

(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: 14000415

Date Listed: 7/18/2014

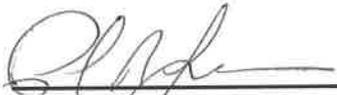
Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
Property Name

Tuolumne
County

CA
State

Yosemite National Park MPS
Multiple Name

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:

Location:

The Street Location is revised to read: *At confluence of Tuolumne River and Alkali Creek.*

Bibliographical References:

The property was not previously determined eligible by the Keeper of the National Register. [The determination was made by the NPS for compliance purposes only.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

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 Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number N/A

N/A

 not for publication

city or town Yosemite National Park (YOSE)

N/A

 vicinity

state California code CA county Tuolumne code 109 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 H. Patton, Deputy FPO 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 7/19/2013
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] 7/13/2014
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
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Tuolumne, California
 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	
14	6	buildings
		sites
3	1	structures
		objects
16	8	Total

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

Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park,
 California

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/camp

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Rustic

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete/stone/wood
 walls: canvas/stone/wood frame with stone
 veneer/wood
 roof: canvas/metal/log/shake
 other: _____

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Narrative Description

(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

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp (Glen Aulin Camp) sits at an elevation of 7,800 feet in Yosemite National Park and is one of six High Sierra Camps connected by the High Sierra Camp Loop Trail. One of six camps that comprise a loop system, Glen Aulin Camp is located approximately 8.1 miles southeast of May Lake Camp and 5.8 miles northwest of Tuolumne Meadows Camp. Located on a sandy, level beach at the confluence of the Tuolumne River and Alkali Creek, the camp is defined by the toe of a steep granite slope to the southeast, rock outcroppings to the northeast, and the creek and river to the southwest and northwest. Near the camp the creek drops in a series of cascades before converging with the river where the water calms. White Cascade, a waterfall created by the Tuolumne River rushing over granite boulders, is located south of the camp. Native tree cover consists of lodge pole pines with some juniper and red fir, and a stand of mountain hemlock is located at the edge of the camp. Native granite is used heavily in the construction of the buildings and site features; it defines pathways, marks the campfire ring, and is incorporated into bridge abutments and building foundations and walls.

While open in the summer months, the camp accommodates 32 guests and consists of six permanent buildings (stone cook house, comfort station, and four storage sheds) and fourteen seasonal buildings (tent diner, tent bath house, four employee tent cabins, and a row of eight guest tent cabins). Two permanent buildings, three structures, and twelve seasonal buildings contribute to Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp Historic District.

Each of the High Sierra Camps is located in a superb mountain setting within easy viewing distance of magnificent peaks. The camps provide beds in cement-floored, canvas tents, eating facilities in combination cook houses-tent diners, hot showers, and flush toilets. Dormitory-type guest tent cabins hold four to six people, usually men and women separately, with special arrangements possible for family groups or couples.

Narrative Description

LOCATION & SETTING

Glen Aulin Camp is located in Yosemite National Park in the Sierra Nevada. The camp sits at the confluence of the Tuolumne River and Alkali Creek (also called Conness Creek¹) in a basin that was formed by the ancient Tuolumne Glacier, which once reached 60 miles.² The Tuolumne River winds through this basin and drops in a series of falls: California, LeConte, and Waterwheel.

Much of the camp is located along the toe of a steep granite slope that runs southeast of camp. The ground in and around Glen Aulin Camp is strewn with granite boulders and rocks with prominent outcroppings northwest of the stone cook house and tent bath house. At the confluence of Alkali Creek and the Tuolumne River, the water has deposited a sandy soil. Native granite is used heavily in the construction of Glen Aulin Camp; it defines pathways, marks the campfire ring, and is incorporated into bridge abutments and building foundations. Two of the buildings (the stone cook house and comfort station) have walls made of native granite stone. One corner of the tent diner's foundation incorporates a large granite outcropping.

Located in the High Sierras at an elevation of 7,800 feet, summers in Glen Aulin Camp are short, moist, and cool; winters are long, cold, and wet. Snow usually begins to fall in November and may accumulate as much as six feet deep.³

¹ A short distance to the northeast, before reaching Glen Aulin Camp, Alkali and Conness Creeks join, which is why the stretch of creek near the camp is often referred to by either name.

² *The Yosemite High Sierra* (No publisher given, no date-c. 1936) no page number.

³ "Vegetation Overview," *Yosemite National Park*, 15 September 2010, <www.nps.gov/archive/yose/.../vegetation.htm>.

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Temperatures range from approximately 11 to 40° Fahrenheit in the winter to 33-75° Fahrenheit in the summer. Heavy winter snowfalls dictate the dates the High Sierra Camps are in operation as well as the building types and seasonal nature of the camps. Most of Glen Aulin Camp's permanent buildings have gabled roofs, which shed snow and rain away from entrances. Warm summer weather allows for the use of uninsulated tent cabins equipped with stoves for colder days. The tent cabins are deconstructed every fall, leaving only the concrete foundations.

