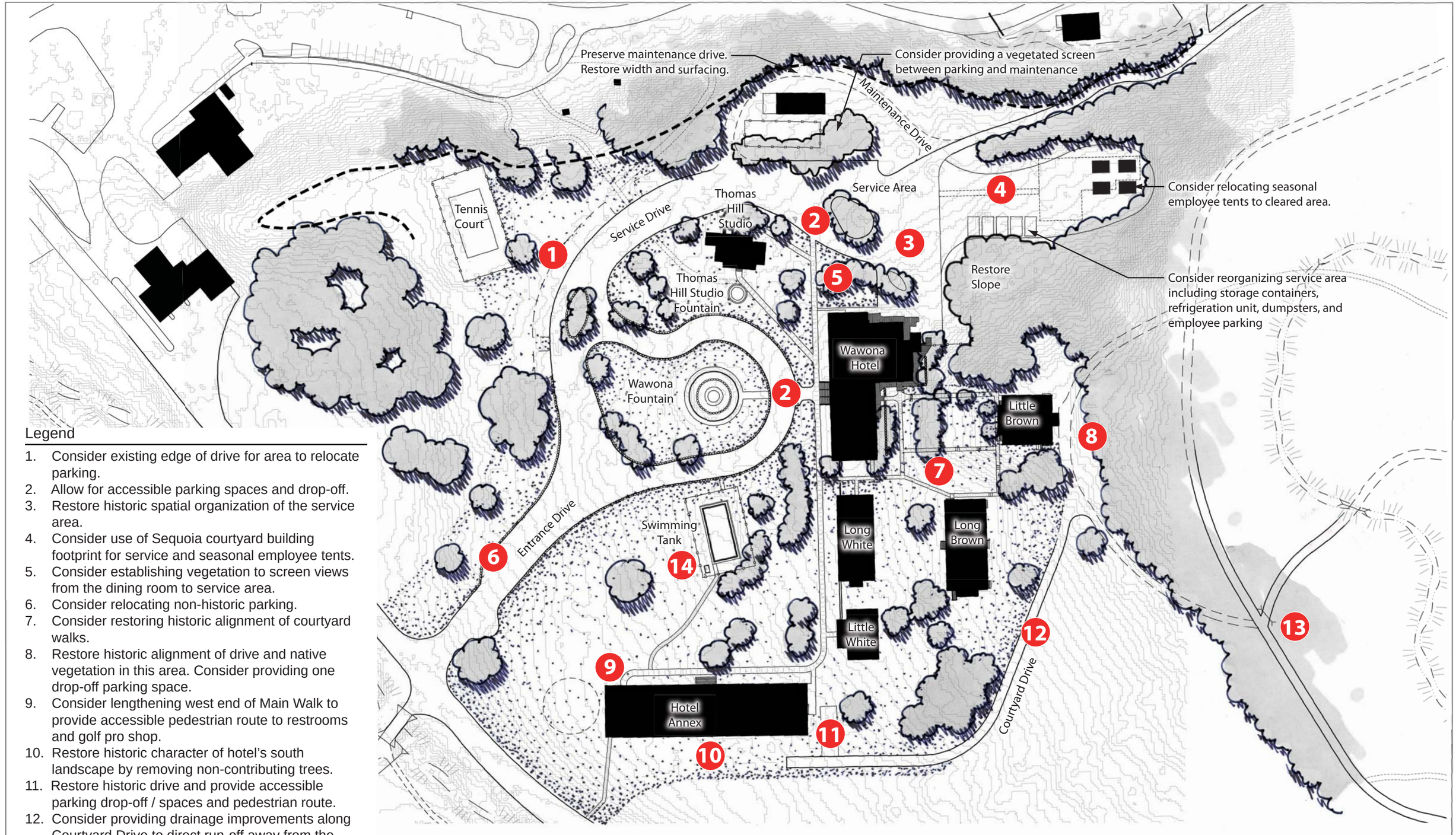
C. Long White Building
D. Wawona Hotel
F. Thomas Hill Studio
G. Little White Building
I. Little Brown Building
J. Long Brown Building
M. Wawona Hotel Annex
N. Slaughterhouse
T. Pump House

N W E S

0 230 460

FIGURE 2-16

August 2012	TITLE OF PROJECT: WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX	TITLE OF DRAWING: TREATMENT PLAN
	NAME OF PARK: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
	REGION: PACIFIC · COUNTY: MARIPOSA · STATE: CALIFORNIA



Legend

1. Consider existing edge of drive for area to relocate parking.
2. Allow for accessible parking spaces and drop-off.
3. Restore historic spatial organization of the service area.
4. Consider use of Sequoia courtyard building footprint for service and seasonal employee tents.
5. Consider establishing vegetation to screen views from the dining room to service area.
6. Consider relocating non-historic parking.
7. Consider restoring historic alignment of courtyard walks.
8. Restore historic alignment of drive and native vegetation in this area. Consider providing one drop-off parking space.
9. Consider lengthening west end of Main Walk to provide accessible pedestrian route to restrooms and golf pro shop.
10. Restore historic character of hotel's south landscape by removing non-contributing trees.
11. Restore historic drive and provide accessible parking drop-off / spaces and pedestrian route.
12. Consider providing drainage improvements along Courtyard Drive to direct run-off away from the buildings and courtyard.
13. Consider repairing culvert to facilitate drainage away from the complex.
14. Consider replacing existing fence at Swimming Tank.

