

(8-86)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 14000409**

**Date Listed: 7/18/2014**

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut  
**Property Name**

Mariposa  
**County**

CA  
**State**

Yosemite National Park MPS  
**Multiple Name**

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Keeper**

7/18/2014  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Action**

=====

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Classification:**

The name of the related multiple property listing should read: *Yosemite National Park MPS*.  
The Number of Previously Listed Resources should read: 0

**Function:**

The appropriate subcategory for the property is amended to add: *Domestic/Camp (seasonal residence)*.  
[All selected subcategories should be taken from the authorized list of terms whenever possible.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Ostrander Lake Ski Hut

other names/site number Ostrander Ski Hut, Ostrander Hut, Yosemite National Park Building No. 5110

### 2. Location

street & number Ostrander Lake Trail, Yosemite National Park (YOSE)

not for publication  
 vicinity

city or town Yosemite National Park

state California code CA county Mariposa code 043 zip code 95389

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national  statewide  local

Adrian L. Murray, Deputy PPS June 4, 2014  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
National Park Service  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.  
Signature of commenting official Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer California Office of Historic Preservation  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

[Signature] 7/18/2014  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**Ostrander Lake Ski Hut**  
Name of Property

**Mariposa, CA**  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
	1	structure
2		object
3		<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**DOMESTIC - Lodging**  
**RECREATION & CULTURE - Outdoor**  
Recreation

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**DOMESTIC - Lodging**  
**RECREATION & CULTURE - Outdoor**  
Recreation

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**OTHER: National Park Service Rustic style**

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: **STONE - cut granite**  
walls: **STONE - cut granite**  
roof: **METAL - standing seam metal**  
other: **CONCRETE - poured concrete flooring**

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**Narrative Description**

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(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut is located on the northern shore of Ostrander Lake within the backcountry wilderness of Yosemite National Park in California. The boundary area is roughly three quarters of an acre and occupies a gently sloping parcel of land that begins at the water level and extends up the north shore approximately 200 feet. The ski hut is nestled amongst a granite boulder field and sparse sub-alpine forest, which allows sweeping views of the lake. Several secondary resources - such as a pumphouse, snow gauge, and ski trail signs – are located within a 120 feet radius of the building.

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut is a one and one-half story, masonry building of rough-cut granite constructed in the National Park Service Rustic style. The ski hut is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately fifty feet by twenty two feet, with a small woodshed addition extending from the north façade. The exterior walls are slightly battered and capped by a steeply pitched, standing seam metal roof. The building is accented by large multi-lite windows, a prominent double-stair entry, and log architectural features. The rustic architectural style and use of local materials serves to harmonize the building with its picturesque sub-alpine setting. The interior living space consists of a main multi-purpose room, two kitchens, basement food pantry, loft sleeping quarters, and two toilet closets. The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut is in good condition and retains all seven aspects of historic integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places.

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**Narrative Description**

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*Setting*

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut was constructed to serve as winter lodging during ski-touring expeditions in the highcountry of Yosemite National Park in California. The specific location was strategically selected for its proximity to superb ski terrain and its access to fresh water. The outstanding inspirational values of the surrounding landscape and the hut's proximity to Badger Pass Ski Resort made Ostrander Lake an ideal site for winter recreation. As discussed further in Section 8, from 1940 to the present day, the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut has served as the only backcountry facility within Yosemite National Park that is open to the visiting public during the winter months.

The ski hut sits at an elevation of 8,550 feet, just shy of timberline on the northern shore of Ostrander Lake. Access to the property is limited to foot or stock traffic from the Ostrander Lake Trailhead stemming from Glacier Point Road, 6.2 miles by trail to the north. Historically, winter ski routes began at this trailhead or from the Badger Pass Ski area, approximately six and a half miles to the northwest. Routes are intermittently blazed with painted scrap metal affixed high in the trees, clear of snowpack. Today, many of these markers still exist and are utilized by present day skiers. The first four miles of the route from Glacier Point Road meanders through meadows and moderately dense forested areas, climbing only gradually. In the last two miles, the terrain begins a steeper ascent, cresting atop Horizon Ridge. The formal hiking trail terminates at Ostrander Lake, however, the winter ski trails stretch far beyond into the bowls of Horse Ridge, Merced Crest and Buena Vista Crest.

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut is situated 130 feet north of Ostrander Lake, roughly twenty vertical feet above the water level. Ostrander Lake occupies an area of twenty six acres and is bordered by Horse Ridge along its southern shore. Horse Ridge rises abruptly from the lake forming a craggy granite shelf, at an elevation of approximately 9000 feet, and a barren peak at its western terminus. The climate at Ostrander Lake, typical of the Sierra Nevada highcountry, is characterized by dry, cool, short summers and lengthy, cold and wet winters. Snow usually begins to fall in mid-October and may accumulate as much as ten feet or more within the property boundaries. In this sub-alpine environment, the immediate surroundings are overwhelmingly granite outcroppings and strewn boulders with groupings of Sierra Lodgepole Pine Mesic forest and a moderate ground cover of low-lying woody shrubs. The surrounding lodgepole forest and Horse Ridge serve to shelter the building from the harsh winter conditions common to the Yosemite highcountry.

A boundary area of 0.7 acres for the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut has been determined by Yosemite National Park's Branch of History, Architecture, and Landscapes for purposes of this nomination. This area encompasses the immediate setting of the ski hut and its contributing, and non-contributing, resources: a small wooden pumphouse, wooden snow gauge, and ski trail signs. Two wooden ski trail signs are placed near the ski hut to guide visitors on their day excursions; a modern metal sign is placed approximately 120 feet to the east, another historic wooden sign is approximately seventy five feet to the west. A slender wooden snow gauge is located approximately 100 feet to the northwest of the ski hut. The pumphouse structure is located along the shore of Ostrander Lake, approximately 120 feet from the ski hut. The western ski trail sign, located to the west of the ski hut, and snow gauge are considered contributing resources for the ski hut and will be discussed below.

### **Ostrander Lake Ski Hut**

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1940 following designs produced by the National Park Service's Regional Branch of Plans and Designs. The ski hut is a one and one-half story masonry building, rectangular plan with a woodshed addition extending from the northern elevation. Thick exterior masonry walls of rough-cut granite batter slightly at the buildings corners and are punctuated with deep-set, multi-lite steel sash windows. The building is capped by a steeply pitched gable roof clad in standing seam metal. Architectural log details – such as structural members, rafter tails, and an upper balcony – emerge from beneath the overhanging eaves of the metal roof. The front, double granite staircase leads to an elevated entry portico within the southern gable end. The interior space consists of a large multi-purpose room, two kitchens, small below grade cellar, loft sleeping quarters and two toilet closets. The architectural details and finishes throughout the building embody characteristics of the National Park Service Rustic style.

#### *Exterior*

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut has a rectangular footprint measuring approximately twenty two feet by fifty feet with a northern extension measuring approximately four and a half feet by eighteen feet. The ski hut maintains a high degree of structural integrity due to its substantial masonry construction. Battered exterior walls, approximately two feet thick, extend below grade to form the buildings foundation and are comprised of rough-cut granite set in a recessed mortar bed of Portland cement. The height of the foundation wall adjusts to the natural contour of the surrounding terrain as it slopes south towards Ostrander Lake. A prominent double staircase is located on the south elevation to compensate for the change in foundation height. The stairs are also constructed of rough-cut granite and have been incorporated into the construction of the contiguous foundation wall. Granite building material was harvested locally at the time of construction from a nearby glacial moraine. All stone material

used on the building was hand cut by skilled Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers. The majority of building stones still contain drill markings, resulting from the plug and feather technique used to shape them. The use of local materials and the battered foundation wall of the ski hut make the building seem to emerge from the surrounding boulder field almost naturally.

The primary entrance to the ski hut is located within an alcove on the south elevation and faces towards the lake. The alcove measures approximately six feet by five and a half feet and extends to the height of the gable ridgetline. The alcove space contains an upper log rail balcony which serves as a portico structure for the entryway below. The balcony can be accessed by a wooden and trap door located in the balcony's floor boards or by the upper loft interior space. Two toilet closets, described within the *Interior* section below, flank either side of the entrance and can be accessed by their own exterior door. The entrance to the ski hut is a wooden door clad in modern, painted sheet metal. Architectural blueprints for the building call for a wooden Dutch door; however, because of the added modern material it is unclear if the existing door matches these designs. The door hardware has been changed multiple times as a measure to deter vandalism. The door is currently fastened by a padlocked dead bolt covered by a welded steel cover. During the period of significance, an additional entry door was located on the rear, or northern, elevation of the building. This entrance is now blocked by an exterior single-story woodshed addition constructed between 1970 and 1971. This addition measures approximately four and a half feet by eighteen feet and is a frame structure clad in board and batten siding. The addition is capped by a corrugated metal, shed roof and is supported by pre-cast concrete box piers set directly on grade. This later addition shows a high degree of deterioration, primarily from exposure to the extreme weather and marmot infestation.

