

BLOCK 14

MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

MASTER PLAN

June 2013

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OVERVIEW

Since opening the Interpretive Center in 2004, Manzanar National Historic Site has continued to implement the vision set forth in the 2007 Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LIRP) and the 1996 General Management Plan (GMP). A central aspect of the vision these documents establish is the development of a “demonstration block”—a reconstruction of Block 14 for the purposes of interpreting daily life in a World War II era incarceration center for Japanese and Japanese Americans.

The purpose of this interpretive Master Plan is to articulate themes and objectives for exterior exhibit elements that will be located on the Block, as well as for the interior interpretive exhibits that will be located inside the reconstructed Barracks 1 and 8. This document will assume eventual completion of the central support buildings (men’s and women’s latrines, laundry room, and ironing room). Funding is already in place to fabricate interior interpretive exhibits as well as a total of seven (7) exterior waysides.



INTERPRETIVE CENTER

PROCESS

In June 2011 Denver Service Center contracted with Drisko Studio Architects to develop the site plan for Block 14 which included construction drawings for the barracks and central axis buildings (latrines, laundry room, and ironing room) as well as accessible pathways. As a subcontractor to Drisko Studio, the Office of Krister Olmon (OKO) has collaborated with park personnel and a variety of stakeholders to develop an overall interpretive plan for Block 14 exterior exhibit elements as well as detailed plans for interpretive exhibits inside Barracks 1 and 8. [This DDII exhibit design plan is a separate document.]

Following a community meeting in Los Angeles (February 11, 2012), a mini-Value Analysis facilitated by SiteTek Financial Arts, Inc. at Manzanar (March 27-29, 2012), and ongoing consultation with park staff, OKO has refined an approach to interpretive site features that fulfill a variety of functions:

- **Building Identification Signs**, in particular individual markers for each barracks within Block 14.
- **Contextual Site Elements**, such as the existing truck, crates, and exterior photo mural at the Mess Hall.
- **Interpretive Nodes**, such as the Block 14 welcome panel and overview located at the northeast corner of the Interpretive Center, and a series of nodes designed as "pull-outs" along the accessible pathway.
- **Historic Landscape Features**, such as a small garden or lawn located on the west side of Barracks 8, and enhanced visibility of the wading pool, basketball court, and play structures.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

As implementation of the General Management Plan unfolds in stages—and as funding becomes available—it is important to delineate between existing and future conditions.

Extant Structures and Hardscaping

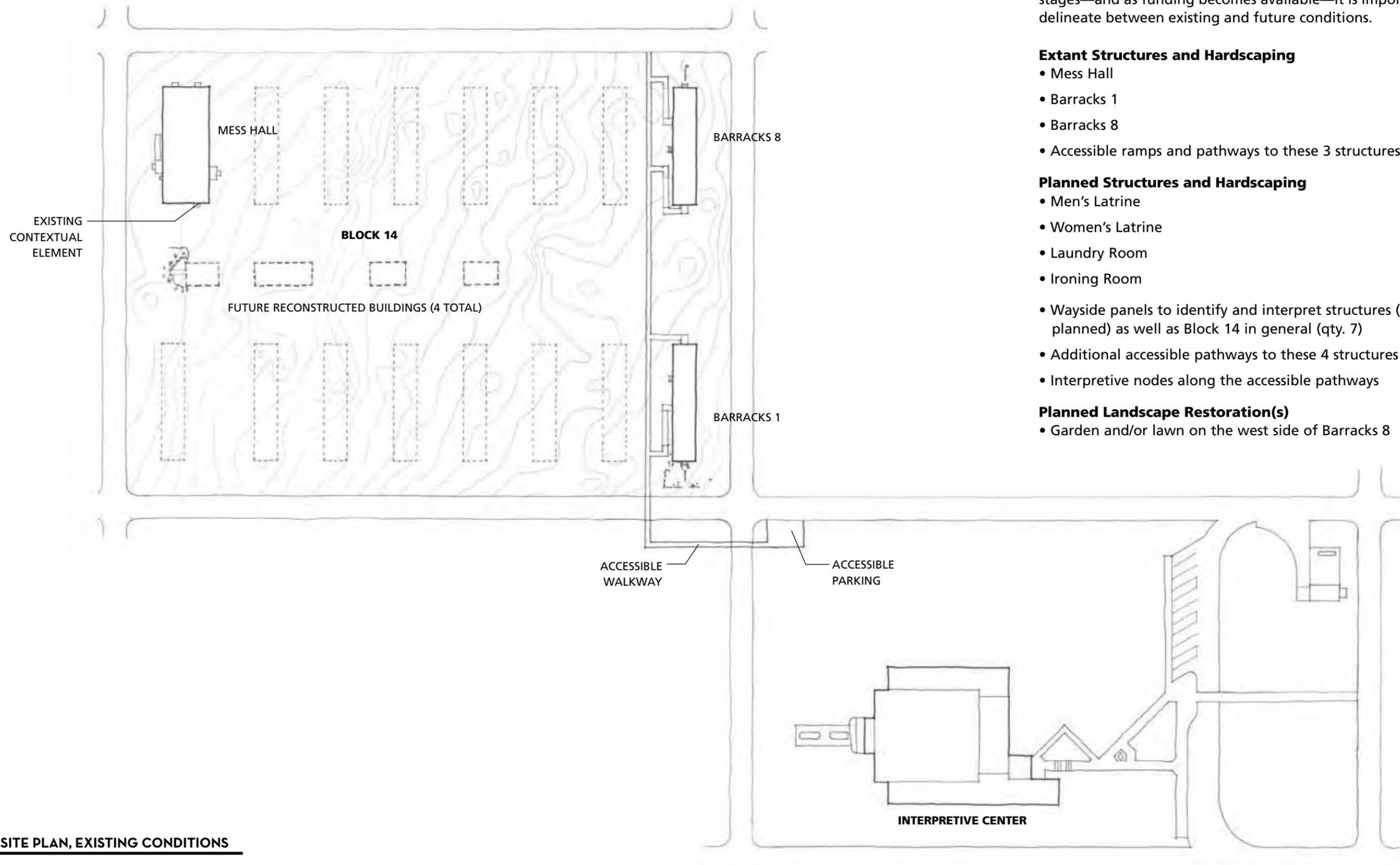
- Mess Hall
- Barracks 1
- Barracks 8
- Accessible ramps and pathways to these 3 structures

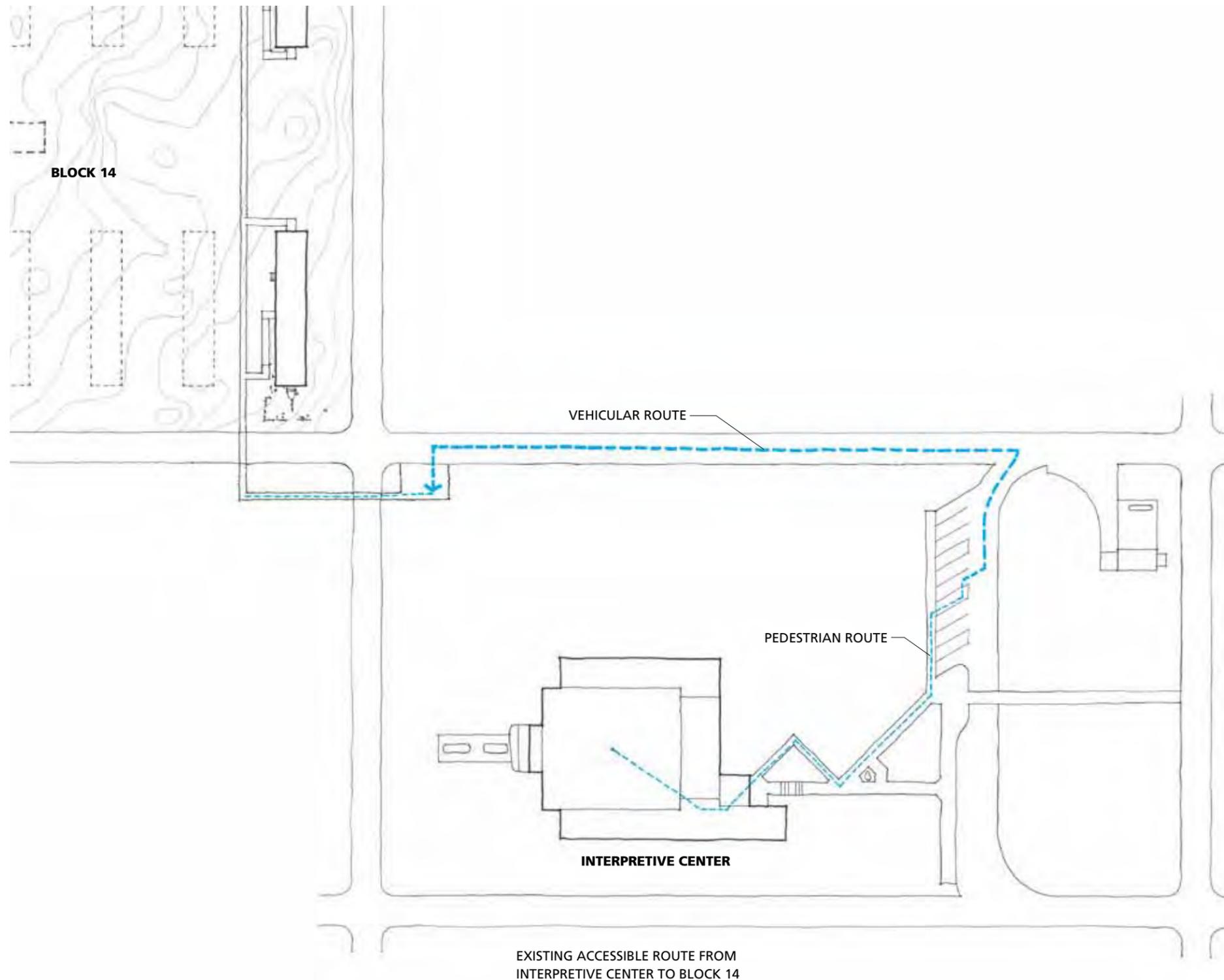
Planned Structures and Hardscaping

- Men's Latrine
- Women's Latrine
- Laundry Room
- Ironing Room
- Wayside panels to identify and interpret structures (extant and planned) as well as Block 14 in general (qty. 7)
- Additional accessible pathways to these 4 structures as well
- Interpretive nodes along the accessible pathways

Planned Landscape Restoration(s)

- Garden and/or lawn on the west side of Barracks 8





VISITOR ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE

Since the inception of the park, promoting a particular sense of arrival has been important to numerous shareholders. Accordingly, park visitors enter via the historic road at the sentry post, park their cars or disembark from buses at some distance from the historic auditorium and current interpretive center, and walk across an often windy and possibly dusty expanse before beginning their tours. The goal is to evoke the sense of desolation and exposure to the elements that greeted Japanese Americans arriving in early spring and summer 1942.

Although new landscaping designed by Dennis Otsuji will provide a greater sense of welcome, the basic arrival sequence remains the same. As more features are added to the site—such as a full reconstruction of Block 14—visitors will have more options for self-guided tours, and consequently, there will be a greater variety of arrival sequences for encountering and exploring Block 14.