N W E S

0 100 200

FIGURE 2-17

August 2012	TITLE OF PROJECT: WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX	TITLE OF DRAWING: TREATMENT PLAN - WAWONA HOTEL
	NAME OF PARK: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK REGION: PACIFIC · COUNTY: MARIPOSA · STATE: CALIFORNIA

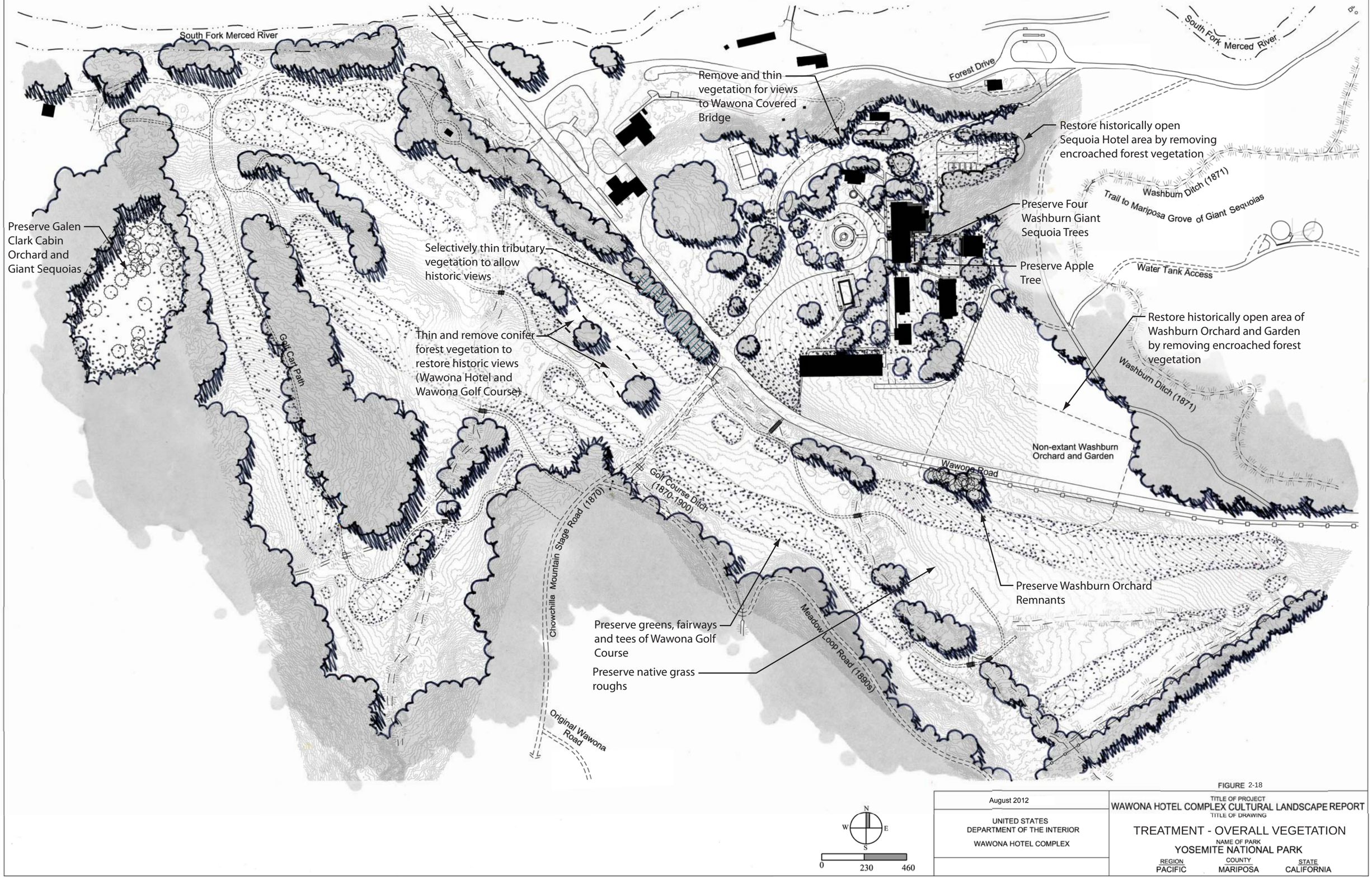


FIGURE 2-18

August 2012	TITLE OF PROJECT: WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX	TITLE OF DRAWING: TREATMENT - OVERALL VEGETATION NAME OF PARK: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK REGION: PACIFIC · COUNTY: MARIPOSA · STATE: CALIFORNIA

Consider providing a vegetated screen between service area and maintenance

Consider removing evergreen trees in historically open area of non-extant Sequoia Hotel

Consider restoring vegetation in area of relocated hotel operations equipment

Consider restoring vegetation in non-contributing road bed.

Consider restoring vegetation between Little Brown and the Service Area

Preserve four (Washburn) Giant Sequoias

Preserve apple tree at Wawona Hotel

Consider removing non-contributing trees on south and west sides of Hotel Annex

Legend

- Preserve historic vegetation
- Proposed new vegetation
- Consider removing existing non-contributing tree
- Restore historic lawn
- Restore historic foundation plantings and vines
- Consider removing non-contributing foundation plantings
- Preserve historic stone edge

1. Preserve evergreen trees in the forecourt.
2. Preserve evergreen trees in the courtyard.
3. Preserve evergreen tree massings between entrance drive and gas station, and to the east and north sides of the hotel.
4. Consider removing non-contributing hawthorne at Thomas Hill Studio.
5. Consider removing non-contributing oak at Wawona Hotel entrance.
6. Consider selectively thinning evergreen trees between Thomas Hill Studio and entrance drive.
7. Restore historic foundation plantings and vines.
8. Consider selective thinning and limbing up of trees to restore historic views.
9. Consider restoring lawn on the north and east sides of the Hotel Annex, maintain historic hops vines on building facades.