Each façade of the ski hut is punctuated with large multi-lite steel windows capped by a large granite lintel. The windows located on the east and west elevations contain a fixed upper and lower sash, with a central awning sash. The northern elevation contains multi-lite casement windows and vertical wooden shiplap detailing within the gable end. During the period of significance, this elevation also contained a smaller casement window adjacent to the lower rear entry. Although the woodshed addition conceals the entry and the window, both features remain intact and can be seen within the interior space of the building. The south elevation contains narrow multi-lite casement windows flanking either side of the entry alcove and a unit of windows within the upper balcony. The upper unit of windows flank French doors that match the construction of the steel sash windows. A shutter structure of expanded steel has been affixed to the exterior trim to cover the window and doors in an attempt to deter vandalism when the ski hut is not in use. In 1984, expanded steel shutters similar to what is present within the balcony were put in place to cover all windows. All shutters, except the one affixed to the window unit of the upper balcony, were later removed in 2002 by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew. During the off-season, windows within the ground floor are now secured by an internal chain and lock. An added sloped concrete cap has been added to the exterior granite window sills. Material evidence suggests this was done following the initial construction to shed snow accumulation within the window openings.

The gable roof of the ski hut is oriented on a longitudinal axis north-south with a steep pitch of twelve over fourteen inches. The roofing structure is comprised of robust peeled lodgepole pine log rafters (ten inches in diameter and spaced three and a half feet on center), a ridge log (twelve inches in diameter), and log tie beams (eight inches in diameter). The roof is clad in standing seam galvanized steel affixed to sheathing boards and is finished with a metal ridge cap. Material evidence and document records suggest that the existing metal roofing material is contemporary to the initial construction of the ski hut and has never had to be replaced. The steep pitch of the roof and the metal roofing material were intentionally incorporated into the architectural designs to easily shed heavy snow loads. A ridgetline box chimney is located near the buildings northern end. The chimney is two feet eight

inches square and extends beyond the ridgeline approximately two and a half feet. It is capped by a metal cone flue canopy. The chimney serves as a flue for the wood burning stoves in the multi-purpose room and caretaker's quarters. During the period of significance two kitchen stoves also vented through the chimney; however, these are no longer functioning. A second smaller cylindrical flue, approximately four to five inches in diameter, is located along the ridgeline near the southern end. This flue served as a vent for the chemical toilets, no longer in place, used during the period of significance. A modern radio antenna is affixed to the building within the northern gable end and a tapered flag pole is located atop the southern gable end near the edge of the metal roof. The flag pole feature was part of the original design. A second tapered flag pole, added after the period of significance, is affixed to the exposed log truss within the southern gable end. Over-hanging eaves feature exposed log rafters and roof sheathing. The gable ends contain an exposed principal rafter finished with a small, five inch in diameter, log rake molding. The south-facing log balcony is a prominent feature for the ski hut. Large log sills, twelve inches in diameter, and smaller log railings, six inches in diameter, jut from the building's south elevation. Dimensional lumber deck boards have been affixed directly to the log sills. The internal space of the alcove is finished with v-groove, tongue and groove dimensional lumber. Architectural blueprints call for the space to be finished with "log slabs"; however, material evidence suggests the existing v-groove was installed during the initial construction of the building. All exterior wooden beams and timbers on the ski hut are painted in a modern brown color, typical of National Park Service buildings in Yosemite. During the period of significance, all wooden elements were treated with clear creosote.

Overall, the vast majority of the exterior building fabric is original to the architectural design and construction of the ski hut; the only significant exception being the rear woodshed addition along the north façade of the building and metal cladding on the south-facing entry door. The ski hut is presently in good condition and is maintained as a historical resource by Yosemite National Park. The thoughtful design and construction of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut has ensured the longevity of this building and is a hallmark of the National Parks Rustic style. The architectural elements found on the ski hut that are characteristic of the style include: use of local materials, overhanging eaves, battered foundation walls, exposed tool markings (intentionally left to be exemplary of the craftsmanship used to construct the building), and exposed log detailing. The use of local materials, such as the rough-cut granite and lodgepole pine logs, is a key element of the Rustic style and serves to harmonize the building with the surrounding landscape.

### *Interior*

The interior rectangular plan of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut consist of a main multi-purpose room, two kitchens, a below-grade cellar, loft sleeping quarters, and two toilet closets. The interior space constitutes approximately 1,540 square feet.

The two toilet closets flank either side of the exterior entrance alcove. Each space is roughly three feet by five feet and accessed by exterior plank and frame style wooden doors. The interior of each space appears much larger due to the cathedral ceiling, one and one half stories high. The robust log rafters and roof sheathing of the building are left exposed. The flooring is comprised of painted poured concrete (as specified within the architectural design plans). The walls adjacent to the interior space of the ski hut are finished with stained beadboard paneling and molding trim; the exterior walls are unfinished, exposing the rough-cut granite stone. The toilet closets housed chemical toilets during the period of significance; however, these have been replaced over the years with varying backcountry waste systems which are portable and can be removed at the end of the season.

The main entry to the ski hut, on the south elevation, opens directly into the large multi-purpose room, approximately eighteen feet wide by twenty eight feet in length. This room is used as a communal living space with table seating and sleeping bunks. The flooring is painted poured concrete (as specified within the architectural design plans). The far north wall and south wall are finished with V-groove, tongue and groove paneling and molding trim. The east and west walls of the space have been left unfinished, exposing the rough-cut granite stone. The room contains five sets of triple steel bunks along the east and west walls. The bunks were incorporated into the original design blueprints for the ski hut and have not been altered since the construction of the building. The bunk structures are attached to vertical metal posts which are bolted to the floor boards and structural ceiling members. The mattress frames are hinged and have the ability to swing to the wall for increased living space. Large wooden tables, bench seating, and a wooden storage bin located in the space were also detailed in the architectural drawings. The table seating is centrally located in the room and the storage bin is placed within the northeast corner for firewood. A wood stove and metal ship's ladder, leading to the upper loft, is centrally located along the rear, north wall, of the room. Although the stove present is not contemporary to the construction of the building, there has always been a wood stove in place at this location. The metal ship's ladder, which leads to the upper loft, was installed following a request by Mary Curry Tresidder of the Yosemite Park & Curry Company. The ship's ladder replaced a wooden ladder affixed to the north wall of the main room between the kitchen entrance and the wood burning stove. Kick marks on the wall paneling, which align where each rung of the ladder would have been, are still evident today. The ceiling of the main room has been left unfinished, exposing stained flooring of the loft above and log floor joists.

The two kitchens are located on the northern end of the building. The western kitchen has always been reserved for the visiting public, while the other serves as a private kitchen for the caretaker. Each kitchen contains built-in kitchen cabinets and a single, sugar pine plank for the countertop along the exterior wall. Wooden, plank and frame style doors separate each of the kitchens from the main living space. The cabinets, countertop, and doors were incorporated into the architectural design plans and installed during the construction of the building. Both kitchens contain non-functioning wood burning stoves. At the time of construction, the National Park Service provided a stove in the public kitchen and concessionaire was responsible for providing a stove in the caretaker's kitchen. The public kitchen contains a standard design for a cast iron stove. The private kitchen has a more elaborate "Onward Universal" six burner wood stove. A framed wall, finished with V-groove tongue and groove paneling, now separates the two kitchen spaces. Architectural designs call for a movable partition wall between the kitchens; however, it is unclear if this feature was ever installed. A collection of drawings, letters, poems, and other writings from past visitors of the ski hut adorn the wall of the public kitchen and provide a unique sense of nostalgia. The flooring of the public kitchen is poured concrete (as specified within the architectural design plans). The private kitchen contains a wood floor finished in three and a half inch tongue and groove. A wooden trap door, clad in galvanized sheet metal, is incorporated into the floor of the private kitchen and leads to the cellar below. The trap door has been fastened with a chain and lock to deter pests. The cellar is approximately twelve feet by eight feet and extends roughly seven feet below the kitchen. Interior walls and flooring of the cellar are left unfinished exposing the poured concrete. The cellar is used primarily as food storage and can be accessed by a small vertical ladder. The exterior woodshed is also accessed through the private kitchen. The woodshed is currently being used as a storage room for maintenance supplies, propane tanks, and portable holding tank toilets.

The upper sleeping loft is divided into two separate spaces – one for visitors within the southern half of the loft and a private chamber for the caretaker within the northern half. The spaces are separated by a framed wall that stretches to the peak of the roof and is clad in V-groove, tongue and groove paneling and horizontal wood planks. During the period of significance, this framed wall was only seven feet in height and a layer of chicken wire was

placed atop the wall stretching to the peak. The upper addition to the wall, comprised of the horizontal planks, was added sometime after 1955 to provide additional privacy for the caretaker. The loft can be accessed by the ship's ladder in the main multi-purpose room or a ladder and trap door leading from the caretaker's kitchen. The flooring of the loft is large, two inch thick by seven inch wide, tongue and groove nailed directly to the log floor joists. The ceiling has been left unfinished, exposing the roof's structural members. The public loft space contains eight additional metal frame beds. The head of the frames are affixed near the base of the loft walls. The foot of the frame remains independent and can be hinged upward and fastened between the rafters above.