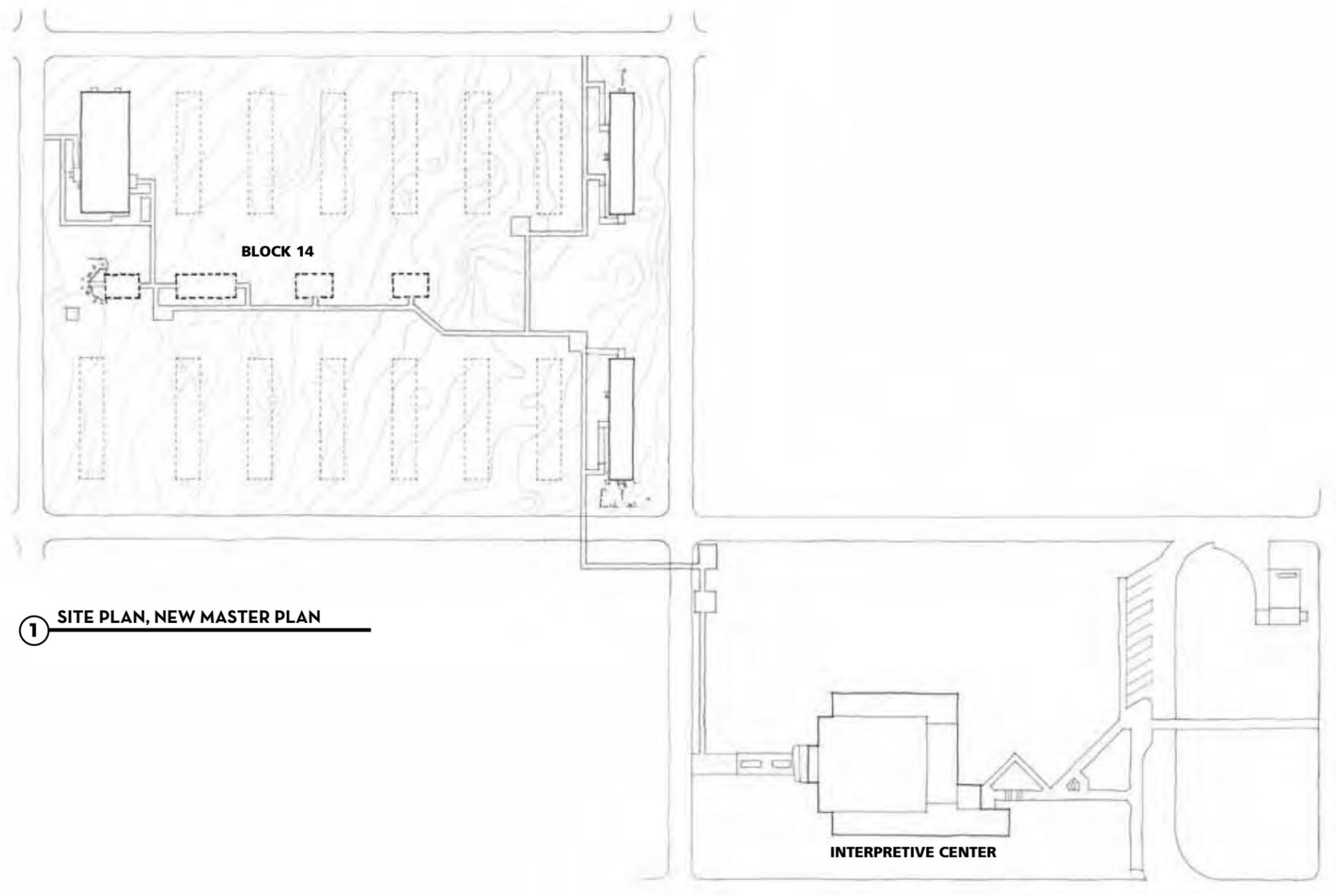
Approaches to Block 14 may include:

- By auto tour
- By foot from rear of Interpretive Center
- By foot from main parking lot in front of the Interpretive Center
- By wheelchair from accessible parking area
- By school bus driving auto tour

Given this range of arrival experiences, the proposed site planning for Block 14 pathways and exterior exhibit elements includes an initial gathering and orientation spot, located adjacent to the northwest corner of the auditorium. Nearby, two accessible parking spots will accommodate visitors using wheelchairs.

Accessible pathways

As more features are added on the site, the responsibility to provide fully accessible pathways becomes even more apparent. This requirement is recognized as a significant design criteria for Block 14 master planning.



PRIMARY GOALS

- Implement the vision set forth in the GMP to develop contextual, interpretive, and way-finding exhibit elements on Block 14 such that visitors experience and encounter facets of daily life in Manzanar on their own or in ranger-led groups.
- Draw upon primary source materials (such as the extensive oral history collection at MNHS and other institutions) to reflect the divisions within—and diversity of—the Japanese and Japanese Americans—citizen and alien (foreign national), young and old, male and female, *Kibei* and *Nisei*—who were incarcerated at Manzanar from 1942 to 1945.
- Develop exhibit materials so that visitors may explore Block 14, the Mess Hall, and the Interpretive Center in any sequence, yet discover pleasing and mutually supporting echoes and relationships between the three interpretive exhibit experiences.
- Develop interpretive exhibits that leave a minimal imprint on the historic landscape while supporting self-guided and guided tours alike. This is in keeping with key findings of the Value Analysis:

"Some of the most important advantages of this alternative are: least impact on cultural landscape, best preserves the view shed and least archaeological impact."

PRIMARY THEMES

- "One Camp: Ten Thousand Lives, Ten Thousand Stories"—Daily Life in Camp, Multiple Perspectives
- "Change Over Time"—Changing Conditions
- "Never Again"—Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

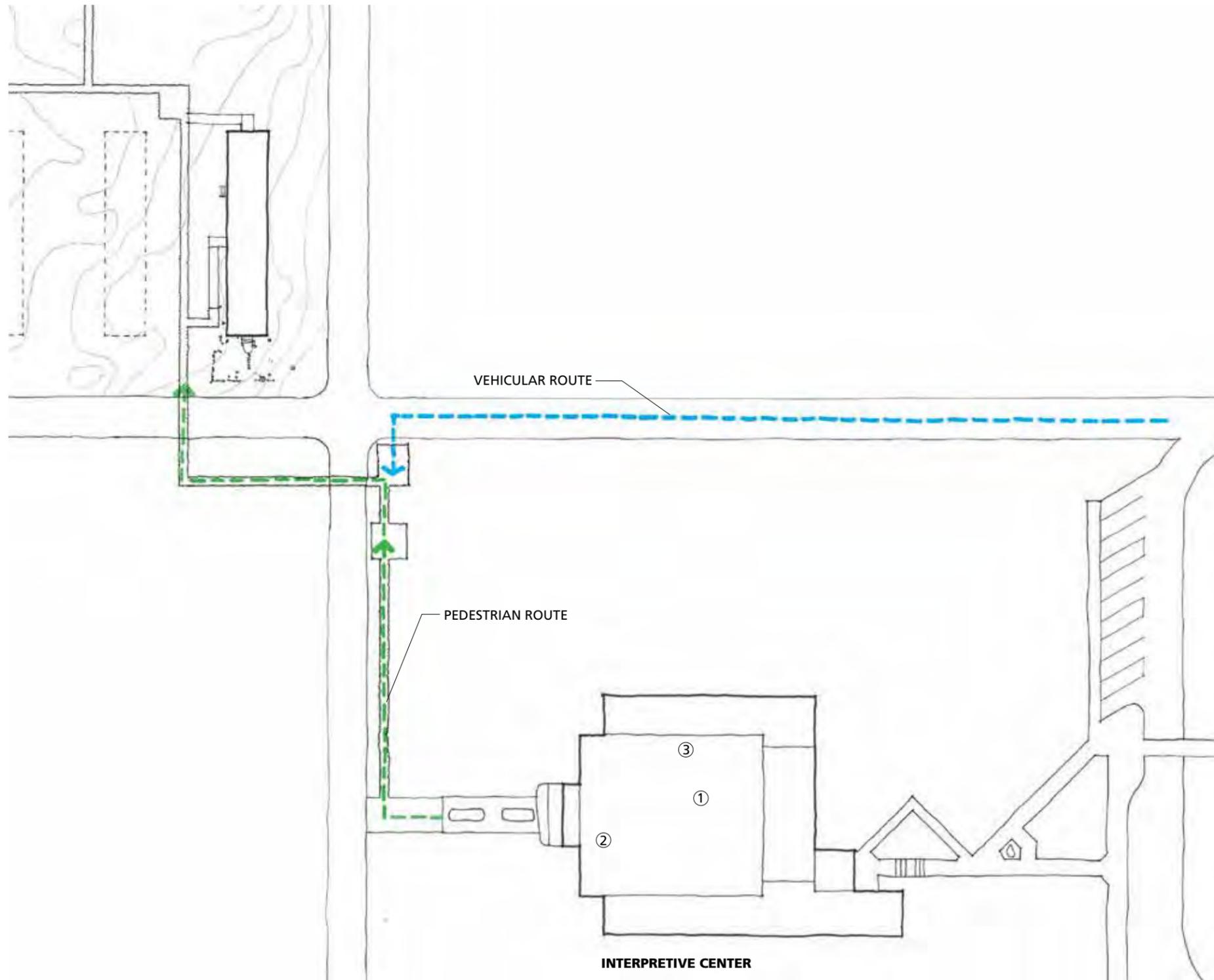
PRIMARY DESIRED VISITOR OUTCOMES

- Enhance the visitor experience and understanding of the site each step of the way.
- Support the visitor's ability to explore the site independently, confidently, intuitively, and safely.
- Provide safe, engaging, and intuitive access to the site's interpretive resources and features for all visitors.

1 SITE PLAN, NEW MASTER PLAN

Blocks 8 and 14, located immediately to the west of the auditorium, would be designated as "demonstration" blocks. The corners of all structures in these blocks would be marked, and waysides would explain the design, function, and family-living implications of each of the structures, including barracks, mess halls, latrines, laundry rooms, etc. One or more barracks would be relocated or reconstructed in this area. The intervening "firebreak", or dead space, would also be interpreted and its function explained. Uses made of the firebreak, e.g. for sports activities, would be interpreted.

—General Management Plan, 1996



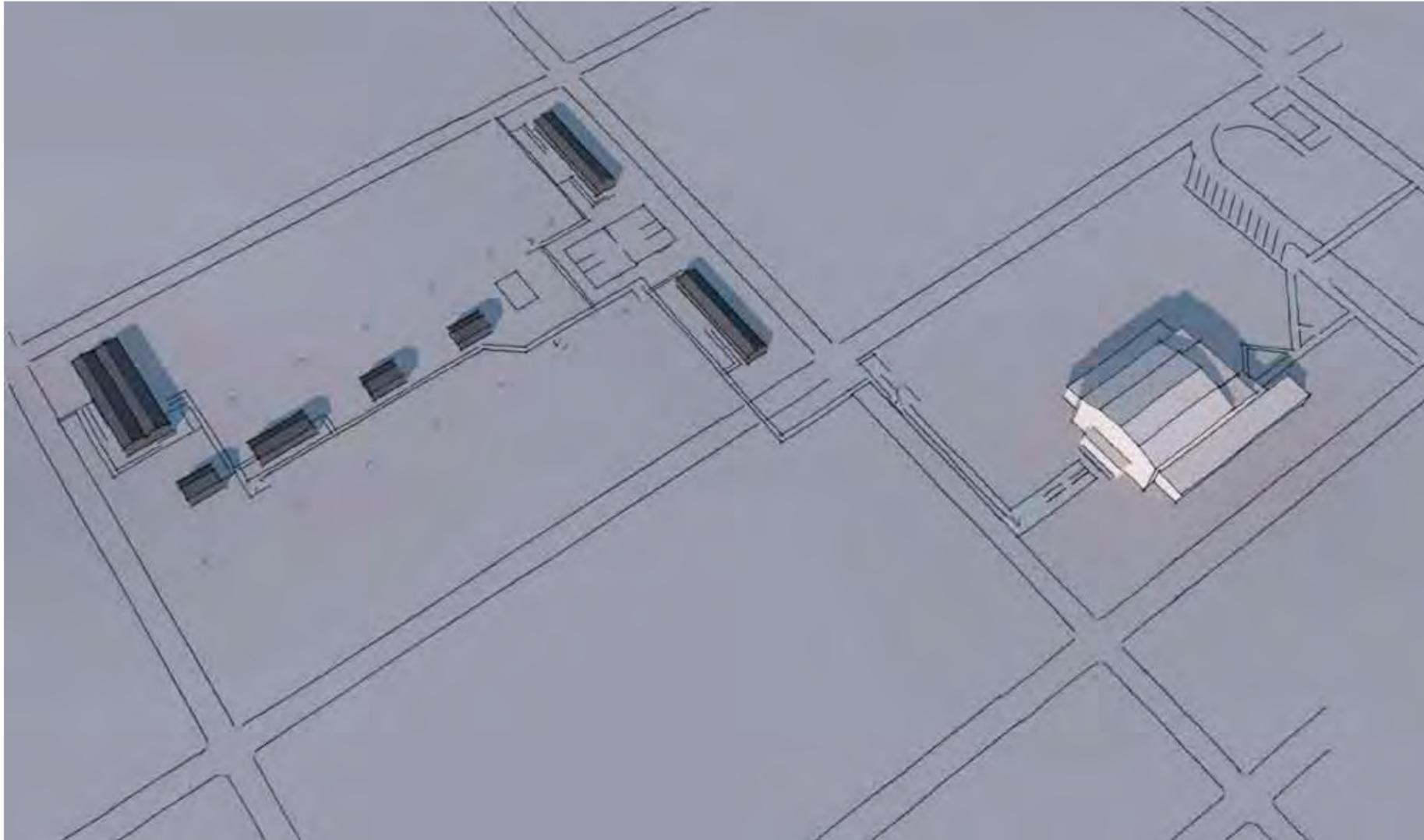
① NEW ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