C Incense Cedar
P Ponderosa Pine
S Giant Sequoia
A Apple

N W E S
0 100 200

August 2012

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX

FIGURE 2-19

TITLE OF PROJECT
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
TITLE OF DRAWING
TREATMENT PLAN
WAWONA HOTEL VEGETATION
NAME OF PARK
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
REGION PACIFIC | COUNTY MARIPOSA | STATE CALIFORNIA

Appendix A. Bibliography

Appendix A. Bibliography

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Appendix B. CLR Names

Appendix B.
CLR Names

Landscape Character Areas

- Wawona Hotel (*Main Hotel* or *hotel* without entire name)
- Wawona Golf Course (or *golf course* without entire name)

Within hotel

- Forecourt (cap as title, small case in sentence): open space created by the building including the Main Hotel and Annex Building – space includes Wawona Tank and Wawona (was main) Fountain
- Courtyard (cap as title, small case in sentence): space created by the buildings and topography east of Main Hotel. Clark Cottage's and Manager's Cottage's assist in creating the space
- Service Area (cap as title, small case in sentence): space north of Main Hotel used for service, includes the area of the Sequoia Hotel and the service drive

Places

- Wawona Meadow – according to YOSE style guide
- Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, 1850s)
- Galen Clark Cabin Site
- South Fork of the Merced River (in text), South Fork Merced River (on graphics)

Buildings listed in LCS

Buildings (According to the LCS)	*Buildings (CLR Names)*
Wawona Hotel, Main Building	Wawona Hotel
Long White Building (Clark Cottage)	Long White
Manager's Cottage (Little White Building)	Little White
Long Brown Building (Washburn Cottage)	Long Brown
Little Brown Building (Moore Cottage)	Little Brown
Thomas Hill Studio	Hill Studio
Wawona Hotel Annex	Hotel Annex

Buildings not listed in LCS

- slaughterhouse (small case)
- pump house (small case)
- golf course maintenance buildings (small case)
- seasonal employee tents (small case)

Structures

- Wawona (was Main) Fountain
- Wawona Covered Bridge
- Thomas Hill Studio Fountain
- Footbridge from Pro Shop to Golf Course (consistent with Draft Wawona CLI)

- Chowchilla Mountain Road Triple Culvert (consistent with Draft Wawona CLI)
- Golf Course Ditch (consistent with Draft Wawona CLI)

Circulation

- Mann Brothers Horse Trail
- Chowchilla Mountain Stage Road
- Old Wawona Road (pre 1926 road)
- Wawona Road (1926 road)
- Meadow Loop Road
- entrance drive (small case)
- service drive (small case)
- concrete walkways (not concrete walks or concrete paths or concrete pathways)
- Main Walkway
- Tank Walkway
- Little Brown Walkway
- Long Brown Walkway
- Hotel Walkway
- Hill Studio Walkway
- golf cart paths (not capitalized)
- Brookwalk or Brook Trail (1902)

Small Scale Features

- stone light posts
- flagpole
- stone edge(s)
- stone walls
- concrete wall(s)
- wood wall
- wood fence
- chainlink fence
- pedestrian light poles (metal poles between Little Brown and Wawona Hotel)
- metal hand railings – noted as part of the circulation feature
- barrel planters
- entrance sign
- regulatory signs (includes accessible parking, etc, parking, stop sign)
- interpretative signs - small

Vegetation

- YOSE style guide says NOT to capitalize “giant sequoia” unless part of a name – i.e. Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias
- Galen Clark Cabin Orchard

Golf Course

- Use “ninth green, ninth fairway, ninth tee,” etc. instead of #9 green, etc.

Significant Historic Events

- Refer to 1916 act as "National Park Service Organic Act," not "National Park Service Act"

Appendix C. Utility Memorandums

1900 Wazee Street | Suite 350 | Denver, Colorado 80202 | 303.296.3034 main | 303.296.3035 fax | www.aedesign-inc.com
Architectural Engineering Design Group, Inc.

April 13, 2011

RE: Yosemite National Park
Cultural Landscape Report for The Wawona Hotel Complex
Electrical Initial site visit summary and concerns

Site Summary:

Electrical Distribution:

The electrical system is fed from an overhead utility line which enters the site along the north property line and terminates at a location just to the northwest of the Wawona Hotel. At this location the high voltage utility lines are routed down the utility pole and underground to the nearby pad mounted utility transformer. The secondary of this transformer provides a 1,000 amp 208/120v 3 phase feed which serves a nearby exterior main distribution center. This distribution center includes the following circuit breakers which provide distribution feeds for buildings and equipment throughout the site:

Main Disconnect	1,000 amps
Wawona Hotel	800 amps
Swimming Tank	100 amps
Manager's Cottage	100 amps
Employee Tents	50 amps
Long Brown (Washburn Cottage)	100 amps
Long White (Clark Cottage)	100 amps
Generator Heater	30 amps
Little Brown (Moore Cottage)	200 amps
Wawona Hotel Annex	150 amps
Thomas Hill Studio	200 amps (separate electrical utility meter)



The entire main distribution center is backed up with an integral automatic transfer switch which is fed via the adjacent diesel fired standby generator system. The generator has an external surface mounted diesel fuel tank.