### *Modifications*

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut maintains a high degree of historic integrity and has had only minimal modifications since the period of significance, 1940 – 1969. The overall usage of the space, layout, architectural design, and bulk of historic fabric has remained constant over time. Given the remote setting of the ski hut, there are a number of potential threats to the building's physical integrity including: vandalism, animal and pest infestation, neglect, and extreme weather exposure. Of those threats, vandalism and damage from pests have proven to be the most harmful to the building's historic fabric. Numerous broken window panes and damaged door hardware has had to be replaced over time. Marmots habiting the nearby granite boulders have caused reoccurring damage to the wood siding adjacent to the south-facing entry door and the rear wood shed. However, persistent caretakers and the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew maintain the ski hut in due diligence. In an account of the ski hut, it was noted that caretaker's staying at Ostrander Lake have long maintained the historic character of the property in their best capacity. Repair and maintenance work completed by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew is done so in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

### *Exterior Changes*

- The northern woodshed extension was constructed between 1970 and 1971.
- Piping was installed from the pumphouse to the ski hut sometime after 1955.
- Shutters – In 1984, expanded steel shutters were installed to replace wooden shutters - first installed in 1967 – in an attempt to deter vandalism. The addition of the steel shutters caused some damage to the historic fabric, such as drilled bolt holes in the exterior granite walls and notching to the exposed rafter tails to allow shutter operation. The non-historic shutters were removed from the windows along the ground floor in 2002 by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew. Steel shutters are still in place over the window unit within the upper balcony.
- Toilets – During the period of significance, the ski hut used a chemical composting toilet that drained to a nearby leach field. In 1996, the composting toilets were removed and replaced with portable holding tank toilets, or “Johnny cans”.
- An outlying fuel shed storage structure was removed in 1972. Little information is known regarding this building and it is unclear when it was constructed.
- Modern security hardware and a layer of galvanized sheet metal are affixed to the wooden entry door to deter pests and vandals from entering the building.
- An exterior ski rack was installed to the west of the main entry using bolts affixed to the exterior granite wall in 1974.
- A radio antenna and solar power converter was installed in 1993. While in use the solar device is temporarily attached to the south-facing log balcony, but can easily be removed.
- A solar water pump replaced the original water pump in 1998.

- Balcony sill logs and log railing were replaced using in-kind material in 2000 by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew.
- Deck boards on the balcony were replaced in 2002. The balcony originally had two by ten inch boards; however, the existing boards are two by six inch to better withstand the harsh winter conditions.
- The standing seam metal roof and ridgecap were last repaired in 2007 by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew.
- At an unknown time, all exterior wooden features were painted. During the period of significance these features were treated with clear creosote.
- A layer of concrete was installed on the granite window sills at an unknown time to shed snow accumulation.

#### *Interior Changes*

- A metal ship's ladder replaced a wooden vertical ladder to the upper loft sometime after 1955.
- A small wood stove was installed in the caretakers sleeping quarters in 1975.
- A hot water tank with coils heated by the wood stove was installed in the caretaker's kitchen in 1976.
- The rear, or north elevation, window within the public kitchen has been covered with insulation at an unknown time but is still intact.
- The interior loft wall was extended to the peak of the ceiling sometime after 1955.
- Steel plates and padlocks were installed on the door to the caretaker's kitchen and sleeping quarters at an unknown time.

### **Contributing Resources**

#### *Ostrander Lake Snow Gauge*

The snow gauge is located approximately 100 feet to the northwest of the ski hut. This object was put in place sometime between 1940 and 1955. It is constructed of two, four inch by four inch, dimensional lumber posts spliced together with a beveled lap joint and fastened by through bolts to create a slender gauge approximately eighteen feet high. The top of the gauge is notched to shed snow. Measurement increments and numbers are stamped and painted on the south facing side. It is known that during the period of significance the entire snow gauge was painted white with black incremental markings and numbering. Today, the incremental markings are the only painted features.

The snow gauge located at Ostrander Lake is very similar to other snow gauges used by snow survey crews in Yosemite National Park beginning in the late 1920s. These snow survey gauges were also constructed using four inch by four inch posts with a notched top. The gauges were painted white with black numbers and increment markings. The wooden snow survey gauges were replaced with larger steel gauges at one point in time. Aside from the wooden gauge at Ostrander Lake, no other wooden snow survey gauges are known to still be in place.

Due to material evidence and condition of the existing Ostrander Lake snow gauge, it is believed to be the original object placed on the property during the period of significance. The snow gauge is considered a contributing resource for the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut. The object maintains a degree of historic integrity and adds to the interpretation of the property.

*Ostrander Lake Ski Trail Sign*

The property of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut and the trail leading to the ski hut contains numerous ski trail markings and guides for winter travelers. One sign, in particular, maintains a degree of historic integrity and also adds to the interpretation of the property. This ski trail sign is affixed to a lodgepole pine approximately seventy five feet to the west of the ski hut. The sign, measuring approximately a foot and a half wide by a foot high, is constructed of dimensional lumber board planks and painted a bright orange with black stenciled lettering. The sign directs visitors to ski trails, number sixteen and seventeen, located along the Merced Crest. As mentioned in Section 8, these two trails were among the first to be scouted by National Park Service Ranger Givens and Bestor Robinson, an influential member of the Sierra Club. Today these routes are still used and enjoyed by many backcountry skiers. Although the sign is significantly weathered, the majority of the words are still legible. The earliest known documentation of the ski trail sign is a film made at Ostrander Lake in 1947. In the film, an additional sign (no longer in place) is seen below the sign for routes sixteen and seventeen. This sign directed visitors towards ski route number eighteen, "Horizon Ridge".

**Non- Contributing Resource**

*Ostrander Lake Pumphouse*

The pumphouse is located along the northern shore of Ostrander Lake, approximately 120 feet southwest of the ski hut. The structure was built in 1952 to shelter a water pump, which was installed in 1942. The pump pulled fresh water from below the frozen surface of the lake during the winter months and supplied the ski hut with fresh drinking water. The shelter structure was needed to keep the pump from repeatedly freezing in the harsh winter conditions. Care was taken to ensure the structure was not intrusive to the surrounding landscape through the use of natural materials. The foundation is constructed of a poured concrete slab concealed by a masonry veneer of granite rubble set in a recessed mortar bed. The wooden frame of the structure is constructed of dimensional lumber and clad in single-course sugar pine shingle siding with a ten inch reveal. The pumphouse is capped by a multi-pitch shed roof, also clad in sugar pine shingles, with exposed dimensional lumber rafter tails. The original pump is still located within the pumphouse; however, it is no longer in use. The mechanical pump was replaced by a solar pump around 1998.

Even though the structure was built within the period of significance, it does not retain a notable degree of historic integrity. The pumphouse was built after the construction of the ski hut to serve a utilitarian purpose. It was not constructed with a high degree of craftsmanship, does not incorporate the same building materials as the ski hut, and does not greatly add to the interpretation of the property.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION**

**ARCHITECTURE**

**Period of Significance**

**1940 – 1969**

**Significant Dates**

**1940 – Ostrander Lake Ski Hut designed and constructed**

**1941 – Ski hut open for commercial operation**

**1952 – Pump house constructed**

**1941 – 1969 – Ski hut jointly operated by the National Park Service and**

**concessioner**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**N/A**

**Cultural Affiliation**

**N/A**

**Architect/Builder**

**Architect: National Park Service Regional**

**Branch of Plans and Designs**

**Consulting Architect: Eldridge T. Spencer**

**Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps**

**Period of Significance (justification)**

1940 – 1969

The period of significance for the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut and its contributing resources is 1940 – 1969. This timeframe corresponds to the architectural development of the ski hut, for Criterion C; as well as, the joint operation of the facility by Yosemite National Park and concessioner, Yosemite Park & Curry Company (YP & CC) for purposes of winter outdoor recreation, for Criterion A.

The ski terrain in the area of Ostrander Lake was first surveyed by the concessioner in 1933. The first documented proposal for constructing a ski hut at the lake was made by a National Park Service ranger in 1939. The specific location was selected due to its close proximity to Badger Pass Ski Lodge, superb ski terrain, access to fresh water, and the outstanding inspirational values of the setting. Architectural plans were produced in June of 1940 by the National Park Service Branch of Plans and Designs with consultation from Eldridge T. Spencer, architect for YP & CC. Construction commenced in August of the same year and the building was ready for occupancy by late October. For nearly thirty years, the ski hut operated more or less continuously by both the National Park Service and YP & CC. The only significant improvements to the property were the construction of a small pumphouse along the north shore of the lake and a single story woodshed addition onto the north façade of the ski hut. The pumphouse was constructed in 1952 as a rustic utilitarian structure. The woodshed addition was constructed between 1970 and 1971. In 1969, the National Park Service voluntarily relinquished any interest it had regarding the operation of the ski hut; however, YP & CC continued providing lodging and services for outdoor winter enthusiasts. Today the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut is owned and maintained by the National Park Service; all commercial operations are managed by the Yosemite Conservancy, a non-profit affiliate of Yosemite National Park.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut holds significance at the local and state level under *Criterion A* as a building associated with the growth of winter outdoor recreation in California and winter tourism to Yosemite National Park. Additionally, the ski hut holds significance for the National Park Service as a unique managerial experiment in visitor lodging between the federal government and the Yosemite National Park concessionaire. The Ostrander Ski Hut was the initial phase of a proposed ski hut system within the southern half of Yosemite National Park. Construction of the ski hut was completed in 1940 and entirely funded by the National Park Service. The ski hut was then jointly administered and operated by the concessionaire and Yosemite National Park for nearly three decades. Customarily the National Park Service focused on circulation and administrative infrastructure while tourist lodging and activities were left to the discretion of the concessionaires. The hut also possesses significance due to its construction by the Civilian Conservation Corps and its association with the social investment made by the federal government during the Great Depression.

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut exemplifies the design principles of the National Park Service Rustic style, making it locally significant under *Criterion C*. The ski hut has received very few modifications since its construction and continues to serve in its original capacity as backcountry lodging for outdoor winter enthusiasts.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

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*Historical Context*

Visitor accessibility and accommodations have long been an integral part of Yosemite National Park's management objectives. Early administrators saw the need to manage the park more as a recreational resort rather than focusing on strict natural resource conservation practices that are common today. Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service and a leading provocateur for the organized development of Yosemite Valley, incorporated access and accommodation improvement among his top priorities. He believed it imperative to fully and efficiently develop park resources for the pleasure of the public, which would in turn result in profits from increased tourist dollars, and thus strengthen the National Park Service. Mather was quoted in 1915 saying, "Scenery is a splendid thing when it is viewed by a man who is in a contented frame of mind. Give him a poor breakfast after he has had a bad night's sleep, and he will not care how fine your scenery is. He is not going to enjoy it." Even naturalists of the day realized that some concession had to be made to provide for the comforts and convenience of tourists.