INTERPRETIVE CENTER/BLOCK 14 VISITOR EXPERIENCE INTEGRATION

A number of adjustments to the Interpretive Center exhibits should be explored to heighten awareness of the interpretive experiences available within Block 14, as well as to enhance the sightline from within the auditorium, through the western exterior doors and out onto the camp landscape. These should include:

1. Changing the backlit transparency on the rear of the icon panel in the Community Section to include a clear call to action to visit Block 14.
2. Altering the large wall panel in exhibit 13 (in the southwest corner), which is now an atmospheric graphic (an aerial illustration of the camp), to function as an introduction to the Block 14 exhibits.
3. Adding an invitation to tour the Barracks, Mess Hall, and Block 14 exhibits to the Interpretive Center barracks exhibits, which already contrast 1942/1945 living conditions, and which include a reference to the WRA pamphlet "How a Barracks Becomes a Home."

Stepping out the west exit, visitors see the Site Overview Node. This interpretive and orientation point, at the end of the plaza off the rear Interpretive Center exit, will help draw visitors out of the building and toward the Block 14 exhibits. An accessible pathway connects the Interpretive Center to Block 14, with further orientation points easily visible along the way. Using this route obviates the need for visitors to return to the parking lot, get in their cars, drive a short distance, park and disembark near Barracks 1.

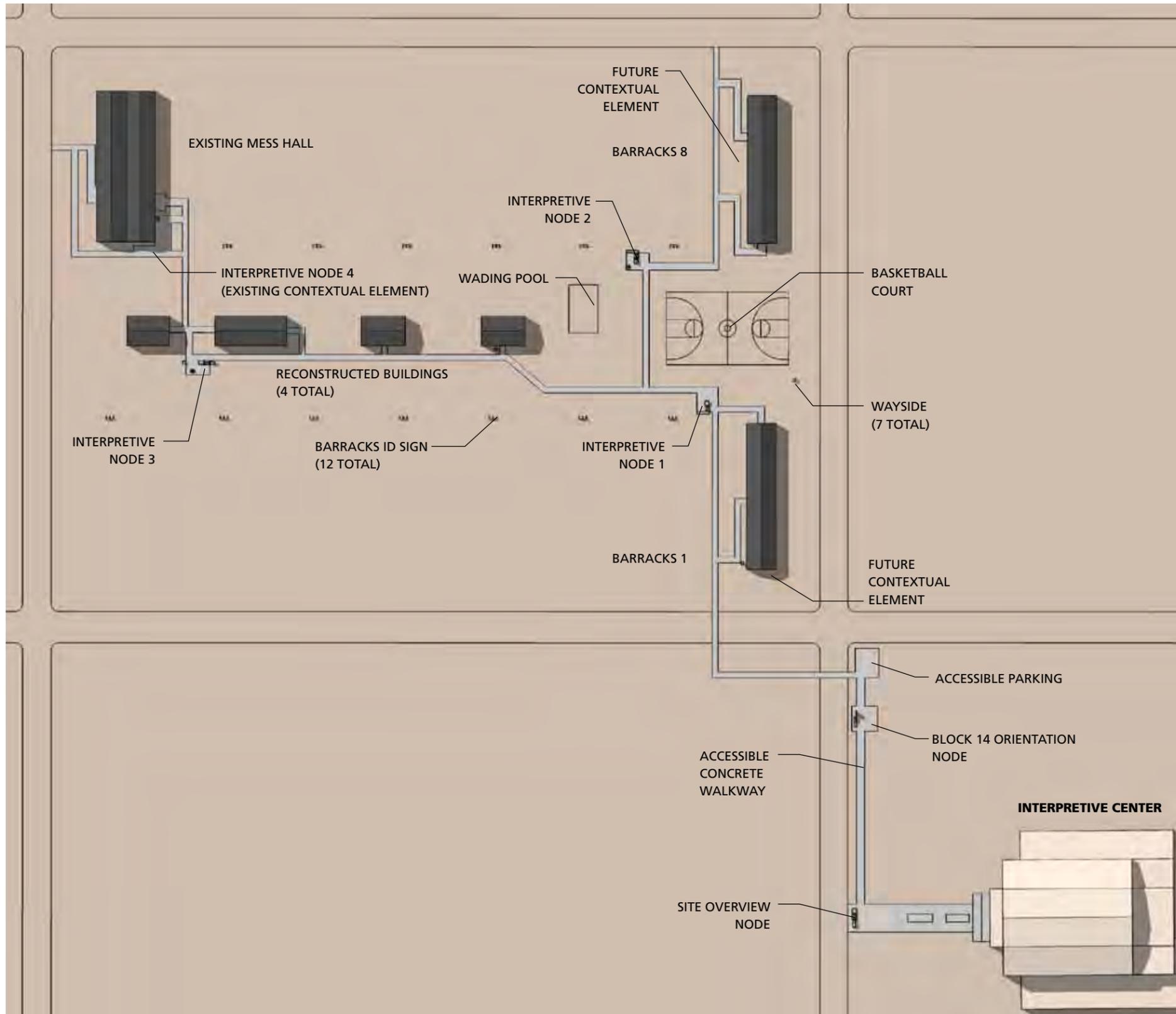


BLOCK 14 MASTER PLAN

The following theme statements provide the basis for interpretation at Manzanar National Historic Site:

1. The internment of Japanese Americans resulted from a complex mix of economic, political, and social factors, fueled by war hysteria and prejudice.
2. Manzanar's history has been defined to a large extent by the availability, use, and control of water.
3. The history of Manzanar chronicles the settlement and ways of life of diverse communities and their eventual displacement by forces beyond their control.
4. Manzanar's World War II history is not a single story, but a mosaic of the individual experiences of internees, WRA staff, Military Police, and local residents, each based on diverse backgrounds.
5. Since 1969, Manzanar's history has been characterized by the grassroots struggle of Japanese Americans and others to preserve the place, its stories, and its lessons.

— Long-Range Interpretive Plan, 2007



BLOCK 14 COMPONENTS

Interpretive features addressed within this Master Plan include:

- Concrete walkways
- 1 Site orientation node
- 4 Block 14 interpretive nodes

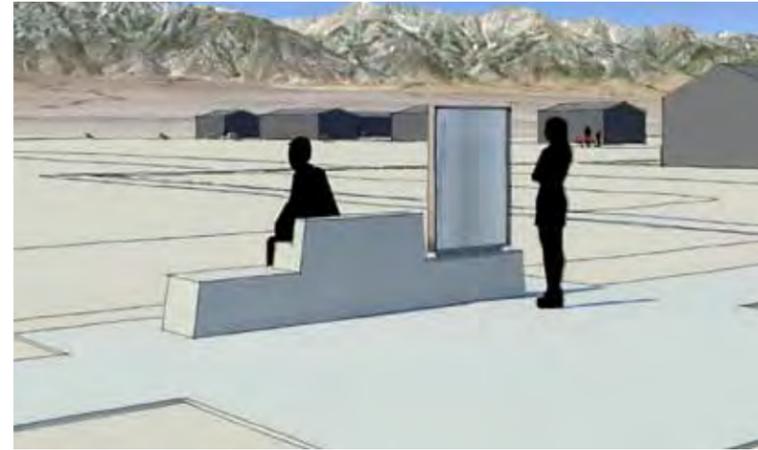
Potential Node Topics identified in VA

1. Block 14 model
2. CyArk camera
3. Block photo
4. Discovery trail
5. Changing landscape
6. Personalities on the block (Nagano / others)
7. Oral histories
8. Personalizing "homes"
9. Water tap orientation
10. Recreation hall
11. Oil tank
12. Fire break
13. Movie theater
14. Beyond Block 14
15. Permit to leave camp
16. Camp infrastructure (water, sewer, power)
17. Passing time—age difference

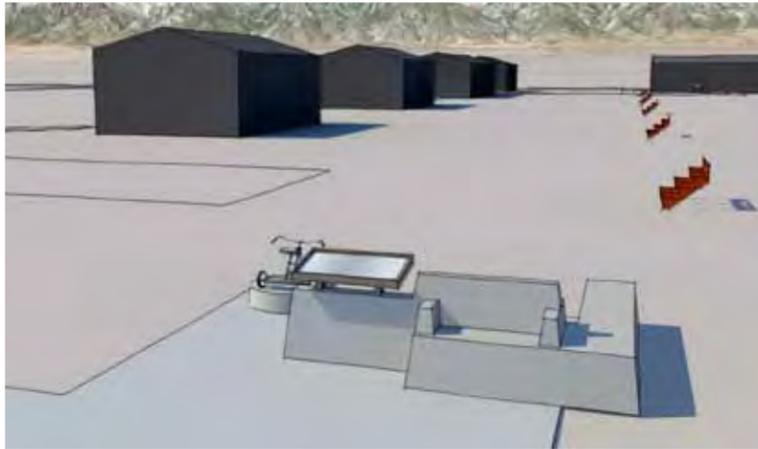
- 4 Recreated historic structures
 - Men's Latrine
 - Women's Latrine
 - Laundry
 - Ironing
- 14 Barracks identification signs
- Exterior contextual interpretation
- 7 Block 14 wayside panels