From the main distribution center, underground feeds at the above listed ampacities are routed to the respective facilities and their associated distribution equipment. See below for a general description of how each of the above feeds are connected:

- Wawona Hotel - 800 amp main distribution center located within an interior electrical room near the kitchen.
- Swimming Tank - 100 amp branch circuit panel located within the pool mechanical pit adjacent to the pool.
- Manager's Cottage - 100 amp electrical distribution panel located in a surface mounted panel on the East exterior wall of the facility.
- Employee Tents - 50 amp branch circuit panel located on utility pole near the tent area. This panel serves the electrical loads within each of the four employee tents.
- Long Brown - 100 amp main disconnect which serves a wireway serving branch circuit distribution panes, all located within the mechanical room on the south end of the building.
- Long White - 100 amp electrical distribution panel located in a recessed panel on the East exterior wall of the facility.
- Generator Heater - 30 amp feed to adjacent generator equipment.

- Little Brown - 200 amp electrical distribution panel located in a recessed panel on the East exterior wall of the facility.
- Wawona Hotel Annex - 150 amp branch circuit panel within basement of Wawona Hotel Annex mechanical room.
- Thomas Hill Studio - 200 amp branch circuit panel inside of Thomas Hill's Studio Building.

Phone Distribution:

The phone service for the site is provided via overhead telephone poles at the northeast corner of the site. These poles are different than the overhead power poles and enter the site from the northeast. The lines are routed down the utility pole, underground, and into the main telephone board within the Wawona Hotel service corridor. This main board feeds the adjacent Long White via an underground connection between buildings. The Long White then has an underground feed to the adjacent Manager's Cottage. The Manager's Cottage then has an underground feed to the adjacent Wawona Hotel Annex. The Thomas Hill Studio is fed from a separate phone utility pole on the northwest corner of the site and it appears that this feed only serves the Thomas Hill Studio building. There are existing overhead phone lines running between the buildings that are no longer in use.



Miscellaneous site electrical items:

1. There are two area lights near the pool mounted to the adjacent trees. The reuse and/or removal of these fixtures are to be further reviewed.

2. Existing tennis court area has abandoned tennis court wiring, switching, and lights.
3. There are bollard lights at the north end of the site which lead down to the adjacent general store parking area and restrooms. Currently, it is our understanding that these lights are out of the scope of this CLR.
4. There is a separate electrical utility meter serving the aged cart charging equipment. This meter serves a small distribution panel which includes branch circuits for the cart charging outlets. This equipment appears to be fed via a separate 15KVA utility pole mounted transformer. Further review of this equipment and its impact upon the CLR is anticipated.
5. There are a few miscellaneous area lights mounted to posts between the Wawona Hotel and the adjacent Employee Tent area.
6. Cable television appears to be a provision to the Employee tent area.
7. There are four 5' tall post top lanterns along the walkway between the Little Brown and the Wawona Hotel.
8. There are two stone pillars with post top lights at the main entry to the Wawona Hotel.
9. The refurbished fountain in front of the Wawona Hotel has a circulation pump within its base. At the time of the site visit there were four electrical conduit stub ups surrounding the fountain. It is unclear exactly what those conduits will serve.
10. It was unclear as to the operation (and associated electrical connection) to the fountain in front of the Thomas Hill Studio.



Concerns:

1. Standby generator is a temporary generator with temporary connection cables, however, it appears that this generator is being utilized in a permanent fashion. Recommendations for a more permanent connection will be reviewed.
2. Per the National Electrical Code, when an electrical service serves more than one building on a particular site, there is a requirement for an exterior disconnect at each of the buildings for service. This exterior disconnect has not been installed at all of the facilities. There are some exceptions which would allow the installation, however, this will need further review.
3. The existing phone cabling distribution between buildings appears to have been added over time on an as needed basis. Recommendations regarding the function, routing, and installation of this cabling will further reviewed.
4. The Annex Building has a main electrical distribution panel with a 200 amp main disconnect, yet it appears that this building is fed via a 150 amp feeder from the MDC.
5. Grounding for the MDC appears to be limited to a single ground rod located within the pad of the MDC. Recommendations for potential improvement to the grounding system will be further reviewed.

Three Sixty Engineering, Inc.

YOSEMITE – CLR Wawona Hotel Complex – Initial site visit summary

April 13, 2011
REVISED May 13th 2011 – due to additional information gathered

RE: Yosemite National Park
Cultural Landscape Report for The Wawona Hotel Complex
Mechanical and Plumbing Initial site visit summary and concerns

SITE SUMMARY:

The domestic water system for the site is unique. Water is taken from the river, treated, and stored in tanks above the Wawona Hotel and associated buildings. The Wawona Hotel, Wawona Hotel Annex, Long White (Clark Cottage), Long Brown (Washburn Cottage), Little Brown (Moore's Cottage), and the Manager's Cottage (Little White) are all fed off a main line that is routed from the storage tanks with approximately 70 psi of pressure. There are large tanks for water storage above the site.

Each building has a separate shut-off valve located in below grade boxes throughout the site. There is a 2" main into each building except for Little Brown which has a 3/4" main. There is one instance outside the Clark Cottage where there are three shut-offs in the same box serving Long White, Long Brown, and the Manager's Cottage on the same water meter.