Lodging and other infrastructure associated with tourist activities were developed and operated primarily by park concessionaires. Hotels sprawled across the floor of Yosemite Valley and along roadways throughout the park. In 1916, visitor accommodations expanded into the far reaches of the Yosemite backcountry for the first time in the form of High Sierra Camps. By 1924, there were four High Sierra Camps, which proved to be immensely popular and are still in existence today. The camps were an innovative concept and shining example of a joint venture between the National Park Service and a concessionaire to encourage visitors to experience the scenic wonders of the High Sierra Nevada. This joint venture would become the precursor to operations at Ostrander Lake Ski Hut several decades later. All the comforts and leisure activities provided by concessionaires up until the late 1920s all focused solely on the summer season. Both the Yosemite Park & Curry Company (YP&CC) concessionaire and Yosemite National Park's Superintendent saw the potential to expand tourist infrastructure to accommodate winter guests and develop Yosemite into a year-round park.

**Winter Sports in Yosemite**

Yosemite National Park first opened its doors to winter visitation in 1907, following the expansion of rail lines to the park's western boundary. Winter travel into the heart of the park during this time, however, was still treacherous and deterred most guests. The first significant proliferation of winter visitation occurred in the late 1920s in conjunction with the construction of California State Highway 140, or the "All-Weather Highway", and the luxurious Ahwahnee Hotel. The Ahwahnee was the first hotel within Yosemite built specifically to cater to winter guests, as well as, the wealthy clientele of the concessionaire. YP&CC, the sole concessionaire for the park, quickly embarked on providing a wealth of winter recreational activities, sports, and entertainment. This growth was fueled not only by the economic opportunities to attract visitors year-round, but also by the immense passion for outdoor winter recreation held by the owners, Donald Tresidder and his wife Mary Curry Tresidder. Both the Tresidder's held an unwavering commitment to transform the park into the center for outdoor winter recreation in the Sierra Nevada, or as they so affectionately dubbed "the Switzerland of the west". Over the next few decades, the National

Park Service, dependent on visitor use for appropriations in the lean years of the Great Depression and during World War II, heartily endorsed the expansion of visitor activities during the winter months.

Most of the early winter activities promoted by YP&CC were centered near Camp Curry in Yosemite Valley. The camp is located within the shadow of the southern rim of the Valley, which provided cooler summer temperatures and a lasting snowpack throughout the winter months. In 1928, the promotional Yosemite Winter Club and the Yosemite Ski School were formed. The ski school was the first of its kind in the west and among the first handful of ski schools established in the United States. The Yosemite Winter Club developed events and activities that included: ice skating, hockey, tobogganing, sleigh rides, skijoring, dog sledding, skiing, winter carnivals, and collegiate competitions. Infrastructure to support the winter activities were also developed and constructed by the concessionaire; such as, an elevated toboggan run and an ice rink facility, reportedly the largest in the country, were constructed near the main Camp Curry parking lot. The park quickly became a hub for winter enthusiasts, as well as, an outstanding contributor and leader in winter sports. So impressive were the improvements to the parks winter infrastructure that in 1929 the Director of the National Park Service placed Yosemite in a bid for the 1932 Winter Olympics. Among the top contenders were Yosemite National Park, Lake Tahoe (also in California), and Lake Placid in New York. Yosemite's development and winter lodging made a compelling argument; however, in the end Lake Placid was selected.

In the formative years of winter sports in Yosemite National Park most of the activities were centered around Yosemite Valley, but the history of winter recreation in the park would be forever altered when Donald and Mary Curry Tresidder embarked on an ambitious plan to provide access into the mountainous interior during the winter months. The Tresidder's saw the future of Yosemite's winter sports in ski-touring. Drawing upon influences of ski hut systems in the European Alps, they envisioned multi-day High Sierra Nevada ski tours with backcountry accommodations and professional ski instructors. Although seasonal huts and shelter cabins had been built previously in other areas of the United States, this venture would be the first attempt at commercially guided ski touring with overnight accommodations in the nation.

Donald Tresidder planned an experimental phase to see if his vision was viable and had the potential to turn profits. This initial phase included the construction of Snow Creek Ski Hut, temporary winter usage of two backcountry National Park Service ranger stations (the Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Stations), and the rehabilitation of the Glacier Point Mountain House<sup>1</sup> for winter use. The concessionaire "confidently expected" that ski-touring would be a huge success and envisioned the subsequent phase would be the transformation of the summer High Sierra Camps into winter ski huts. Spoken like a true outdoor enthusiast (and salesman) Tresidder boasted that the snow conditions and terrain of the Yosemite's highcountry was superior to any other in the nation and paralleled that of the European mountain ranges. Snow Creek Ski Hut would serve as the gateway into this untapped winter wonderland of the Sierra Nevada.

The project was supported by Yosemite's Superintendent; however, all funding, labor, and materials for the hut at Snow Creek were provided by YP&CC. Architectural plans were developed by Eldridge T. Spencer of San Francisco under the direct guidance of Tresidder in the Swiss Chalet style. The ski hut operated seasonally with limited success from January 1930 until 1934. Although Donald Tresidder had grand plans of promoting ski-touring

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<sup>1</sup> The Glacier Point Mountain House was completely destroyed by fire in 1969.

throughout the Yosemite highcountry, his venture during this time never gained the sustainable amount of appeal it needed and proved unprofitable. In an account by Mary Curry Tresidder, she states "people at that time did not know enough either about skiing or ski-mountaineering to make that dream workable and by the time they knew more about skiing the lift type of the sport had pushed ski-touring far to the rear." The great economic crisis of the 1930s, undoubtedly, did not help matters either.

The completion of the Wawona Tunnel in 1933 opened up new opportunities for downhill skiing in the park. Accessibility by automobile made the downhill areas much more desirable to the average park visitor than lengthy excursions into the Yosemite backcountry. Visitors flocked to ski areas established at Chinquapin, which had the benefit of an existing comfort station and gas station. During the winter of 1933-34, over ten thousand skiers visited the Monroe Meadows area off of Glacier Point Road. The National Park Service began winter road clearing from the valley floor, past these ski areas, to the southern entrance of the park.

By the end of 1935, the YP&CC designed and constructed Badger Pass Ski Lodge at Monroe Meadows. An "up-ski" lift was installed the following year and served more than 31,000 Badger Pass visitors in its first season. As the "ski mania" in California continued to grow, Yosemite administrators grappled with demands for more infrastructure to support winter activities. Advocacy groups including the Sierra Club and the National Ski Association (NSA), pressured park administrators for more resorts and opportunities for winter recreation. Construction of more downhill ski areas and lift facilities, however, raised concerns within the National Park Service about the ethics of creating artificial attractions. In 1939, the situation reached a boiling point and the National Park Service was compelled to do something to satisfy ski advocates. The solution was a revival of backcountry ski-touring. The sport was viewed as compatible with the park's mandate to simultaneously provide for both the recreational enjoyment and the protection of natural resources. Yosemite National Park administrators began development planning for a ski touring system in close proximity to Badger Pass. Not surprisingly, Yosemite Park & Curry Company readily acquiesced. The Tresidder's viewed lift skiing as simply a way to get people safely trained and prepped for backcountry ski-touring. They believed, or at least wanted to believe, that the hoards of people jamming Badger Pass were now ready to embrace the sport the Tresidder's attempted to promote a decade earlier.

### **Ostrander Ski Hut**

During the spring of 1940, the Yosemite Committee on Winter Activities, a group that included members of NSA and the Sierra Club, worked with the National Park Service and YP&CC to develop a scheme that would switch the emphasis in Yosemite from downhill skiing to backcountry ski-touring. Ostrander Lake immediately became an obvious choice for a backcountry lodging facility. The potential ski terrain surrounding the lake had been first surveyed by Mary Curry Tresidder and ski instructor Jules Fritsch in 1933, then later by both the Tresidder's in 1938. National Park Service District Ranger Frank Givens was the first to submit an official proposal for a ski hut at Ostrander Lake in 1939. Givens proposed a loop from Badger Pass to Ostrander Lake then to an existing cabin at Deer Camp and out to Wawona Road. The committee, however, desired a route that would lead visitors to the interior of the park amongst the iconic granite peaks. The original plan decided upon by the National Park Service and YP&CC called for two huts: one at Ostrander Lake staffed by the concessionaire and a second hut at Buena Vista Lake unstaffed, but open to the public. Skiers would be able to complete a two-day loop from Badger Pass Ski Resort to Glacier Point using the two ski huts as overnight accommodations.

By May of 1940, the National Park Service realized it was a “practical certainty” that they could not financially support the construction of two individual huts. Funding was insufficient and the availability of the Civilian Conservation Corps workers who were to construct the buildings was precarious. A compromise was quickly reached that provided for construction of just one experimental hut at Ostrander Lake to be jointly used by both the public and the concessionaire. The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut would be a unique commercial venture between the National Park Service and a concessionaire. The building was to be built, owned, and funded entirely by the federal government; while operations of the facility were jointly administered between the National Park Service and YP&CC.