1 Site Overview



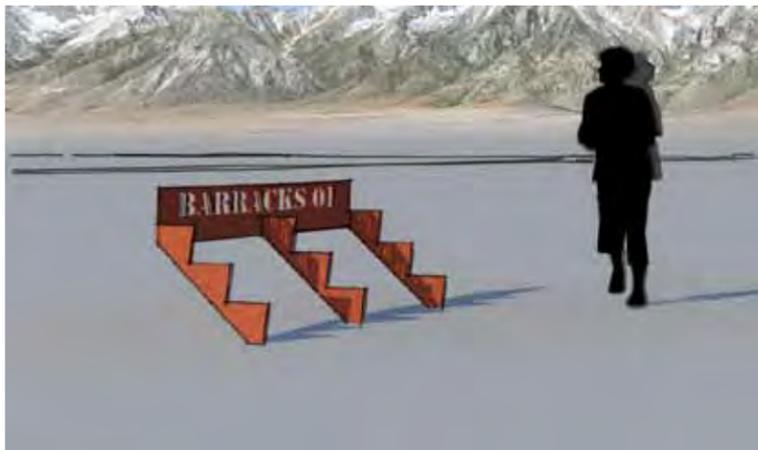
2 Block 14 Orientation Node



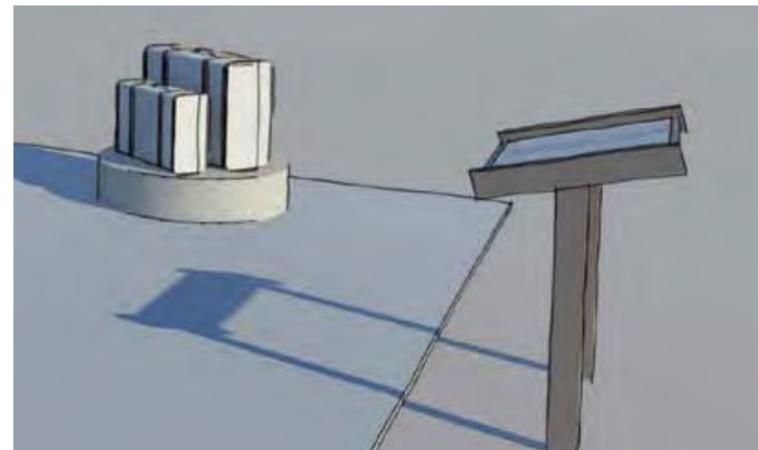
3 Interpretive Node



4 Contextual Site Elements



5 Barracks ID Signs



6 Waysides

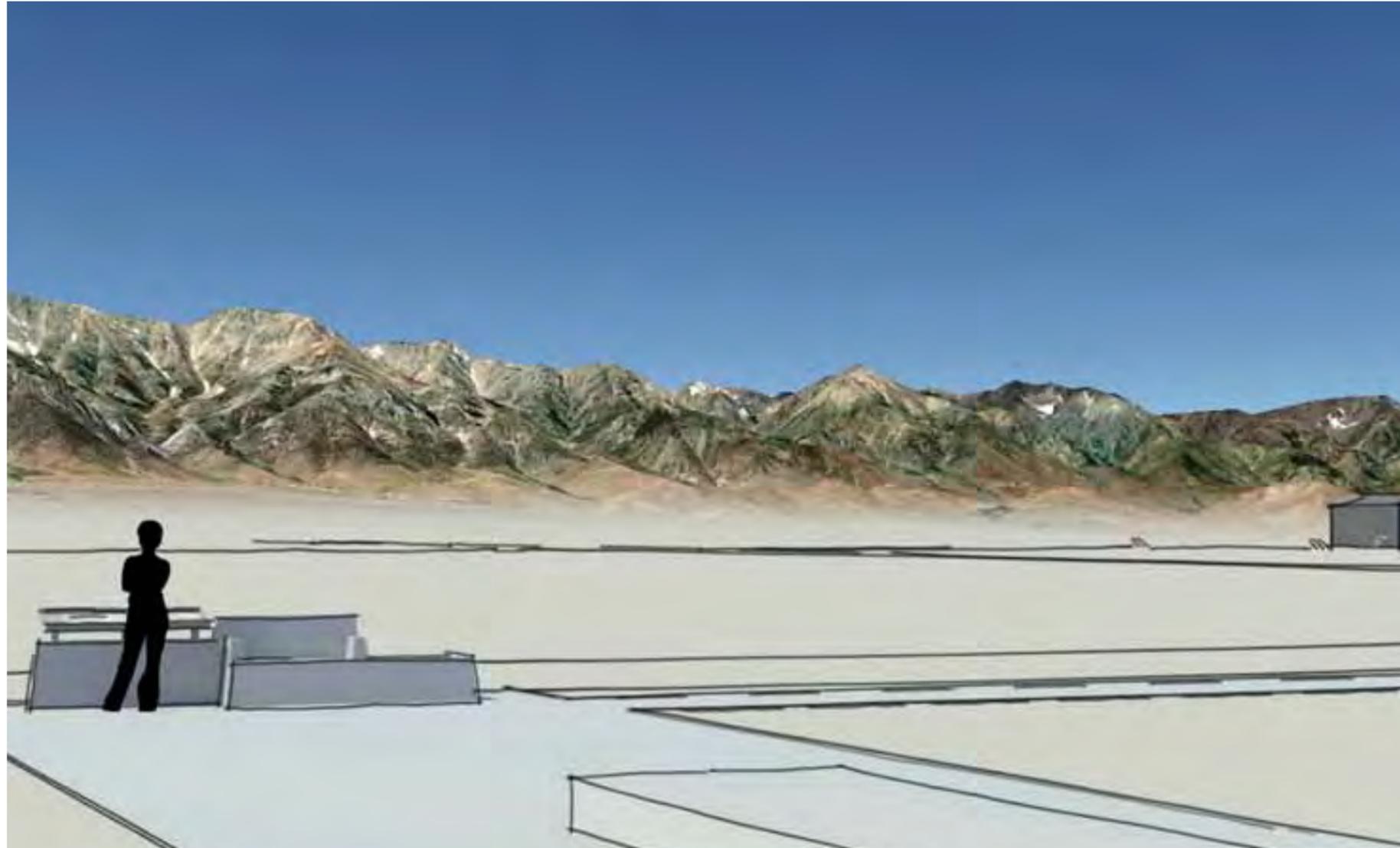
BLOCK 14 DESIGN APPROACH

The design approach for the Block 14 exterior elements furthers the direction determined at the Value Analysis: *Minimize the visual impact on the historic view shed.*

Concrete walkways are a necessary addition to ensure accessibility. As per development by Drisko Studios, the concrete walkways will be tinted to decrease the visual impact of the walkways on the site.

Exterior Orientation and Interpretation is concentrated at node points along the concrete walkways, insuring accessibility and creating an organizing structure and a consistent vocabulary to help define and separate the modern additions from the resource. The nodes incorporate benches and interpretive components at each location into a simple, combined site element. Benches and bases are constructed of concrete colored to match the concrete walkway.

Opportunities for contextual interpretation, following the precedent of the Mess Hall exterior elements, should be confined to locations closely associated with structures.



SITE OVERVIEW NODE

An interpretive orientation “node” located outside the rear exit from the interpretive center will welcome visitors to Manzanar in general and Block 14 in particular.

The orientation purpose of this feature will be:

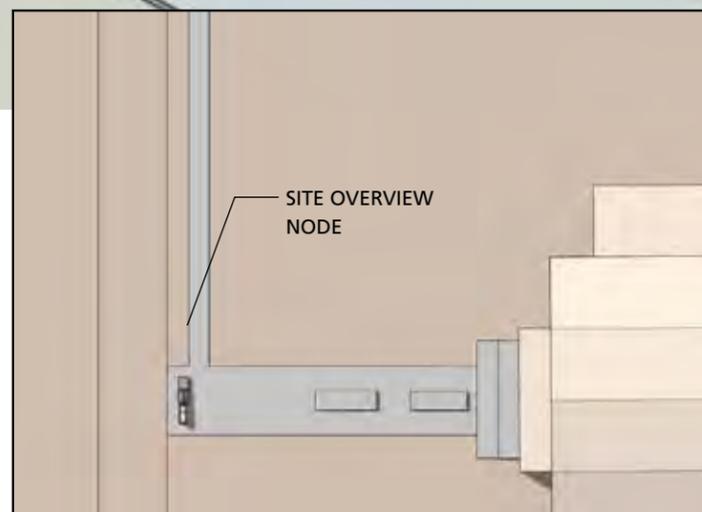
- To provide a focal point for ranger-led groups
- To introduce options for touring the site
 - Block 14 by foot and wheelchair
 - Auto tour of the entire camp by car
 - Interpretive center exhibits and film

The thematic purpose of this feature will be:

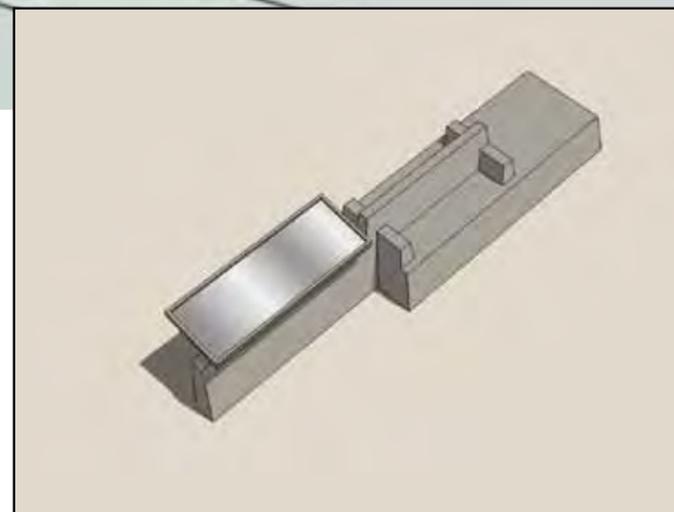
- To invite visitors to begin their journey of imagining what daily life in camp was like;
- To communicate the scale, density, and army-style layout and construction of Manzanar War Relocation Center;
- To introduce examples of the archeological evidence that visitors will be able to discover on their own in Block 14 and throughout the historic site.

The design intent of this feature will be:

- To establish a series of interpretive nodes that help visitors perceive the site as a reflection of daily life in camp;
- To establish a design vocabulary for exterior exhibit elements that are not themed to appear as if they existed in 1942–1945.



KEY PLAN



INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT / BENCH





BLOCK 14 ORIENTATION NODE

A thematic orientation panel located near the southeast corner of Block 14 identifies its major structures (both historic and reconstructed), invites visitors to explore on their own, and specifically identifies the Mess Hall, Barracks 1, and Barracks 8 as fully accessible, interpretive exhibit facilities. From this vantage point, the fire break, paving stones once associated with barracks stairs on the southern end, and the “rest of camp” are features of the view shed that merit interpretation.

The orientation purpose of this feature will be:

- To welcome visitors to the Block 14 demonstration block.

The thematic purpose of this feature will be:

- To invite visitors to consider the layout, extent, and population density of a typical Manzanar block;
- To identify typical features of all blocks;
- To provide visitors with clues to reading the landscape on their own, at other blocks, and throughout the site, whether they tour it on foot or by car.

The design intent of this feature will be:

- To establish a hierarchy within the series of interpretive nodes, such that this one stands out as a welcome to Block 14, by virtue of the vertical panel;
- To aggregate interpretation along the accessible pathways to promote universal design and to prevent and protect the historic view shed.
- To provide visitors with a “kit of parts” understanding of the site:

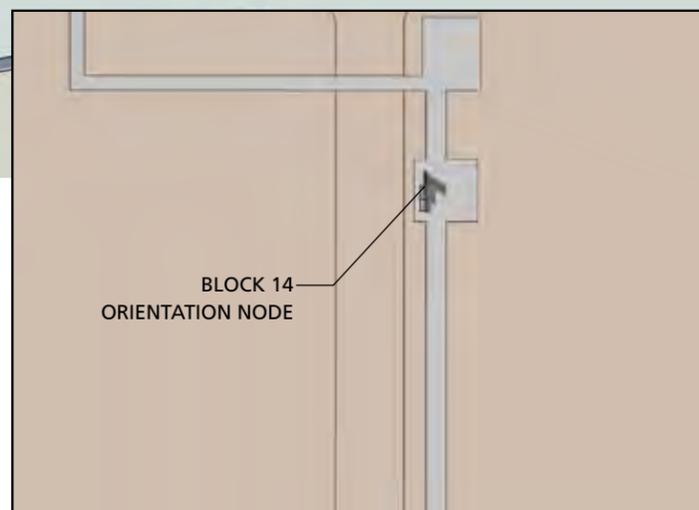
2 families = 1 apartment
(spring and summer 1942)

4 apartments = 1 barracks

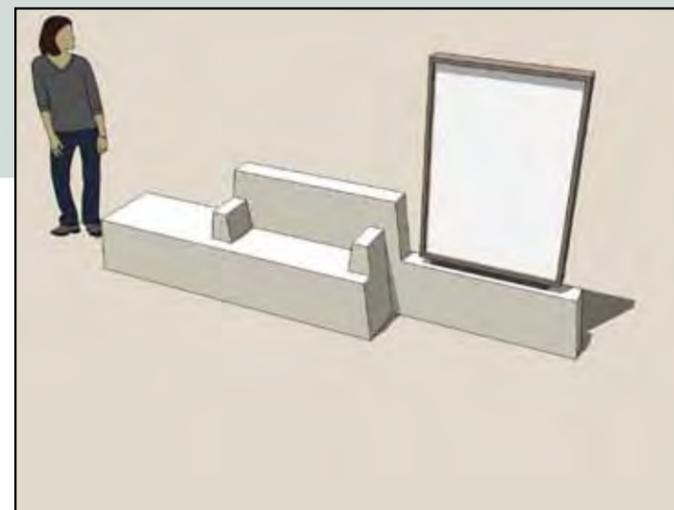
14 barracks, 2 latrines, 1 mess hall,
1 rec hall, 1 laundry room,
1 ironing room = 1 block

36 blocks = 1 war relocation
center

10 war relocation centers =
wartime incarceration of
120,000 people.

