



National Park Service

# Paradise Inn + Annex Restoration

## The Significance Behind Paradise Inn at Mount Rainier National Park

Paradise, with its unsurpassed wildflower meadows and high-mountain recreation has long been a destination for people attracted to Mount Rainier.

- In 1886, early entrepreneurs began providing visitor services at Paradise, including a coffee shop and a tent camp.
- In 1917 the main portion of the Paradise Inn opened, with a second building of guest rooms known as the Annex opening in 1921.
- The two buildings combined along with the Snowbridge that connects the two, are a National Historic Landmark.
- A National Historic Landmark represents an outstanding aspect of American history and culture. Many of the most renowned historic properties in the nation are National Historic Landmarks including; George Washington's Mount Vernon, the Apollo Mission Control Center, Alcatraz, Martin Luther King's Birthplace, and Pearl Harbor. The Paradise Inn and Annex are recognized, along with these other places, as being of exceptional value in representing an important part of our history as a nation.

The Paradise Inn represents a nationally significant solution to creating a hotel architecture that compliments and is appropriate within the natural beauty of the Paradise meadows and Mount Rainier National Park. This rustic architecture combined with careful attention to site design is somewhat whimsically referred to as PARKitecture.

The PARKitecture elements include use of natural materials, such as Alaskan yellow cedar, large native stone combined to create dramatic exterior appearance and unusual interior spaces. The unique silver sheen of the structural timbers is a result of decades of weathering of the fire killed tree before they were harvested for construction of the Inn. The PARKitecture style continues to be emulated in areas around the country.

More resources of information can be found below:

- Learn more about [National Historic Landmarks](#).
- Learn more about [PARKitecture](#) and you can click on Mount Rainier NP to learn more about the specific examples of PARKitecture at the park.
- Additional details are available about Paradise Inn on the [Architecture in the Parks, A National Historic Landmark Theme Study](#) (on-line book) or on [The History of Paradise Inn](#) webpage.