Selection of the Ostrander Lake location was an obvious choice. The lake was within a day’s trek of the Badger Pass developed area and a trail to Ostrander Lake was had been established by the U.S. Cavalry during their early administration of Yosemite National Park. Trail blazes from this era can still be seen on trees along the route. In addition to accessibility, the location offered superb ski terrain, outstanding scenic values, and access to fresh water. Describing the landscape around the lake, hut keeper Howard Weamer states “The scenic grandeur for which the National Parks were created certainly fits the views of Half Dome and Mt. Starr King that are visible from Horizon Ridge, Horse Ridge, and the Buena Vista Crest.” Just two hundred yards to the east of the lake, visitors were afforded sweeping vistas across the Yosemite wilderness including Illilouette Basin and the Clark Range. Horse Ridge wrapped the western and southern shore of the lake and contained north-facing slopes just above timberline. Beyond the ridge, multiple ski bowls provided wide choice of ski terrain that could be readily accessed by ascending Horse Ridge. When visitors tired of skiing could try their hand at ice skating across the frozen lake.

*“Views, water, acoustics, [ice] skating, sunshine, and varying slope exposures guaranteeing excellent skiing for every visit...”*

*– Howard Weamer*

In late July of 1940, Ranger Givens and Bestor Robinson, an influential member of the Sierra Club, rode Horizon Ridge, Horse Ridge, and Buena Vista Crest on horseback to evaluate ski trails and survey specific plots for the ski hut. Robinson was a close associate of Donald Tresidder and was instrumental during the entire planning process for the ski hut as well as other huts throughout California. During the July trip, they established ski routes #16 and #17, still in use today by backcountry skiers, and concurred on the present location of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut. An alternate access route to transport building materials was also surveyed at this time along Bridalveil Creek.

The architectural design planning for the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut was a collaborative effort involving the committee, YP&CC architect Eldridge T. Spencer, and the National Park Service. Blueprints for the proposed ski hut were produced by the National Park Service Regional Branch of Plans and Designs on June 4, 1940 and submitted to YP&CC four days later for review. Typically, the roles were reversed: the concessionaire submitted its plans to the National Park Service for facilities the concessionaire proposed to build and utilize. The National Park Service did not generally involve concessionaires in planning and construction of park buildings. Initial designs called for a one and one-half story masonry building with a cross-gable roof clad in wood shingles. The cross-gable was centrally located along the eastern elevation and contained the kitchen areas for the facility. The designs incorporated a main multi-purpose room and loft space with sleeping bunks, as well as, two exterior restrooms.

Eldridge T. Spencer had designed numerous YP&CC buildings throughout the park including the Snow Creek Ski Hut in 1929 and the Badger Pass Ski Resort constructed in 1935. His experience in these ventures proved immensely valuable and directed the final plans for the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut. Among his recommendations were eliminating the cross-gable to form a straight roof line with both kitchens relocated from the eastern wing to the rear of the building and using a metal roof instead of wood shingles. He felt that the straight roofline construction and metal roofing material would shed the heavy snow loads better. Spencer also advocated for an insulated wood frame building, thinking that it would be more practical than masonry and an elevated entrance to provide additional clearance for the heavy snow fall common in the Yosemite highcountry. Yosemite administrators agreed with the rectangular layout, metal roof, and elevated entrance; however, the park's superintendent insisted on the original masonry design for economy. The resulting architectural design retained the National Park Service Rustic style and incorporated the majority of architectural features proposed on the initial drawing. The design was reminiscent of the Pear Lake Ski Hut constructed in Sequoia National Park in 1939, also a product of the National Park Service's Regional Branch.

Bestor Robinson undoubtedly also had influence over the final designs. He had composed a nine page memorandum on huts and trails in the National Parks, which provided construction recommendations based on his experience with Sierra Club ski huts and ski huts found in Germany. Robinson also recommended a high entrance for heavy snow fall and fireproof metal frame bunks that could swing into the wall. Both of these features were incorporated into the final designs produced by the National Park Service's Regional Branch.

On August 15, a crew of twenty CCC enrollees, as well as one carpenter, two stonemasons, and two foremen from the Empire Meadows Camp, set up a stub camp at Ostrander Lake and began construction of the hut. Ten weeks later on October 26, the project was completed and ready for occupancy. Granite stone and lodgepole pine logs were harvested locally on-site or along the access route between Glacier Point Road and Ostrander Lake. In some areas along Horse Ridge, the granite cliffs still contain drill marks resulting from the plug and feather technique used by the CCC workers. Concrete, metal, and other building materials were transported to the backcountry by stock or wagon drawn by a tractor from the Glacier Point Road.

The ski hut, as completed, was a one and one-half story masonry building with a footprint approximately twenty feet by fifty feet. The thick masonry walls battered slightly at the buildings corners and were punctuated with deep-set, multi-lite steel sash windows. The building was capped by a steeply pitched gable roof clad in standing seam metal. Structural members, rafter tails, and other decorative features constructed of peeled logs, emerged from beneath the metal roof. The front entry contained a double granite staircase, which would become completely covered during heavy snow years, and a balcony within the gable ends complete with log railings. The interior space consisted of a large multi-purpose room, two kitchens, a small below grade cellar, loft sleeping quarters and two toilet closets accessed from the exterior entry portico. Built-in cabinets within each of the kitchens and metal framed bunks were also incorporated into the architectural blueprints and built at the time of construction. The final cost for the ski hut was \$9500.

In preparation for the opening of the ski hut, CCC workers and park rangers installed markers along the route from Badger Pass and into the ski terrain beyond Ostrander Lake. Wooden ski trail signs with stenciled letters and a slender snow gauge were installed in the immediate vicinity of the ski hut. The concessionaire's caretakers arrived on January 6, 1941, to open the hut for its first winter season. The maximum capacity for the ski hut was

twenty three people, plus several caretakers. During the first season, the ski hut accommodated 154 guests. The total greatly pleased park administrators and justified the ski hut's existence.

For nearly thirty years Ostrander Lake Ski Hut was jointly operated by the National Park Service and YP&CC. World War II shut down the ski hut during the 1942-43 season, and storm damage closed the Ostrander Trail for the 1964-65 season. It was a unique and durable arrangement. The concessionaire caretakers were usually in residence from mid-February until mid-April. Reservations were made through the park ranger on duty at Badger Pass and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The National Park Service maintained the ski hut and supplied firewood, mattresses, and various necessities. Public skiers and concessionaire clients shared living and sleeping quarters within the main floor, as well as the loft. YP&CC supplied linen and meals for their clients while public users brought in their own food and bedding. One kitchen was designated for public use and the other was used by the caretakers to prepare meals for paying customers. YP&CC also provided guided tours and ski instruction. Mostly centered around the ski hut; however, several tours were available to Mt. Clark, Ottoway Lakes and across the Clark Range to Little Yosemite Valley. The YP&CC attempted several different promotional schemes to increase visitation including: mechanized transport from Badger Pass, ski school field trips, and production of a promotional video (*Ski Thrills*, 1947) filmed on-site. Despite efforts, visitation remained static and was unable to offset the financial loss of operating the facility. However, those individuals that did take-part in the recreational opportunities at Ostrander Lake became patrons and loyal supporters of ski hut.

In 1969, the National Park Service withdrew from the arrangement. Vandalism and unauthorized users had become a serious problem during the off-season. Keeping the ski hut supplied with wood also proved to be an onerous and expensive obligation. The YP&CC was not entirely disagreeable about abandoning the experiment either, due to the limited profit margins of the ski hut operations. The closure was, however, short-lived. In 1970, a visitor perished on the Ostrander Lake Trail, emphasizing the need to keep communications open between Badger Pass Ski Lodge and the backcountry ski areas. Technological advancements in cross-country ski equipment had also given rise to a sudden resurrection of ski touring in Yosemite. The previous visitation record for the ski hut was doubled during the 1971 season when more than a thousand skiers descended upon the Ostrander Lake Trail. By 1972, the National Park Service was compelled to install a resident ranger at Ostrander Lake Ski Hut during the winter seasons and reopen the facility to public use only. Budgetary constraints of the National Park Service were always looming in the foreground however, and within seven years were again threatening to close the ski hut. In 1979, the Yosemite Natural History Association (now the Yosemite Conservancy) agreed to operate the Ostrander Lake facility if the National Park Service would continue to maintain the building and underwrite any losses the Conservancy might incur. In this new managerial capacity the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut continues to serve as a successful venture and its popularity only increases with age. Today backcountry skiers are required to reserve lodging in advance through a lottery system.

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut is historically significant for not only its demonstration of a unique commercial venture between the National Park Service and a park concessionaire, but also as a lasting symbol for the evolution of skiing recreation in California. As the ski craze exploded in the 1930s, the YP&CC concessionaire was among the first in the western United States to facilitate the sport. Although backcountry ski touring was not necessarily single-handedly responsible for turning California into a skiing mecca, as the Tresidder's had envisioned, the sport itself has endured as a beloved past time for those who venture into the Sierra Nevada during the winter months. The skiing infrastructure in Yosemite National Park – Snow Creek Ski Hut, Badger Pass Ski Lodge, and the

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut - became precursors to other ski huts and ski resorts throughout California and the western United States. From the period of significance up until the present day, the Ostrander Ski Hut is the only backcountry facility in Yosemite National Park that is open to the visiting public during the winter months. When the popularity of cross-country skiing was reborn in the 1970s, Ostrander Hut was instrumental in rekindling the public's "reconnection" to Yosemite's - and America's - winter wilderness.