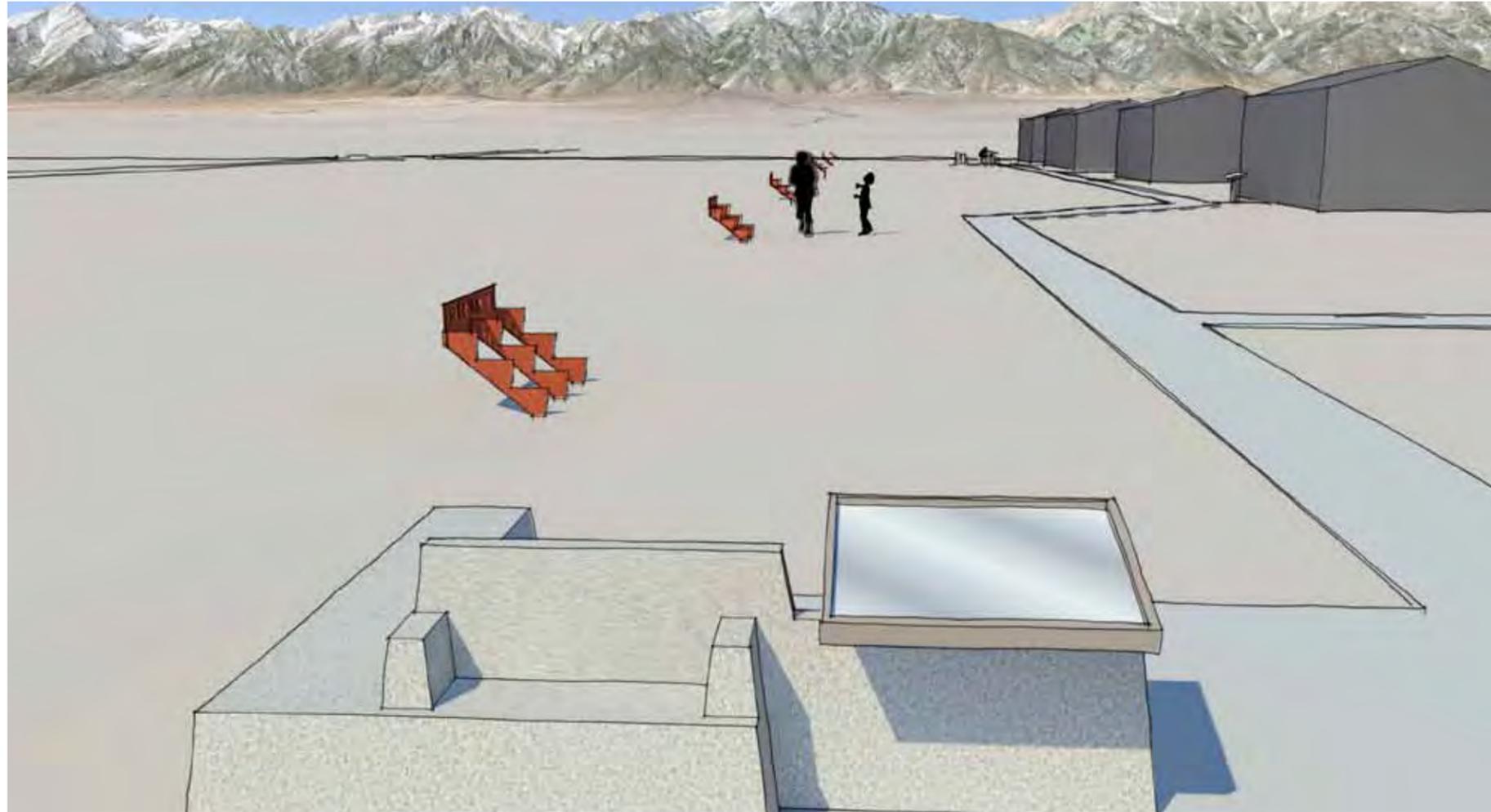


KEY PLAN



ORIENTATION ELEMENT / BENCH





INTERPRETIVE NODE 1

Community Life in a Block (View toward Barracks 2 through 7)

Located near the southwest corner of the basketball court, and adjacent to the entrance to the Block Manager's office exhibits in Barracks 1, this interpretive node is ideally suited to interpret community and neighborhood life in Block 14.

The orientation purpose of this feature will be:

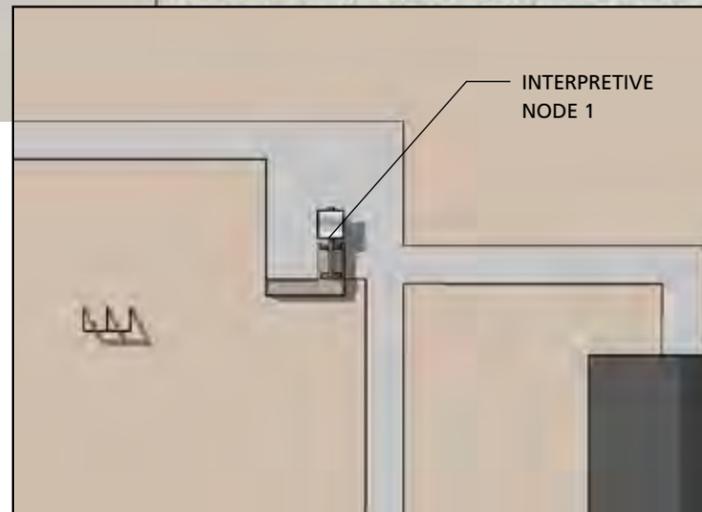
- To identify Barracks 2 through 7;
- To invite visitors to explore the interpretive exhibits in the Mess Hall and Barracks 1 and 8.

The thematic purpose of this feature will be:

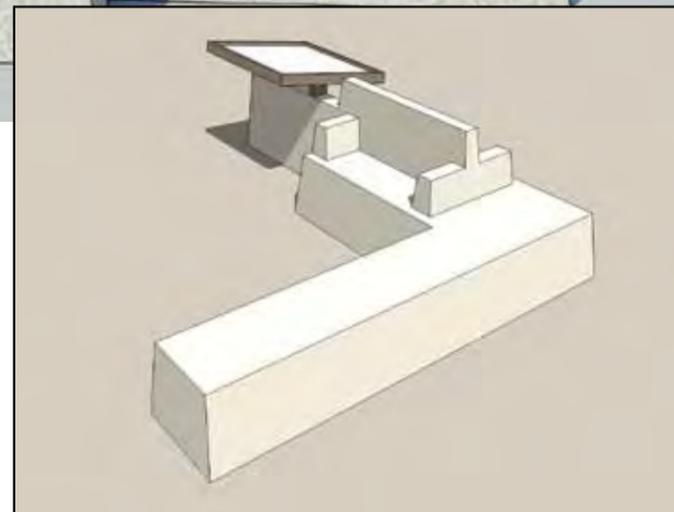
- To interpret community and neighborhood life in a typical block.

The design intent of this feature will be:

- To continue the established hierarchy of interpretive nodes, such that this one reads as one of a series of four nodes that support the site overview node near the interpretive center and the Block 14 welcome node;
- To aggregate interpretation along the accessible pathways to promote universal design and to prevent protect the historic view shed.

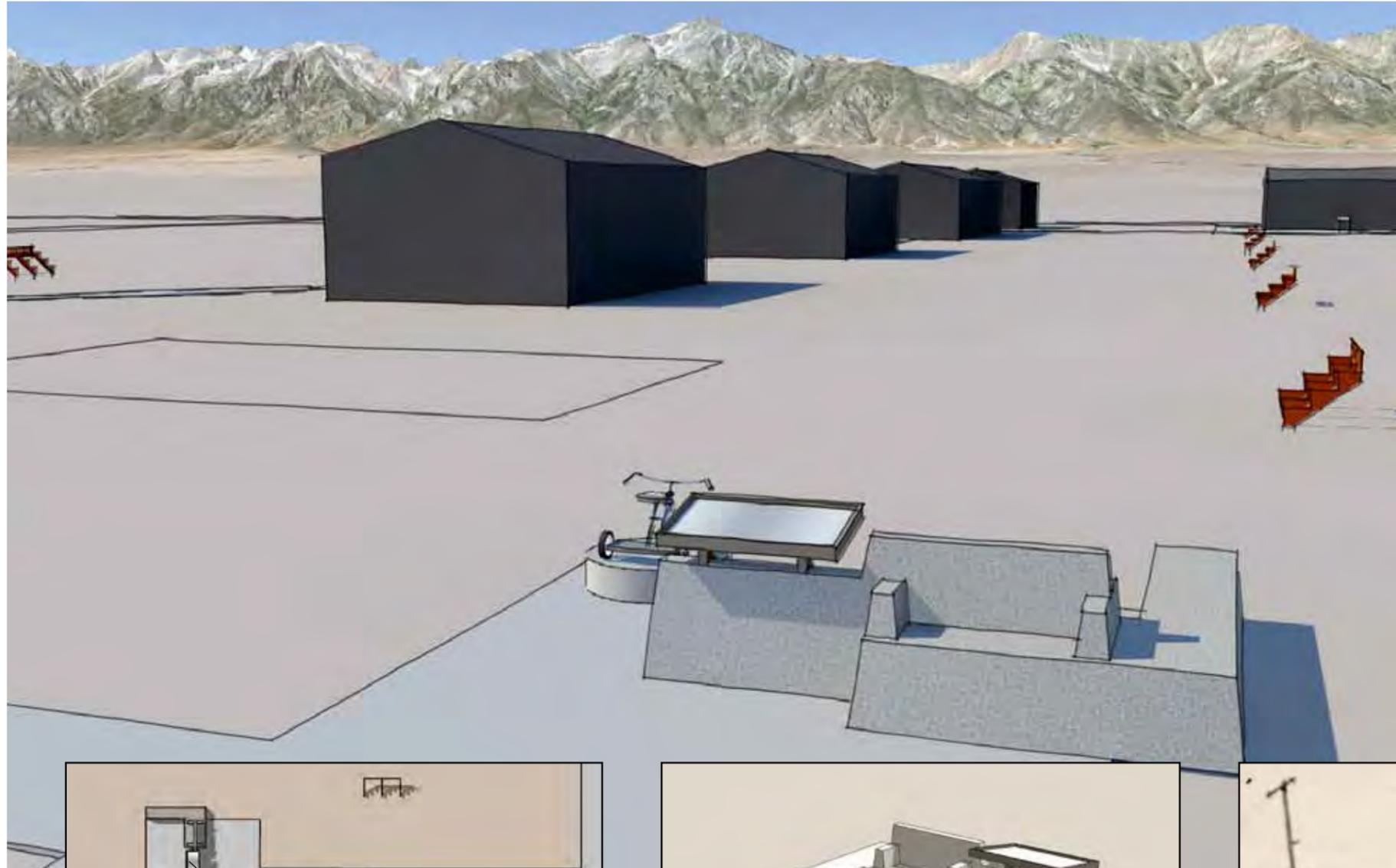


KEY PLAN



INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT / BENCH





INTERPRETIVE NODE 2

Central Axis Node

Located near the southwest corner of the basketball court, and adjacent to the entrance to the Block Manager's office exhibits in Barracks 1, this interpretive node is ideally suited to focus on several features built by Japanese Americans to improve the landscape and mitigate the tedium of life in camp. The basketball court, wading pool, swing set, and slide will be featured in this context.