There is also a 2" water tap and backflow preventor that serves the grounds landscape watering system, Photo #01. This system is composed of below grade boxes with hose bibbs and shut-off valves that allow for hand watering the grounds.



PHOTO #01

There is also a 10" fire line that loops the site and feeds each of the buildings along with fire hydrants and hose connection points throughout the site.

The golf course is irrigated via reclaimed water.

YOSEMITE – CLR Wawona Hotel Complex – Initial site visit summary

The buildings are site are heated via a steam boiler. In late May 2010 the existing boiler on the lower level of the Wawona Hotel Annex failed. An interim steam boiler is located behind the Wawona Hotel Annex in a pre-fabricated boiler housing, Photo #02. A propane tank is located adjacent to the boiler housing to assist in the starting of the boiler. Once the boiler is firing, the fuel is provided via a 5,000 gallon diesel tank located underground. The 5,000 gallon diesel tank feeds a 75-gallon day tank in the existing mechanical room of the Annex and is then distributed to the boiler located outside.



PHOTO #02

The steam produced by the boiler is routed back into the Wawona Hotel Annex mechanical room via above ground pipes located in a wooden box structure, Photo #03. The steam is then distributed through the site to the buildings. The steam system feeds two heat exchangers in the Wawona Hotel Annex, one for domestic hot water and the other for the pool. Steam is routed underground to the Manager's Cottage and then is routed above ground in a wooden box structure from the Manager's Cottage to Long White. From Long White the steam lines go underground to the Wawona Hotel. Steam lines are also routed underground up to Long Brown.

YOSEMITE – CLR Wawona Hotel Complex – Initial site visit summary



PHOTO #03

The swimming tank system is a recirculation system that filters the water via sand filters located in the Annex mechanical room. These filters are newer filters of +/- 1 year old. The swimming tank was previously drained via a sanitary line however, at some point this line leaked and the drain was abandoned and the line plugged with concrete. The swimming tank is currently drained by a 320 gpm pump.

The recently rehabilitated fountain was being filled during the site visit. This was accomplished by connecting a hose to one of the underground grounds watering boxes near the tank and running a hose across the drive lane to the Wawona Fountain. The Wawona Fountain water is not heated or treated.

There are three larger propane tanks located in the Service Yard behind the Wawona Hotel kitchen, Photo #04. These propane tanks service the kitchen appliances and the kitchen boiler.

YOSEMITE – CLR Wawona Hotel Complex – Initial site visit summary



PHOTO #04

CONCERNS:

Routing of steam pipes above grade between the Manager's Cottage and Long White – is there a more energy efficient way this could be accomplished?

Routing of steam pipes above grade between the boiler housing and Wawona Hotel Annex – is there a more energy efficient way this could be accomplished?

Can the boiler system be moved to be inside the Wawona Hotel Annex and eliminate the boiler housing?

Drainage of the swimming tank system – can a new sanitary line be installed or the old one replaced to allow easier draining of the swimming tank?

Is an automatic irrigation system for the Wawona Hotel site desired?

END OF MEMO

Appendix D. Tom Bopp Correspondence

Appendix D. Tom Bopp Correspondence

Email dated July 3, 2011

From: Tom Bopp
Sent: Sunday, July 03, 2011 12:34 PM
To: Rothell Devon ; Gaunt Ron
Cc: Schaible Daniel ; Eade Linda
Subject: "Clark's Homestead"

Hi Devon/Ron & Co.:

Just in case too much is made over the "Galen Clark's Homestead Site", I thought I should point out a few things.

1) The source for the 7th green location is is: "Galen Clark - Yosemite Guardian", Shirley Sargent, 1st ed. 1964 Sierra Club (later Flying Spur v. no footnotes). She cites her source as her Aug. 1963 interview with Will Sell Jr., who said he was shown the site by Clark, and that it was corroborated by Clarence Washburn. Oddly, Sargent also cites SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE_SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1895, which flatly contradicts her own assertion (and Sell's and Washburn's) that Clark's first cabin was at the 7th green location. Here's the pertinent excerpt from that article, which was the product of an interview with Clark himself:

"In April, 1857, Clark discovered, made measurements, brought into public notice and gave names to the main or upper group of the Mariposa big trees. In the same month he built his first cabin near the crossing. It was constructed on the old frontier American plan, with the chimney outside and a roof of "shakes," held in place by "weight-poles," the logs unhewn and substantial in size. The structure was sixteen by twelve feet outside, and its location was nearly in front of the dining-room of the present hotel, or between that point and the studio of Thomas Hill, the artist, who recently sketched the old cabin from a description given by Clark. Visitors to the Yosemite and the grove became more numerous, and Clark was naturally called upon to act as guide. Occasionally he made pilgrimages to Mariposa for supplies and books. When he was absent his latchstring hung outside and he kept a notice posted conspicuously which read: "Walk in and help yourselves, but please close and fasten the door." He kept up this free entertainment business for a year or two, and then, as the travel increased built a more pretentious edifice and started a hotel."

In my opinion, the Chronicle source trumps the Sargent interview with Sell & Washburn – it at least introduces enough doubt regarding the labeling of the site. The photo of Clark at the 7th green site, giving the date of his planting of the 4 sequoias as 1863, gives a circumstantial suggestion that he may have built a cabin there in that year, perhaps to get some privacy away from his hostelry. It could be that Sell & Washburn remembered Clark's story (50+ years later) inaccurately – that perhaps he told them he had a cabin there, which they wrongly interpreted to be his first. Also, the picture of the cabin by Thomas Hill accompanying the article (reproduced in Sargent) suggests the outline of Wawona Dome in the background, consistent with the current hotel site and, as the article states, "from a description given by Clark."