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut was first recognized for its historical significance during a historic resource case study conducted by Yosemite National Park in 1979. National Park Service Historian, Linda Green, recommended the property, among other significant cultural and historic resources throughout the park, to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in her 1987 multi-volume historic resource study, Yosemite: the Park and its Resources. A Draft Multiple Property Document (MPD) was composed in 2004 by the University of Las Vegas History Department. The Draft MPD used historic contexts from Greene's resource study and recognized twenty buildings, which included Ostrander Lake Ski Hut, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Draft MPD has yet to be finalized by Yosemite National Park staff; however, it has received concurrence from the California State Historic Preservation Office. (See *Continuation Sheet III*) The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut has been identified for its historic significance and is said to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The current nomination concurs that the property is significant under these criteria and has recognized three additional contributing resources - the pumphouse, snow gauge, and ski trail signage.

#### *Architectural Significance*

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut was constructed in the National Park Service Rustic style. Rustic architectural style dominated National Park Service architectural design from 1916 to 1942. With the National Park Service Rustic style, early park administrators sought to create a unifying theme for all park structures that tied them together into a cohesive unit that was distinct from the larger world and still remained unobtrusive from the surrounding environment. It reflected the growing conservation ethic and fostered development of a unique architectural style with the building as an accessory to nature. Ultimately the National Park Service Rustic style enabled the National Park Service to project an image as the federal agency most concerned with preservation of the nation's treasured natural heritage.

*"Rustic style, when successfully handled, through the use of native materials in proper scale and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past."<sup>ii</sup>*

The National Park Service rustic style is characterized by use of local materials, battered masonry foundations and chimneys, horizontal emphasis, shallow to moderately pitched roofs, exposed structural members, wide over-hanging eaves, and most importantly harmonizing with the surrounding landscape.

The design of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut embodies philosophies and distinct characteristics associated with the National Park Service Rustic style. It was constructed by skilled CCC workers to design specifications provided

<sup>ii</sup> Good, Park Structures and Facilities, pgs. 3-4

by the National Park Service Regional Branch of Plans and Designs. The building was constructed as a masonry structure intended to withstand the harsh winter conditions of the Sierra Nevada. Nearly all exterior finishes were derived from local origins. This use of natural finishes and local materials was highly intentional to harmonize with the surrounding environment. The Pear Lake Ski Hut in Sequoia National Park (1939) is a comparable structure with many of the same architectural details. It too was constructed by CCC workers. During the 1930s, Yosemite National Park was extensively developed with the assistance of the CCC. Projects were typified by the intensive utilization of hand labor and the high level of craftsmanship; projects included natural resource management activities and the construction of park infrastructure. Although the CCC program was responsible for the construction of numerous buildings within Yosemite National Park, few are as substantial as the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut. In this respect the hut is a particularly appropriate memorial to the CCC workers who did much to give the National Park Service Rustic style its physical expression. The result is a building of great strength and utility that continues to provide a valuable resource for winter visitors to Yosemite's backcountry.

*Exterior character defining features include:*

- Use of local materials (such as cut granite stones and notched lodgepole pine logs)
- Battered masonry walls with a recessed mortar bed
- Large multi-lite steel sash windows
- Stone lintels above the window openings
- Steeply pitched gable roof
- Standing seam metal roofing material
- Balcony with log railings
- Boxed chimney clad with galvanized sheet metal

*Interior character defining features:*

- Steel framed bunk beds that swing into the wall
- Exposed lodgepole pine beams
- Tongue and groove wall siding and exposed masonry
- Metal ship's ladder
- Built-in kitchen cabinetry
- Concrete slab floor
- Wood burning stoves
- Robust vertical plank and frame style doors

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**Additional historic context information**

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*Historic Integrity*

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut retains all seven aspects of historic integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places' standards: *location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling*.

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut and its contributing resources remain in their original *location* on the northern shore of Ostrander Lake in the backcountry wilderness of Yosemite National Park. This location was selected for its proximity to Badger Pass Ski Resort and superb skiing terrain, as well as the spectacular inspirational values of the surrounding landscape and access to fresh water. The ski hut was constructed to serve as winter lodging for the

hearty few that ventured into the Sierra Nevada during the winter months and continues to serve in that capacity today. Because of the remote location, the *setting* has remained relatively untouched. The building is situated amongst granite boulder outcroppings and low-lying woody shrubs approximately one hundred feet from a pristine alpine lake. Contributing resources –such as a ski trail sign and snow gauge – are located within the property boundary and greatly enhance the overall interpretation of the site. In 1984, lands immediately surrounding the property boundary were designated wilderness. This protection ensures that no new development will occur outside of the property boundary or within the viewshed of the ski hut.

The *design* for the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut was a collaborative effort on the part of the National Park Service, park concessionaire, and local ski committee. The National Park Service Regional Branch of Plans and Design produced architectural drawings which were then subject to review by the two other interested parties. The building serves as a fine example of National Park Service Rustic style that incorporates architectural details intended to withstand the harsh winter conditions of the Sierra Nevada. The building has limited seasonal use and has remained in its original capacity since its construction. Over the years, only few minor modifications have been made. The ski hut retains the majority of its original *material* including: exterior architectural details and finishes, interior built-in cabinetry, interior finishes, and hardware. The building has been preserved intact; in part due to its remote setting and also to its continued use by the National Park Service as backcountry lodging for wilderness travelers. Present day maintenance work is conducted by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew, who consciously retain as much historic fabric as possible without jeopardizing the structural integrity of the building. If and when materials need to be replaced, the crew does so with in-kind materials using historic techniques. High quality *workmanship* is evident in the building's substantial masonry walls and structural log members. Construction of such a building may be impressive in any context; however, in this location the remote setting undoubtedly presented unique challenges for the builders. All construction work was completed using only hand techniques and all on-site building material was moved by block and tackle. Skilled CCC workers cut granite from the surrounding landscape using a plug and feather technique. Large lodgepole pine logs, up to twelve inches in diameter, were also harvested from the surrounding area at the time of construction, peeled, and notched. Despite limitations, the ski hut was ready for occupation within a ten week time frame.

The rustic architectural styling of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut *associates* the building with other National Park Service facilities and conveys a *feeling* of vacation lodging. The remote setting provides a sense of seclusion, adventure, and unity with the surrounding landscape. The building's interior is intimate and encourages communal living through the use of multi-purpose spaces. Since the building and setting have remained relatively unaltered since the period of significance, visitors have a unique opportunity to experience the ski hut just as the first hut keeper would have in 1941.

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Tweed, William, Laura E. Soullière, and Henry G. Law. "National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942". San Francisco: National Park Service, 1977.

Weamer, Howard. The Perfect Art: The Ostrander Hut & Ski Touring in Yosemite. Marceline, Missouri: Privately published by author, 1995.

Weamer, Howard. 2009. Telephone conversation with Yosemite Park Historian, Patrick Chapin, 20 May.

Weamer, Howard. 2009. Telephone conversation with Yosemite Park Field Technician, Elizabeth Sommer, 10 August.

"Building Files", Yosemite National Park, Historic Preservation Crew, Division of Facilities Management, El Portal, California.

Yosemite Park and Curry Company Collection. Correspondence and Blue Prints. Ostrander Ski Hut Folder. Box 6, Series IV, Subseries 3. Yosemite National Park Archives.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>11S</u>	<u>274989</u>	<u>4167485</u>	3	<u>11S</u>	<u>275005</u>	<u>4167420</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>11S</u>	<u>275031</u>	<u>4167447</u>	4	<u>11S</u>	<u>274956</u>	<u>4167428</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundary is 0.7 acre along the northern shore of Ostrander Lake in Yosemite National Park. The boundary designation has been determined by Yosemite National Park's Branch of History, Architecture, and Landscapes for purposes of this nomination. The boundary perimeter is shown on an accompanying reference map.

Northern boundary – The northern boundary begins at the snow gauge located to the northwest of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut at coordinate 11S 274989 Easting, 4167485 Northing and runs slightly southeast for 185 feet to the lodgepole pine with a ski trail sign at coordinate 11S 275031 Easting 4167447 Northing.

Eastern boundary – The eastern boundary begins at the said lodgepole pine and runs slightly southwest for 123 feet to the southeast corner of the pump house at coordinate 11S 275005 Easting 4167420 Northing.

Southern boundary – The southern boundary begins at the said pump house and runs slightly northwest, along the northern shore of the lake, for 160 feet to coordinate 11S 274956 Easting 4167428 Northing.

Western boundary – The western boundary begins at the said coordinate on the northern shore of the lake and runs 216 feet slight northeast to the said snow gauge.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The location for the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut was strategically selected by the Yosemite Park & Curry Company concessionaire and Yosemite National Park to serve as a backcountry lodging facility within a day's trek of Badger Pass Ski Resort. The boundary designation contains all that is significant and contributing to the historic character of the property.

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Jennifer Self, Architectural Historian; Patrick Chapin, Historian;Elizabeth Sommer, Historical Architect Internorganization Yosemite National Parkdate July 21, 2011Division of Resources Management and ScienceBranch of History, Architecture, and Landscapesstreet & number 5083 Foresta Roadtelephone 209.379.1222city or town El Portalstate CAzip code 95318e-mail Jennifer\_Self@partner.nps.gov

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**I. Property Location Map:**

Half Dome Quadrangle, California – Mariposa County, 7.5 Minute Series (topographic), United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 1992.

**II. Reference Map:**

Reference map showing the central region of Yosemite National Park. Includes insert maps showing the location of the cabin in relation to its immediate surroundings, boundary designation, and approximate location of each photograph taken. Information pertaining to each individual photograph can be found in the photo index.