The orientation purpose of this feature will be:

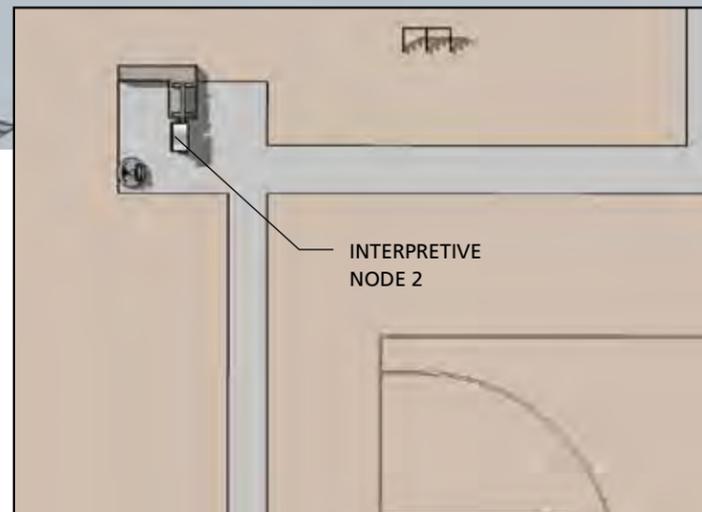
- To orient visitors to the central (East-West) axis of a typical block's support buildings, in a manner that makes sense both before and after they are reconstructed.

The thematic purpose of this feature will be:

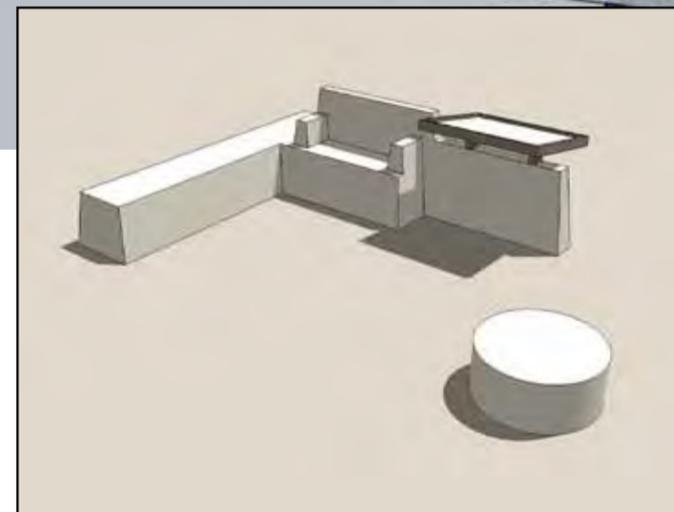
- To interpret numerous landscape features built by Japanese Americans to improve daily and community life in camp, including the basketball court, wading pool, play structures, and gardens.

The design intent of this feature will be:

- To continue the established hierarchy of interpretive nodes, such that this one reads as one of a series of four nodes that support the site overview node near the interpretive center and the block 14 welcome node
- To aggregate interpretation along the accessible pathways to promote universal design and to prevent and protect the historic view shed.

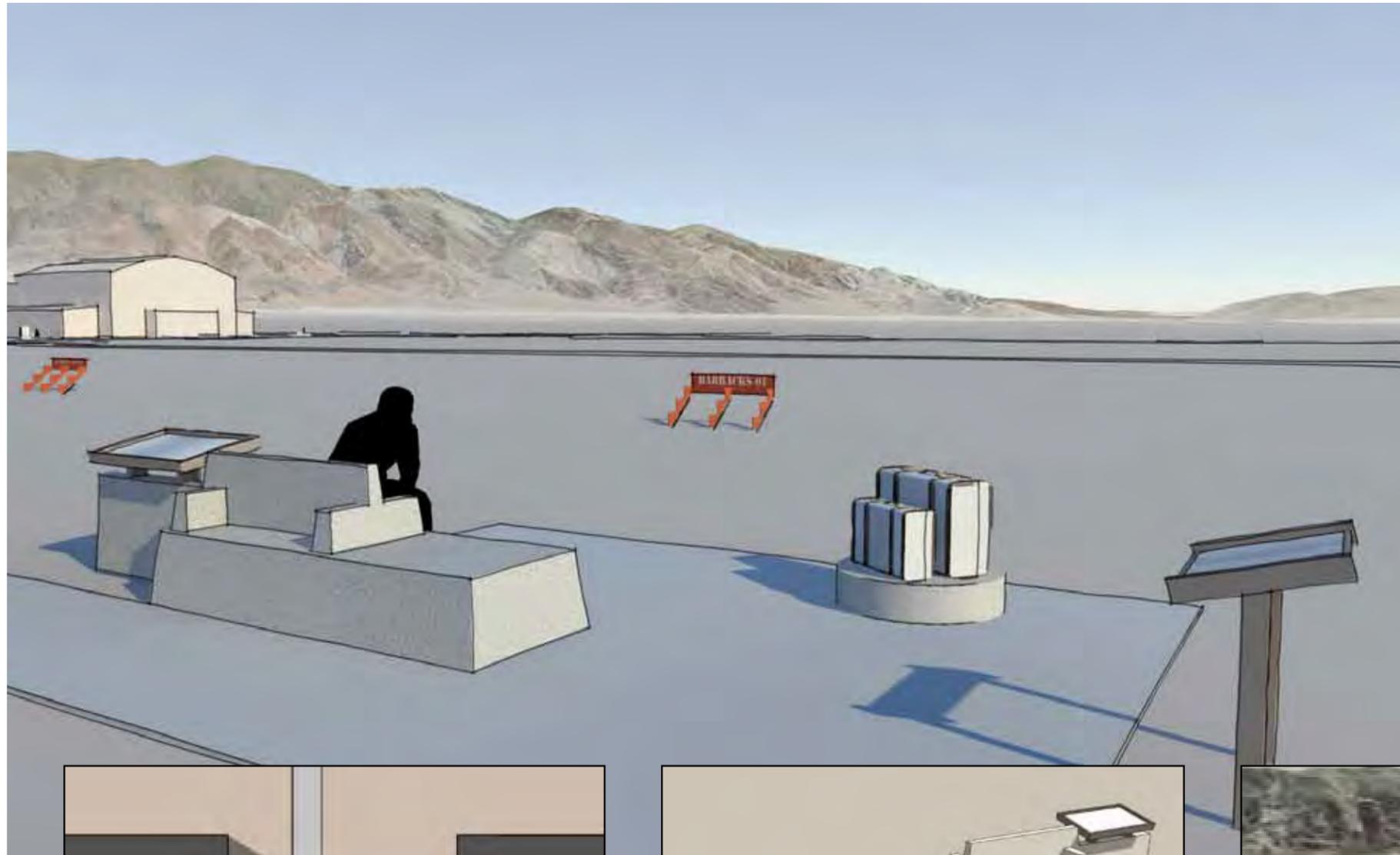


KEY PLAN



INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT / BENCH





INTERPRETIVE NODE 3

Located near the southwest corner of Block 14, and close to the entrance to the Mess Hall interpretive exhibits, this interpretive node is ideally suited to focus on the scale of Manzanar when it reached its peak population in September 1942. The views south and west of Block 14 may be presented through CyArk visualizations to support this interpretation.

The orientation purpose of this feature will be:

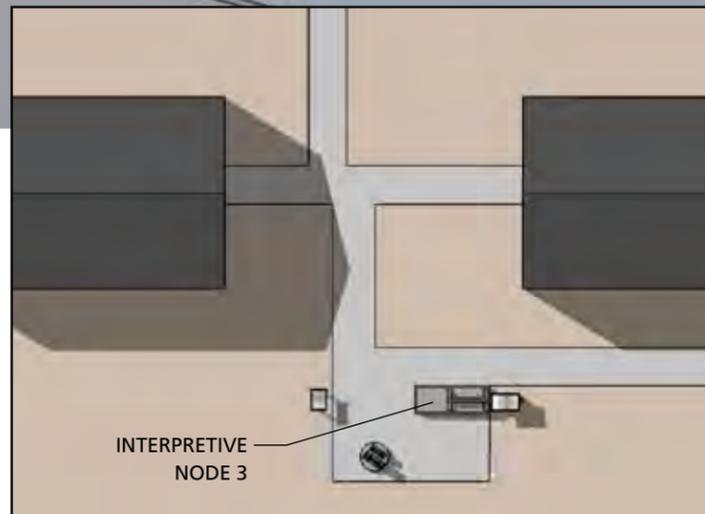
- To orient visitors to the rest of camp.

The thematic purpose of this feature will be:

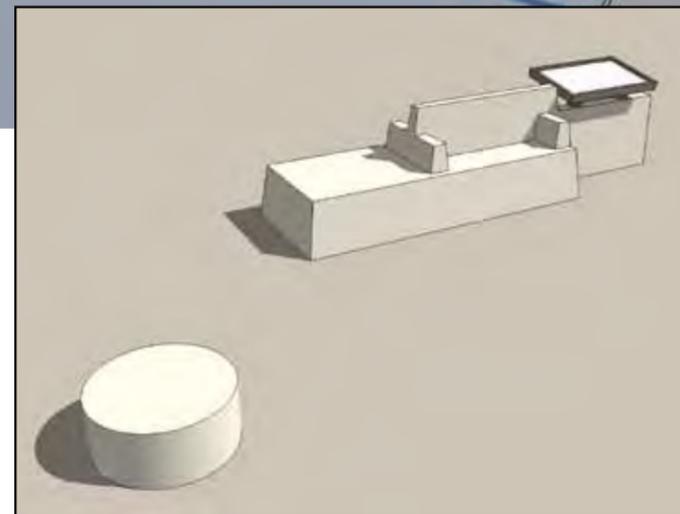
- To interpret the scale, extent, and population density of Manzanar.

The design intent of this feature will be:

- To continue the established hierarchy of interpretive nodes, such that this one reads as one of a series of four nodes that support the site overview node near the interpretive center and the block 14 welcome node
- To aggregate interpretation along the accessible pathways to promote universal design and to prevent and protect the historic view shed.