2) Use of the term “Homestead” is okay in a casual sense, but is technically inaccurate – the Homestead Act wasn’t until 1862. Clark’s was a pre-emption claim according to Sargent – though the original filing cited by Sargent as being in the Mariposa County Courthouse Records remains lost.

So, given that you have to use sources at hand, the reports probably don’t need to be changed – but I’d hold off on anything like an historic site nomination for it...

Hope this helps!

Best,

Tom Bopp

Appendix E. Treatment Workshop Meeting Summary

MUNDUS BISHOP

MEETING SUMMARY

Project:	Wawona Hotel Complex CLR CIF 5014	**MB Project Number:**	1111
Date:	June 2, 2011	**Subject:**	Treatment Recommendations CLR Work Session
Present:	Devon Rothell, DNC; Brian Fulce, DNC; Vicki McMichael, DNC; Daniel Schaible, NPS; Brandon Schultz, NPS; Barbara Wyatt, NPS; Joy Baccei, NPS; Tina Bishop, MB; Robyn Bartling, MB		Page 1 of 3

Discussion:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. CLR Key Findings at 75% Part 1 for Chapters 1, 2 and 3 – MB provided an overview of the site history, Landscape Character Areas, and Existing Condition and Analysis (organized by Landscape Characteristics).
3. Treatment Approach – Three treatment approaches (Preservation, Restoration, Rehabilitation) were discussed for the project.
    - The preferred treatment approach for the cultural landscape was determined to be Rehabilitation.
        1) Barbara noted that health and safety can be approached adequately in each treatment approach including preservation.
        2) The GMP identifies Preservation as the treatment for Wawona. A paragraph will be included in the treatment section of the report that notes the GMP treatment of Preservation and why Rehabilitation has been selected for the CLR.
        3) The proposed period of significance is 1875-1939. The team will have a conference call to discuss this proposed period of significance with the DNC, NPS and CLR and HSR teams. The intent is to determine a period of significance that works with both the CLR and HSR if possible.
        4) It was recommended that the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) be updated to include the proposed boundary. Danny and Barbara will work on this and coordinate with the CLR and HSR teams.

4. Treatment Recommendations – The team in attendance took a site walk to discuss proposed treatment recommendations. Following the site walk, a work session occurred that noted those treatment recommendations and actions that were discussed and desired. This diagram is included at the end of this meeting summary. Treatment recommendations will be included in the next CLR report submittal on July 8, 2011. Below is a brief synopsis of treatment recommendations identified.

   Circulation

   - Analyze the potential of relocating parking below the fountain and on the west side of the entrance drive to provide historic clear views to the hotel from Wawona Road and the Wawona Golf Course. Maintain the quantity of parking spaces.
   - Analyze appropriate uses/approaches in the dirt area adjacent to the Tennis Court (used informally for parking).
   - Analyze methods to prevent unauthorized parking such as above Moore Cottage. Re-vegetate areas to alleviate storm run-off drainage above the hotel.
   - Consider replacing the walkways in the courtyard to be more sympathetic to the historic character and grade and to meet accessibility standards for handrails, and step riser and tread heights and lengths.
   - Analyze the boiler road and accessible drop-off for potential accessible rooms in the Wawona Annex. Maintain requirements for utility and fire access.

   ADA Accessibility

   - Provide access to restrooms at Annex along Main Walkway – may require modifying alignment at the west end of walkway.
   - Analyze potential accessible use of swimming tank, including reviewing the California Historic Preservation Code
   - Modify Main Walkway at the north end (at service area) for parking and route spaces to ensure this area meets standards for slopes.

   Service Area

   - Restore the historic space of the Sequoia Hotel, and analyze how it can more effectively accommodate all maintenance and employee functions.
   - Analyze methods to organize the service area to utilize the space to be more efficient.
   - Remove non-historic (dirt) road from the tent platforms to behind Moore Cottage and restore historic slope.

   Drainage

   - Provide recommendations to minimize drainage impacts to the buildings and site features.