**III. Concurrence Letter**

Concurrence letter from the California State Historic Preservation Office dated August 23, 2004. States properties identified within a draft Multiple Property Document for Yosemite National Park, including the “Ostrander Ski Hut Building”, are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**IV. Historic Construction Drawings:**

Design specifications produced by the National Park Service Regional Branch of Plans and Designs, No. YOS-2118-A approved by Yosemite National Park Superintendent and National Park Service Director, drawn July 1940, constructed Oct. 1940. Original copy located at the National Park Service Denver Service Center. Digital copy obtained by Yosemite National Park, Division of Resource Management and Science, Branch of History, Architecture and Landscapes.

**V. Historic Photographs**

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Ostrander Lake Ski Hut

City or Vicinity: Yosemite National Park

County: Mariposa State: CA

Photographer: Jennifer Self

Date Photographed: July 7, 2011

Location of original digital files:

Yosemite National Park, Division of Resources Management and Science, Branch of History, Architecture and Landscapes. El Portal, CA

Photo #1 (CA\_Mariposa County\_Ostrander Lake Ski Hut\_0001)

Southwest corner, camera facing northeast.

Photo #2 (CA\_Mariposa County\_Ostrander Lake Ski Hut\_0002)

Northeast corner, camera facing southwest. Photograph shows exterior woodshed addition.

Photo #3 (CA\_Mariposa County\_Ostrander Lake Ski Hut\_0003)

Interior view of the main multi-purpose room. Camera facing north-northeast.

Photo #4 (CA\_Mariposa County\_Ostrander Lake Ski Hut\_0004)

Interior view showing wood stove and historic ship stair. East end main room, camera facing north-east.

Photo #5 (CA\_Mariposa County\_Ostrander Lake Ski Hut\_0005)

Interior of rangers' kitchen.

Photo #6 (CA\_Mariposa County\_Ostrander Lake Ski Hut\_0006)

Ostrander Lake Snow Gauge.

Photo #7 (CA\_Mariposa County\_Ostrander Lake Ski Hut\_0007)

Ostrander Lake Ski Trail Sign.

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

street & number 5083 Foresta Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town El Portal state CA zip code 95318

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut
Name of Property
Mariposa County, CA
County and State
Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number   8   Page   26  

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**Association with *Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park Multiple Property Submission***

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut is associated with the *Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park Multiple Property Submission*. It is representative of the following historic contexts, as defined in Section E of the MPS cover document: State and Federal Administration of Yosemite, 1864-1966, and Tourism, Recreation, and the Preservation Ethic in Yosemite, 1864-1973 . It is an example of the following property types, as defined in Section F: Resources Associated with State and Federal Administration of Yosemite (1864-1966), with a subtype of NPS Administration; and Resources Associated with Tourism, Recreation, and the Preservation Ethic (1864-1971), with a subtype of Winter Sports.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut

Name of Property

Mariposa County, CA

County and State

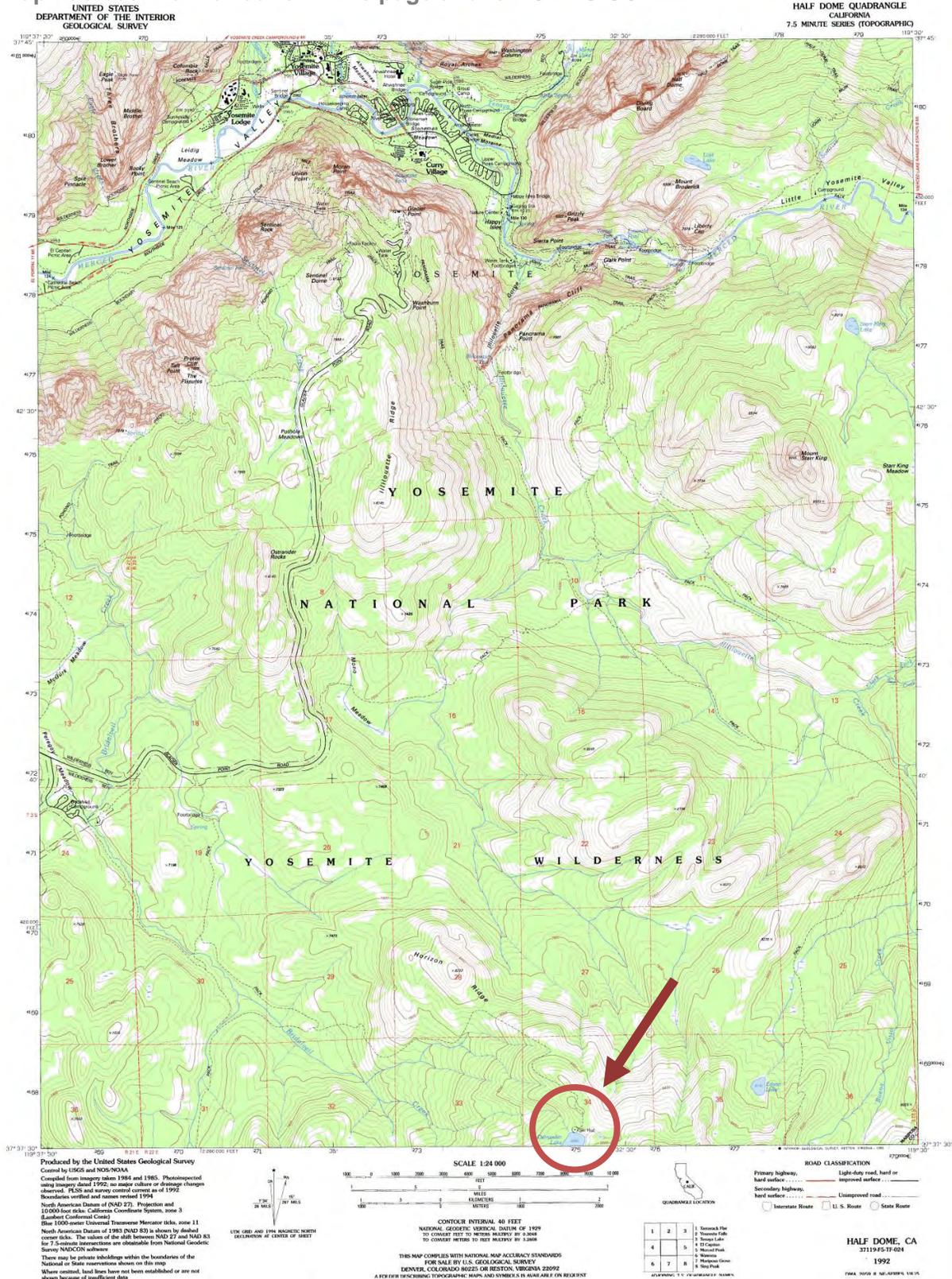
n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 1

This map has been formatted to fit this page and is NOT TO SCALE.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**Ostrander Lake Ski Hut**

Name of Property

**Mariposa County, CA**

County and State

n/a

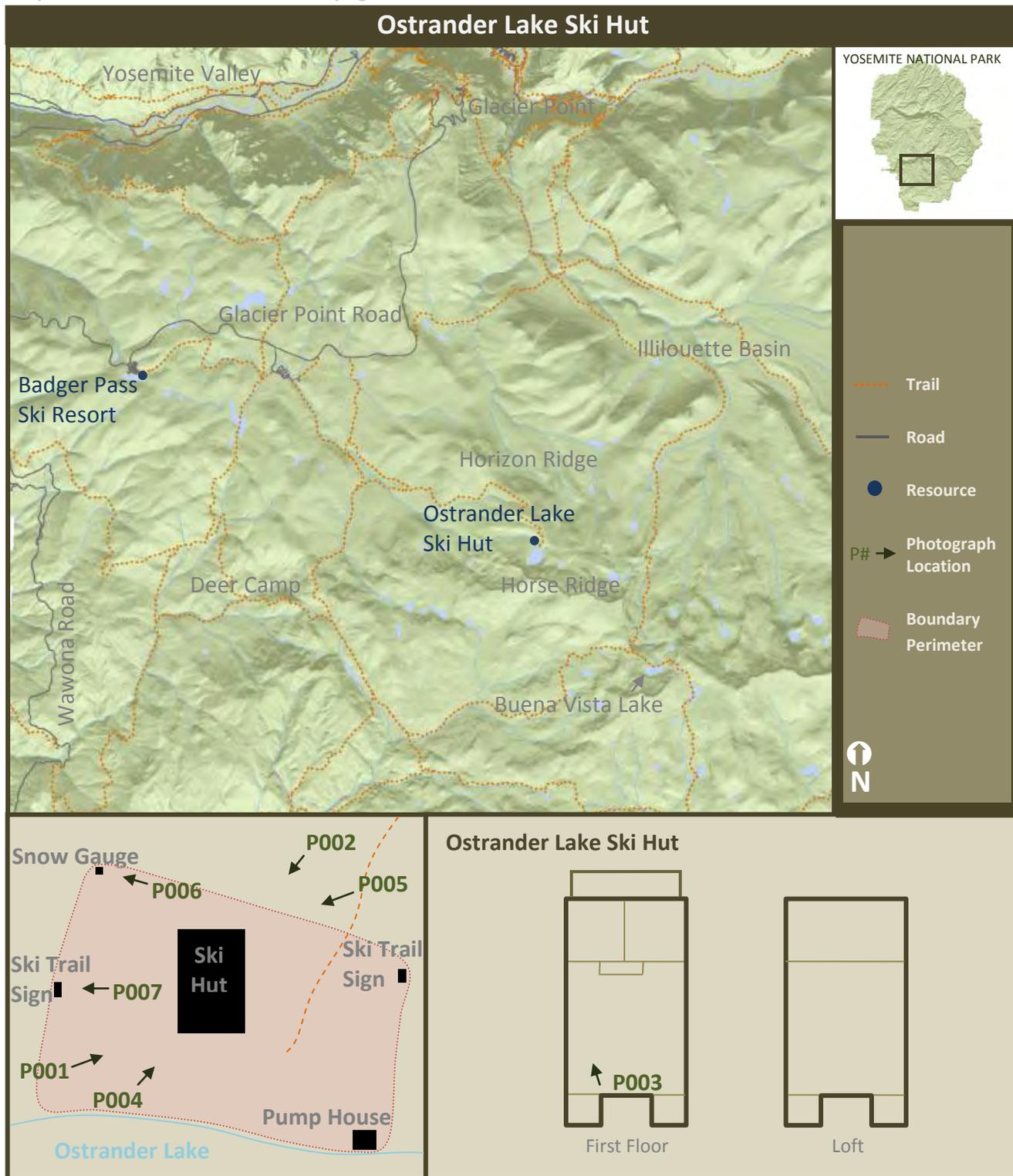
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation