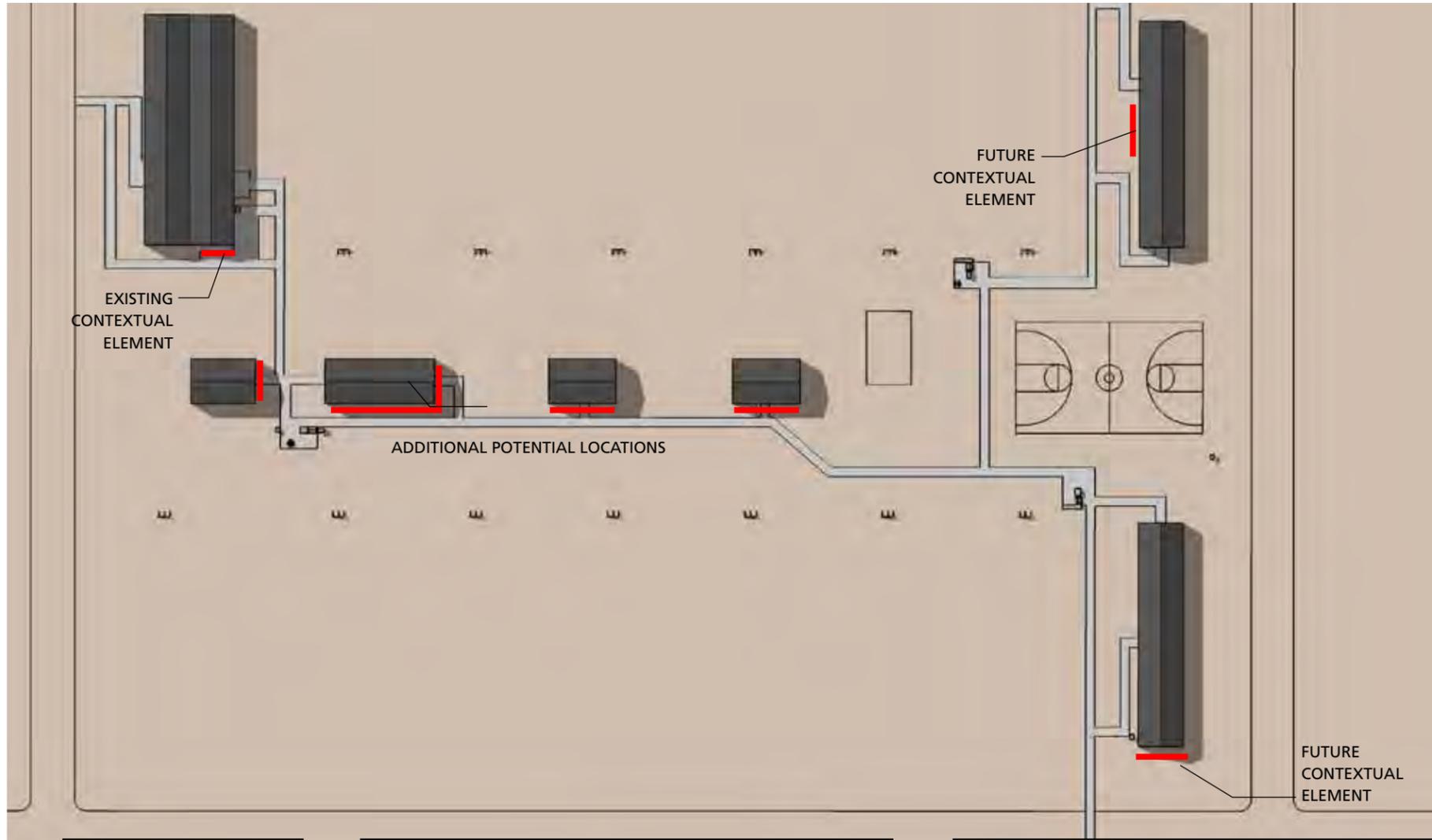


KEY PLAN



INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT / BENCH





CONTEXTUAL SITE ELEMENTS

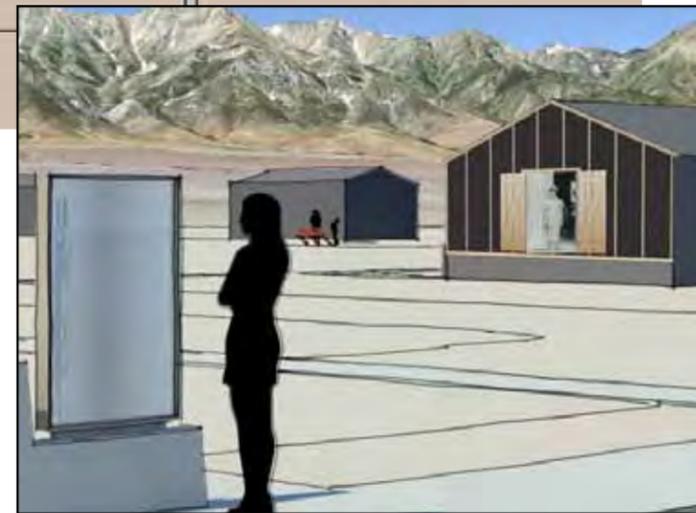
In keeping with both the interpretive goals of the General Management Plan and Long-Range Interpretive Plan and the findings of the Block 14 Interpretive Plan Value Analysis, this master plan recommends that contextual site elements (such as the red Dodge truck, exterior building photo murals, and recreated Barracks 8 garden) be located only in close proximity to existing buildings. This will mitigate clutter on the landscape and provide necessary interpretive context to visitors.

Contextual site elements specifically included in this Master Plan include:

- Barracks 1: “Manzanar Mansion” photo of young woman in doorway (proposed)
- Barracks 8: Partial lawn and garden reconstruction (proposed)
- Mess Hall: Dodge truck, interpretive “crate” exhibits, and Mess Hall chef photo mural (existing)

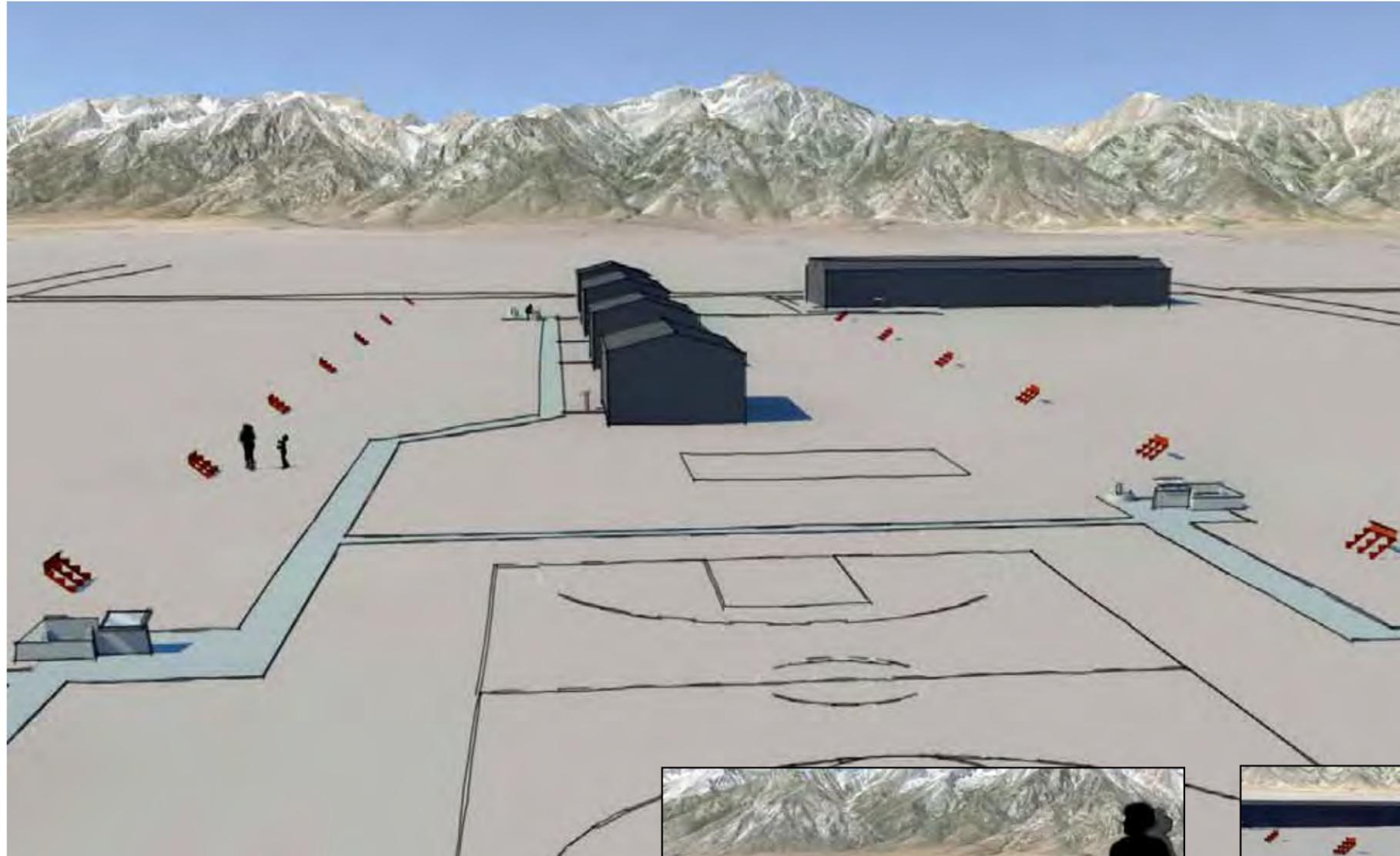


EXISTING CONTEXTUAL ELEMENT / MESS HALL EXTERIOR



FUTURE CONTEXTUAL ELEMENT / BARRACKS 1

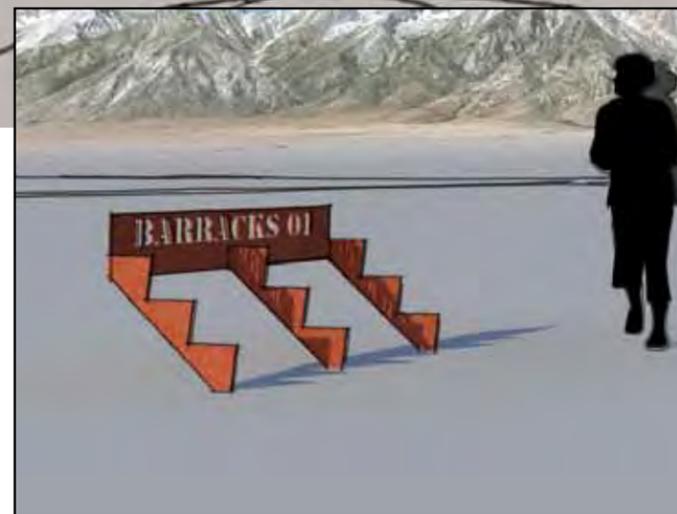




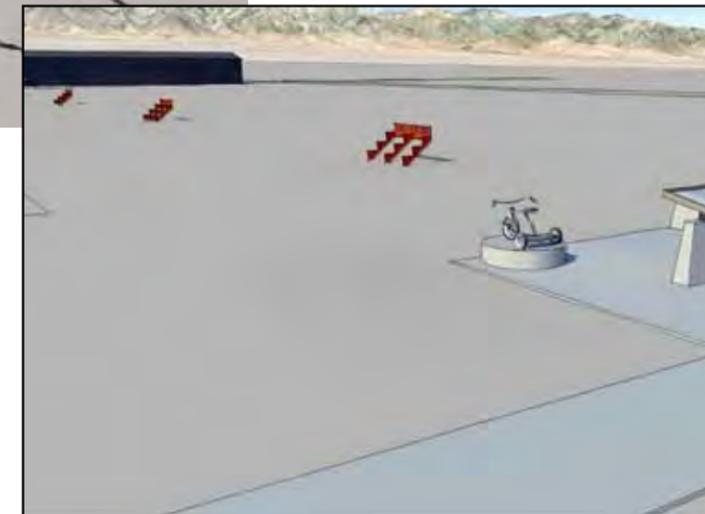
BARRACKS ID SIGNS

To denote the locations of the Barracks on Block 14, a series of ID panels in the form of stair steps are positioned at the centerline of the end of each Barracks pad.