   Views and Vegetation

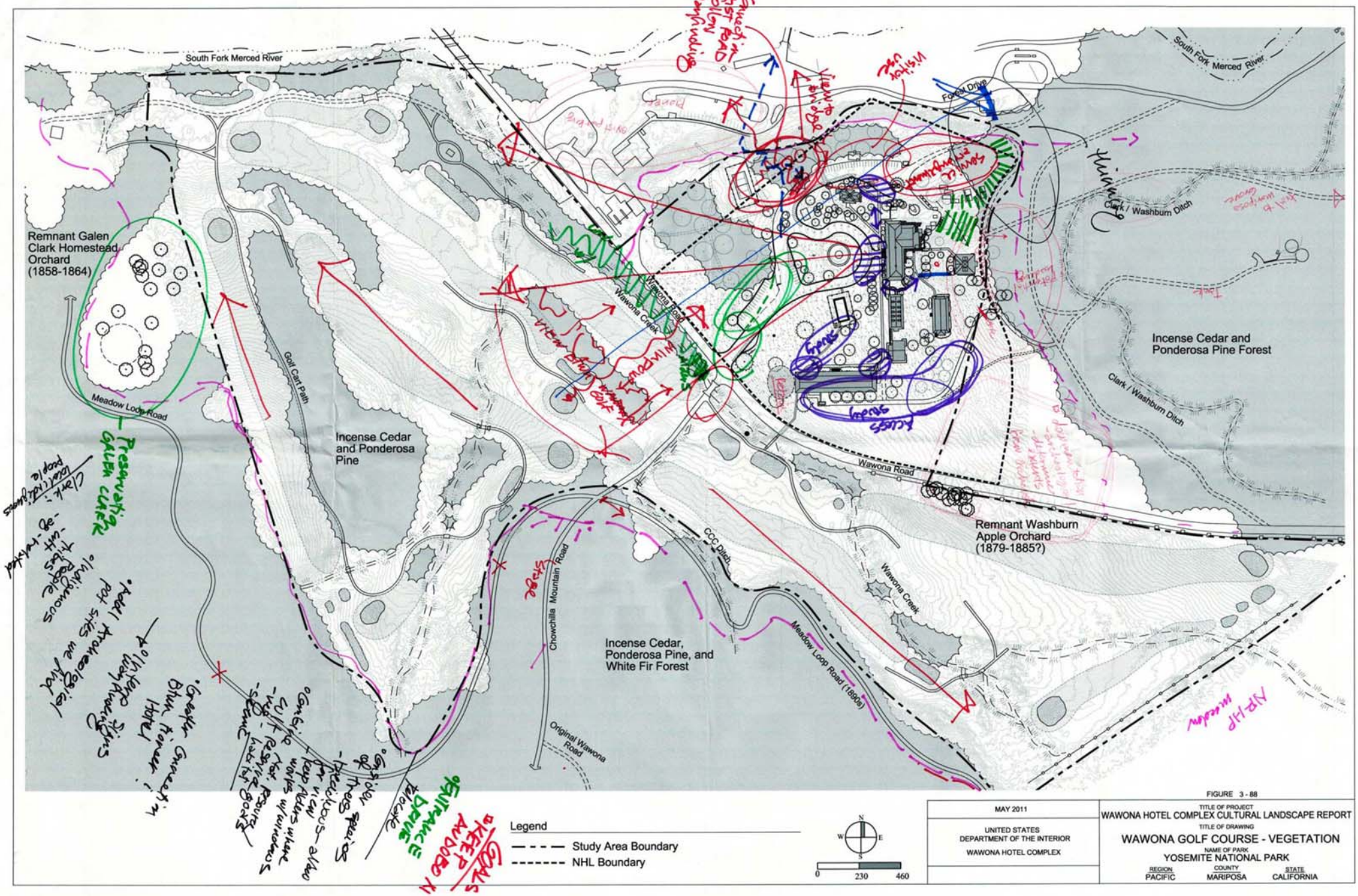
   - Manage vegetation through replacements, in-kind where historically significant and allow certain removals if not historic.
   - Consider selectively thinning forested areas and limb up trees where appropriate for views.

- Consider removing non-historic cobblestone edge for planting beds.
- Use species that meet 'Victorian' intent but that are also hardy, or native or indigenous species.
- Maintain Hops Vines – manage appropriately so they do not re-seed and spread.

5. Next Steps
    - Conference call on Monday, June 13, 2011 to discuss the Period of Significance with HSR.
    - Comments from DNC and NPS due to MB on June 17, 2011.
    - Submit 90% Draft Part 1 and 75% Draft Part 2 CLR on July 8, 2011.

Attachments: Work Session diagram of Treatment Recommendations

end


South Fork Merced River
Remnant Galen Clark Homestead Orchard (1858-1864)
Meadow Loop Road
Golf Cart Path
Incense Cedar and Ponderosa Pine
Wawona Road
Wawona Creek
Incense Cedar and Ponderosa Pine Forest
Clark / Washburn Ditch
Remnant Washburn Apple Orchard (1879-1885?)
CCC Ditch
Chowchilla Mountain Road
Incense Cedar, Ponderosa Pine, and White Fir Forest
Meadow Loop Road (1880s)
Original Wawona Road
Legend
Study Area Boundary
NHL Boundary
0
230
460
FIGURE 3 - 88
MAY 2011
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX
TITLE OF PROJECT
WAWONA HOTEL COMPLEX CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
TITLE OF DRAWING
WAWONA GOLF COURSE - VEGETATION
NAME OF PARK
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
REGION PACIFIC
COUNTY MARIPOSA
STATE CALIFORNIA

Appendix F. Interview with Kim Porter

I N T E R V I E W N O T E S

DATE: June 3, 2011

INTERVIEWER: Robyn Bartling, Mundus Bishop

PROJECT: CIF 5014 Wawona Hotel Complex Cultural Landscape Report

RE: Interview with Wawona Golf Course grounds keeper Kim Porter; Delaware North Companies (DNC)

1) The Wawona Golf Course irrigation system was installed in 1983 when the sanitary sewer treatment facility was installed.
   - The irrigation system, pump house and associated transformer were installed by NPS, Wawona Utilities.
   - The golf course is the sprayfield for the sanitary sewer treatment facility.
   - There is not always enough effluent water to water the golf course. There are also occasions when the sanitary sewer needs to release additional water to the sprayfield (golf course). This usually occurs in the spring. Kim is familiar with conservation practices and how to best utilize the additional water that may need to be released; however, the additional water may mean portions of the course are wetter than others and not playable. Due to these varying conditions, the playability of the golf course varies. Kim and the DNC staff inform golfers of the condition of the course and let them know it is a sustainable golf course and conditions are not always optimal.
   - When water conservation is required they stop watering portions of the golf course based on the amount of conservation required: roughs, fairways, greens, then tees.
   - An irrigation system life span using effluent water is typically 18-23 years. The Wawona Golf Course system is past its life expectancy and is no longer efficient. Many of the parts require continual maintenance and the pipes are heavily corroded. NPS Wawona utilities is responsible for replacing the system. Kim said they are aware the system needs to be replaced.
   - The pump house is operated by NPS Wawona Utilities and is utilized to charge the irrigation system.
   - Prior to installation of the sanitary sewer treatment facility, the irrigation system for the golf course operated from a pump in the South Fork of the Merced River approximately adjacent to the eight hole.