Page II

Map has been formatted to fit this page and is NOT to scale.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Ostrander Lake Ski Hut**

Name of Property

**Mariposa County, CA**

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page III

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P O BOX 942898  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94298-0001  
(916) 853-6624 Fax: (916) 853-6624  
calstip0@ohp.parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



August 23, 2004

Dr. Stephanie Toothman  
National Park Service  
Pacific West Region  
909 First Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104-4150

Dear Dr. Toothman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Register Multiple Property nomination for Yosemite National Park. I concur that the properties identified and evaluated in the nomination do constitute a coherent group of geographically dispersed resources that are eligible for listing in the National Register. The nomination does an excellent job of defining separate, but related contexts that make clear the significance of the individual resources, as well as the reasons that they collectively constitute a multiple property. The inclusion of a number of the park's less elaborate, high altitude resources is particularly noteworthy. The context statements synthesize a large amount of historic documentation in a clear and concise manner and the descriptive material that is provided for the individual resources or resource groupings is excellent.

We concur in all of your findings regarding the resources enumerated in the multiple property nomination. We agree that the following properties are eligible for the National Register as a part of a multiple property.

Lake Vernon Cabin Building #2450  
May Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District  
Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station Building #2104  
Henness Ridge Fire Lookout Building #5300  
The Golden Crown Mine  
Glen Aulin Sierra Camp Historic District  
Chinquapin Historic District  
Buck Creek Cabin Building #4800  
Snow Flat Cabin #Building #3501  
Snow Creek Cabin Building #3450  
Sagehen Springs Cabin Building #2452  
**Ostrander Ski Hut Building #5110**  
Old Big Oak Flat Road  
New Big Oak Flat Road  
Merced Lake Ranger Station Building #3400  
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

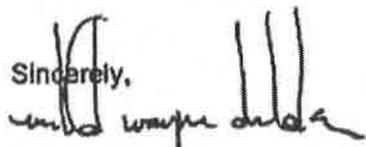
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

<b>Ostrander Lake Ski Hut</b>
Name of Property
<b>Mariposa County, CA</b>
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page III

**Wawona Tunnel  
Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Historic District  
Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp Historic District**

**I have signed the application as commenting authority. If you have any questions, please call  
Gene Itogowa of my staff (916) 653-8936.**

Sincerely,  
  
**Milford Wayne Donaldson  
State Historic Preservation Officer**

**Cc: Kimball Koch**



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut
Name of Property
Mariposa County, CA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page V



Historic Photo #1. Ostrander Lake Ski Hut, 1941. Photographer unknown.  
Location of original photo: Yosemite National Park Archives, Slide Collection, History 102 – Sights & Structures, Folder #27 Backcountry Cabins. El Portal, CA.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut

Name of Property

Mariposa County, CA

County and State

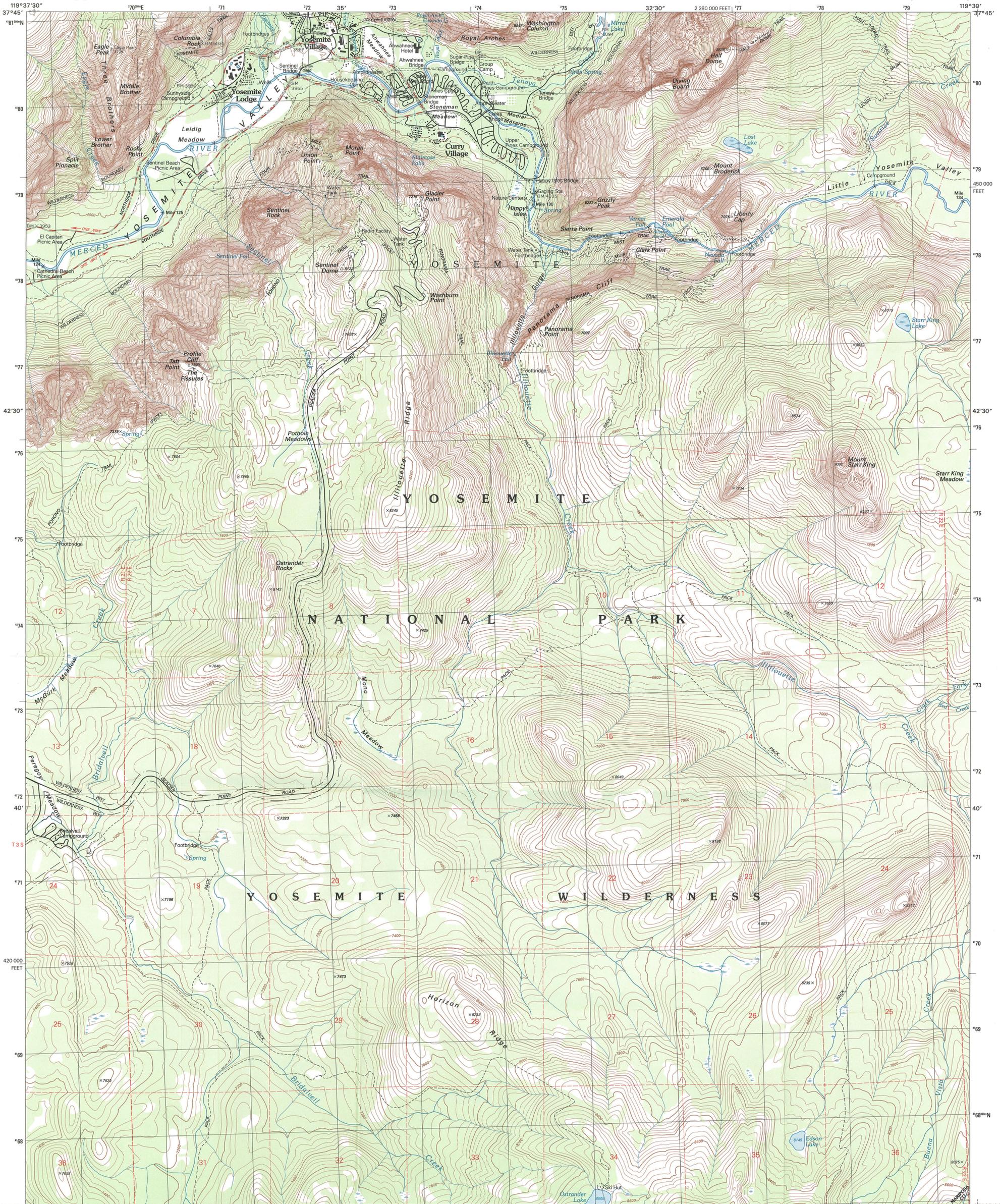
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

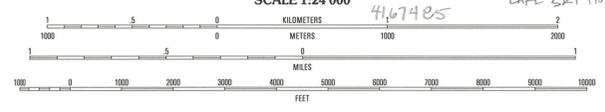
Section number Additional Documentation Page V



Historic Photo #2. Ostrander Lake Ski Hut under construction, 1940. Camera facing southwest. Horse Ridge is visible in the background. Photographer unknown.  
Location of original photo: Yosemite National Park, Division of Facilities Management  
Building File. El Portal, CA



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Derived from imagery taken 1985 and other sources. Photostereoscopic  
imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes  
observed. Public Land Survey Map and survey control current as of 1992  
Boundaries verified 2002  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and  
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 11  
10 000-foot ticks: California Coordinate System of 1927  
(zone 3)  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed  
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83  
for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic  
Survey NADCON software  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the  
National or State reservations shown on this map  
Where omitted, land lines have not been established



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
(TO CONVERT ELEVATIONS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988, ADD 4 FEET)  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Tamarack Flat
4	5	4 El Capitan	
6	7	5 Merced Peak	
8	8	6 Wawona	
		7 Mariposa Grove	
		8 Sing Peak	

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway hard surface .....  
Secondary highway hard surface .....  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface .....  
Unimproved road .....

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

HALF DOME, CA  
1997  
NIMA 2059 II NE-SERIES V895



\$ 8.00









RANGER RESIDENCE

RANGER RESIDENCE

WOODEN CABINETS



EGG PAN  
TWO BAY



10

9

16 MERCED  
BINGER  
TOTAL CLIMB 1000  
17 MERCED  
GOES OVER  
TRAIL HEAD  
DANGEROUS  
DURING  
STORM