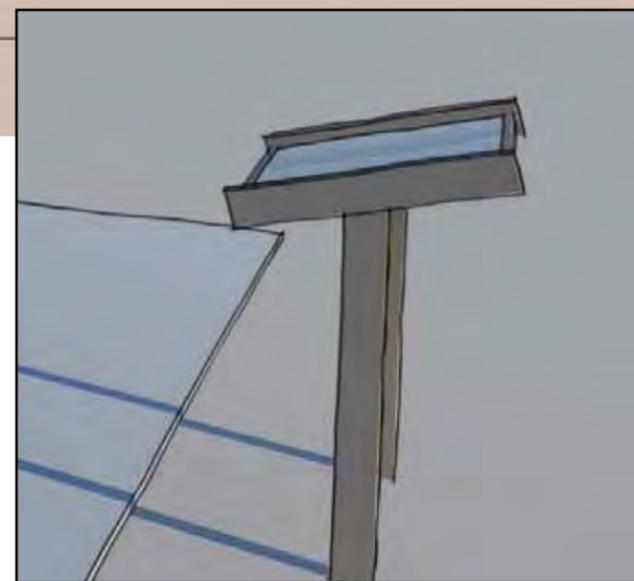
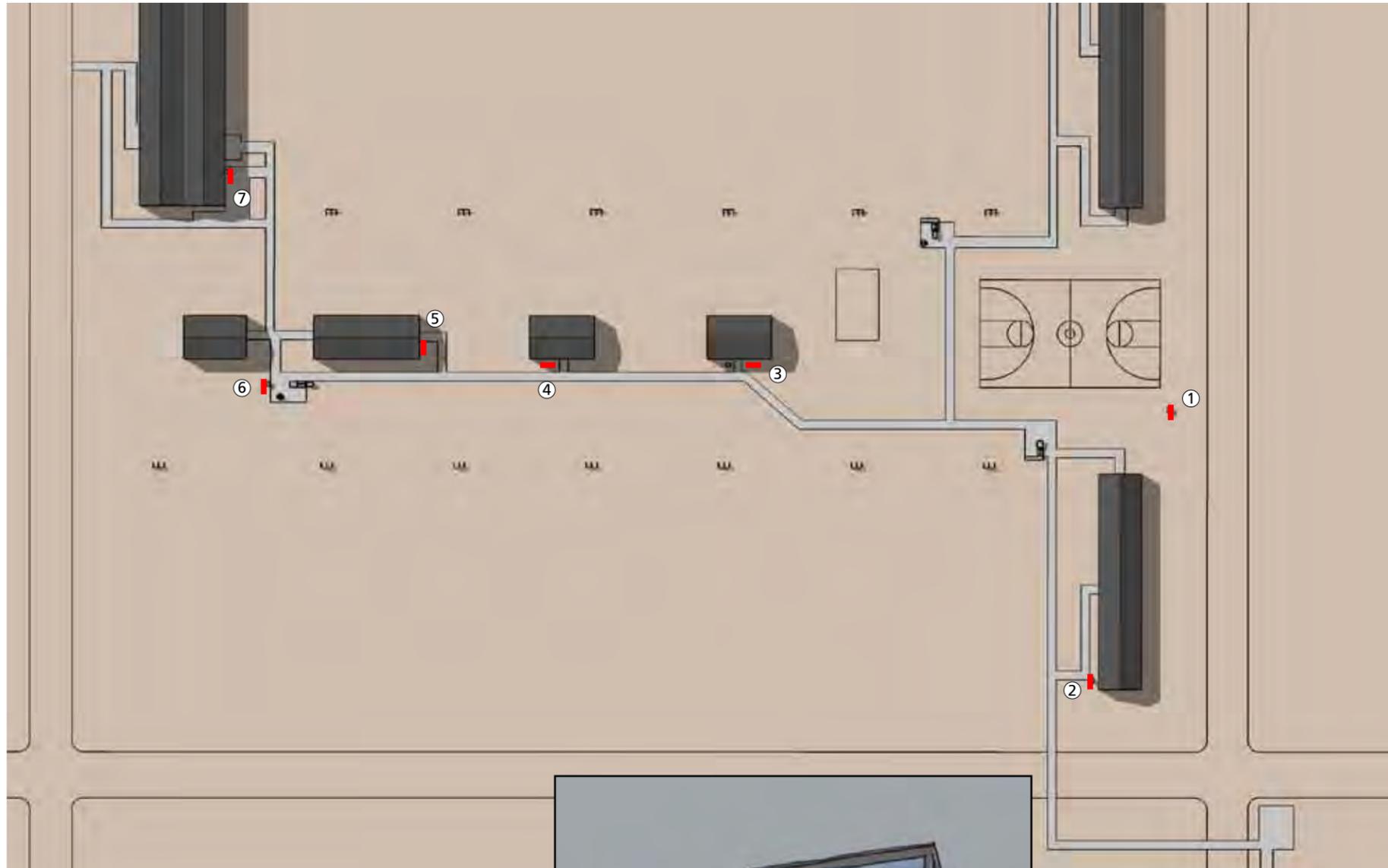
The stair form is a set of welded steel panels with the Barracks ID information cut out in stencil letters. There are no treads on the stair form, only the ID panel suspended by the three stringer shapes, which are in turn tied to footings below the surface of ground.



BARRACKS ID



ROW OF BARRACKS IDS



TYPICAL WAYSIDE

BLOCK 14 WAYSIDES

Supporting Exterior Exhibits

A series of seven (7) exterior exhibit panels, consisting of two different sizes, will help visitors interpret the landscape near the mess hall, the barracks, and the future central support buildings. These waysides are already funded through production and are currently in the content development and design phase.

Large Panel: Block Intro (24" X 36")

This panel will quickly introduce "What is a block?". Visitors will discover how to interpret the architectural elements remaining on the site. They will learn that Block 14 was typical in layout to all the other blocks at Manzanar, but that it also functioned as a unique neighborhood. The theme of change over time will be introduced as well.

Supporting Exterior panels (18" X 24")

The six smaller panels will interpret specific elements within Block 14:

1. Mess Hall
2. Army-style Construction
3. Latrines: Men's and Women's
4. Barracks 1 and 8
5. Laundry Room
6. Ironing Room
7. Recreation Hall

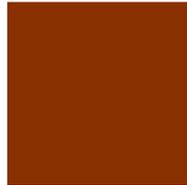
BLOCK 14 GRAPHIC STYLE GUIDE

The graphic look, typography and colors for Block 14 are based upon the the “look” established for the Mess Hall exhibits and shall remain consistent for the balance of Block 14 interpretation. The graphics shown here are reference examples from the Mess Hall.

Wayside panel design should follow the established wayside graphic program.



PMS 452



PMS 491



CMYK 1/1/25/1



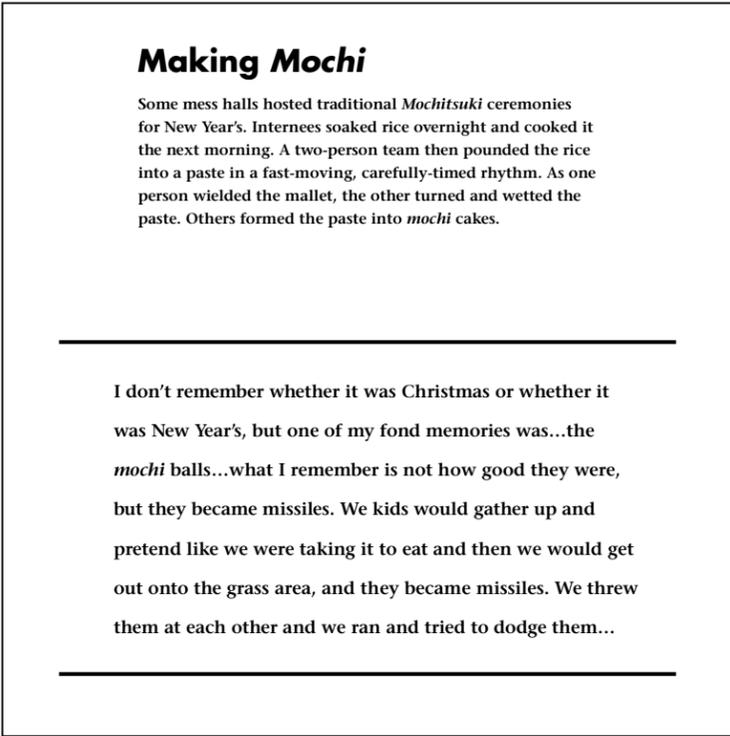
PMS 452 @ 50%



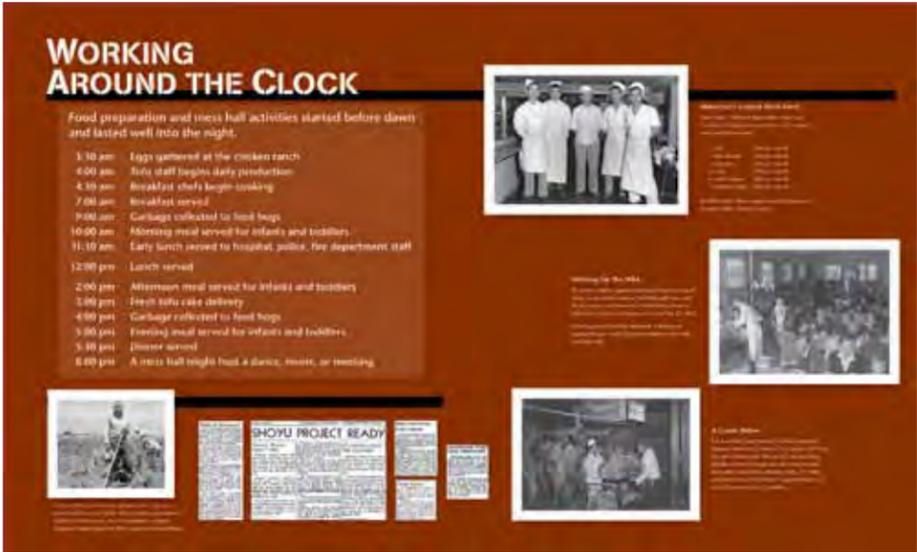
PMS 5295



Panel Size: 54"x66"
DHPL



Panel Size: 32"x32"
1/4" Frosted Acrylic



Panel Size: 36"x60"
DHPL



Panel Size: 36"x60"
DHPL



Panel Size: 18"x18"
DHPL

“FOOD FOR FREEDOM”

Title:
AG Book Stencil - All Caps
166pt/142 pt (Varies)

Americans across the country complied with rationing policies and cultivated victory gardens to support the war effort.

At Manzanar, internee and WRA staff victory gardens, along with 440 acres of agricultural fields, made the camp “pretty self-sufficient.” According to Assistant Project Director Robert Brown, “We...raised all our own vegetables and had everything but a canning plant.”

Primary Text:
ITC Stone Sans - Semibold
40pt/64 pt (Varies)

“SCARCE AS BULLETS”

THE FEBRUARY 13, 1942 INYO REGISTER PREDICTED, “FOOD IS TO BE SCARCE AS BULLETS IN THIS WAR.” THREE WEEKS LATER, THE INDEPENDENCE PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED A “GARDENS FOR VICTORY” CONTEST FOR CHILDREN LIKE HAROLD BUFF WHO PLANNED TO “BUY DEFENSE STAMPS” WITH THE MONEY EARNED FROM HIS GARDEN. IN MANZANAR, THOUSANDS—FROM STUDENTS TO OLDER ISSEI AND WRA STAFF—TENDED THEIR OWN VICTORY GARDENS.

Secondary Text Title: Bold
ITC Stone Sans -
72 pt (Varies)
Secondary Text:
ITC Stone Sans - Bold or Semibold
32 pt/48 pt (Varies)

Making Mochi

Alternate Title:
Futura - Bold
96 pt (Varies)

Although Manzanar never sold its produce in Owens Valley towns, the camp displayed its fruits and vegetables in local shop windows. In September 1943, the WRA invited residents of Inyo and Mono counties into the camp. As Pauline Miller of Lone Pine recalled, “After you saw all these different exhibits, why, you had a meal. They prepared it and showed you the vegetables...they had grown.”

Caption:
ITC Stone Sans - Medium
24pt/36 pt (Varies)

“Inyo County Defense Council nutrition committee has gone on record favoring wide-scale planting of Victory Gardens throughout the Owens Valley in its ‘Food For Freedom’ program.”

Inyo Independent, March 20, 1942

Quote:
Adobe Caslon Pro - Regular
100 pt/120 pt (Varies)