2) Golf cart paths are utilized by golfers; however, many players walk the course.
   - DNC encourages walking the course, but have electric golf carts available.
   - Most of the golf cart paths are natural surface. Where erosion has been an issue, asphalt has been added.

3) The turf grass varieties and management issues are noted below.
   - The greens are a bent grass blend.
   - The tees and fairways are a rye grass blend.
   - The biggest challenges for insects are the management of cut worms. The other challenge is the deer eating the turf down to the roots. Maintenance continually reseeds areas where needed.

4) Forest management is an on-going issue requiring regular maintenance.
   - The surrounding conifer forest continually encroaches into the golf course. Removal of vegetation is an on-going maintenance practice. The Incense Cedars pose the greatest challenge due to their quick establishment.

Appendix G. Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and Environmental Management Practices for Golf Courses

Fact Sheet

PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Biological diversity – defined broadly as the spectacular diversity of life on Earth – is key to the ultimate health and survival of humans and our environment. Preserving that diversity demands protecting and conserving natural resources, on which all life depends. Sustainable resource management, which includes sustainable development, entails using natural resources in ways beneficial to human beings, while maintaining their availability to support biological diversity and continuing human use in the future. Sustainability can be the hallmark of the coming years – if we choose to embrace it over current patterns of consumption and development that pay little heed to the requirements of future generations of life in all forms.

PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In its efforts to promote more sustainable patterns of land use and sustainable resource management, Audubon International recognizes a set of principles embodying the basic tenets we hold crucial for people to move forward toward a more sustainable future. Audubon International's principles form a philosophical foundation by which a community, as well as organizations, families, and individuals within it, may work toward a sustainable future. To that end, Audubon International urges that local and global communities:

- Consider the geographic and ecological contexts in which our actions take place, and at the same time strive to manage resources within the natural limitations and opportunities defined by ecosystems and geographic boundaries.
- Encourage human activities, practices, and land uses that support ecosystems that maintain and enhance biodiversity.
- Encourage resource management practices that have the greatest positive impact on plant and wildlife species, water, and the ecosystems that sustain life.
- Encourage human activities and practices that conserve water and protect or enhance water quality on a local and global basis.
- Strive to use resources that are most easily renewed.
- Strive to eliminate or reduce the use of resources that are difficult or impossible to renew.
- Encourage activities that result in identifying new resources and technologies and enhance our current resource base in ways that will maximize positive impacts on the overall quality of life and the environment.



TURNING PRINCIPLES INTO ACTIONS

Audubon International seeks to encourage and assist community leaders and property owners and managers to turn these principles into good environmental stewardship and sustainable resource management practices. In summary, these practices fall within the following categories:

A. Assess the Natural and Man-made Resources of the Site and Its Surroundings. Before making resource management decisions, it is crucial to understand the characteristics of the site involved, in its regional context.

B. Preserve Wildlife Habitat and Interconnections. Sustaining biological diversity necessarily entails protecting and enhancing habitat for wildlife species and corridors for movement between areas of habitat.

C. Emphasize Natural Landscaping. Sustainable resource management should emphasize landscaping with a variety of materials and resources native to an area, and maintaining them in a natural condition.

D. Conserve and Protect Water. Supplies of clean, pure water are vital to survival of humans and wildlife.

E. Minimize Waste Disposal. The initial goal of waste management must be to use resources efficiently and generate as little waste as possible. The secondary goal must be to reuse and recycle as much as possible from waste materials generated.

F. Maximize Energy Efficiency and Use of Renewable Energy Sources. A sustainable energy future demands that, in the first instance, we use energy resources as efficiently as possible to minimize our consumption of them. Sustainability further requires that we emphasize the use of energy sources that are renewable in less than geologic time spans.

G. Increase Transportation Efficiency. Moving toward a more sustainable future requires that we: expand availability and use of mass public transportation and low-impact non-powered personal transportation; deploy more energy efficient, renewable, and cleaner burning transportation systems and vehicles; better integrate living, work, and recreational areas to reduce sprawl; and rely more on regionally available agricultural products.

H. Build Green. Sustainability demands that we focus on environmentally sound, resource efficient building techniques and technology—whether residential, commercial, or industrial—from design to site orientation, sizing, systems, materials, furnishings, appliances, and landscaping.

I. Preserve and Enhance Regional Agriculture. Sustainable resource management in agriculture depends not only on good environmental stewardship practices in farming operations, but also on protecting prime agricultural areas to maximize regional food self-sufficiency.

J. Design New Communities and New Developments for Sustainability. Good community design, whether for entirely new communities or new developments within existing ones, must pull all of the above threads of sustainability together and integrate them into a unified, sustainable whole.



National Park Service, Yosemite National Park
Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

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