Glen Aulin Camp is located on a sandy, level beach at the confluence of the Tuolumne River and Alkali Creek. A short distance to the northeast, before reaching Glen Aulin Camp, the Alkali and Conness Creeks join. Near the camp the creek drops in a series of cascades before converging with the river where the water calms. White Cascade, a waterfall created by the Tuolumne River rushing over granite boulders, is located south of the camp. The constant sound of the crashing falls is a large part of the experience at Glen Aulin Camp. The Tuolumne River and Alkali Creek are used for swimming and fishing, and the Tuolumne provides the camp's drinking water. Within the camp, trees help to define spaces and provide enclosure and privacy.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Glen Aulin Camp has provided guests shelter, bedding, prepared meals, and showers in the High Sierras since 1927. The High Sierra Camp Loop was established to provide overnight accommodations for park visitors who wished to visit the backcountry without carrying their own supplies. This convenience attracted large numbers of visitors to the backcountry who, through park interpretive programs, learned about conservation and NPS policies in a relaxed atmosphere.

The idea of backcountry interpretive camps was an important facet of NPS Director Stephen T. Mather's plan to build a constituency of outdoor enthusiast and park service supporters while providing an authentic wilderness experience. Interpretive rangers continue to present periodic evening programs and hikes, and the camp managers also provide an informal history of the camps at mealtime talks.

Glen Aulin Camp and the other High Sierra Camps have maintained their original use; providing rustic accommodations, meals, and recreation to entice visitors who otherwise might not experience the backcountry. Since their inception, horses and mules have been used to bring supplies and some visitors to the camps, while other guests hike in. This tradition also continues today. The camps are managed presently by a concessioner in partnership with NPS.

Heavy snows dictate that buildings at the High Sierra Camps are either structurally substantial or removable in the winter. As a result, some buildings, such as the cook house, are stone structures with thick walls able to withstand the heavy snow loads. The canvas tents and metal frames of the temporary buildings are dismantled and stored when the camps are closed in the fall, leaving only the concrete slab foundations during the harsh winter months. The buildings and structures at Glen Aulin Camp that contribute to the National Register Historic District consist of two permanent and twelve seasonal buildings and three structures.

The spatial arrangement of Glen Aulin Camp reflects the physical constraints of the district and the district's relationship with the area's main attraction, White Cascade waterfall. The buildings and structures are generally placed within the existing landscape with minimal alterations like regrading or tree removal. The camp is located on a slightly sloping site, which is bordered by the Tuolumne River to the south and west, Alkali Creek to the northwest, a steep granite slope to the southeast, and a granite outcropping to the north.

The buildings and site features are generally oriented on axis with White Cascade. This organization creates a large central gathering space (common area) where guests can sit around the campfire ring with limited views of the waterfall. Lodgepole pines have filled in the historic vista of the White Cascade waterfall from Glen Aulin Camp's central gathering space and interrupt the axial relationship of the tent diner, stone cook house, campfire ring, and waterfall. The eight guest tent cabins are arranged in a linear formation roughly paralleling the toe of the steep granite slope southeast of the camp. The stone cook house, tent diner, and tent bath house are located northeast of the campfire ring. A new comfort station sits northeast of the guest tent cabins.

Employee tent cabins are spread throughout the site and are generally situated away from the common areas. In contrast to the main public structures, the employee tent cabins are more irregularly placed due to the limited availability of flat areas at the periphery of the camp and, likely, desire for privacy. Two employee tent cabins sit east and one west of the tent bath house. A fourth employee tent cabin sits on its own at the northwest edge of the site. Historically, the corral was located at the northwest portion of the site, but it has since been relocated to a more removed location north of the camp

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due to concerns about the ecological impacts (water quality and invasive species) caused by livestock excrement. Since the period of significance several small-scale features have been added to the camp such as bear boxes, benches around the campfire ring, fire extinguishers, and new hitching posts.

Glen Aulin can be divided into three main clusters based on location and function. The first, the guest tent cabin group, is composed of eight tents in a linear arrangement. The placement of the northernmost two tents curves gently to the west. The tents are spaced approximately two to six feet apart: the spacing is often dictated by the location of trees. All guest tent cabins face west, toward the campfire ring, the main social space of the camp, and the spectacular White Cascade beyond.

The second cluster consists of the communal camp facilities: the stone cook house, attached tent diner, and tent bath house. The stone cook house and tent diner are oriented roughly southwest/northeast. The tent bath house sits to the east of the stone cook house, and employee tent cabin E10 and a tent foundation sit to the northwest. The spacing and slightly skewed orientation of these buildings seems to be dictated by site features, such as rocks and trees rather than a formal relationship to each other.

The third cluster consists of two employee tent cabins and a small wood shed and is located northeast of the guest tent cabins and east of the tent bath house. In this area the site is more wooded, and the buildings' placement is dictated by the location of trees.

Several buildings fall outside the clusters. The comfort station is shared by guests and employees and is located between the guest tent cabins and employee tent cluster. A fourth employee tent cabin (E9) sits at the northwest edge of the site, away from all other buildings. Probably as a result of its historic use, the storage of lanterns and highly flammable fuel, the lantern shed sits apart from the other camp buildings, north of the tent bath house. Similarly, the shed and metal shed are separated from the other structures and sit northwest of employee tent cabin E10. The treatment of sewage has long been an issue at Glen Aulin Camp, and various schemes have been proposed over the years. Currently, sewage lines were installed in circa 1980 and lead to a sewer mound approximately 200 feet northeast of the camp.

Three hiking trails intersect west of Glen Aulin Camp: the Pacific Crest Trail, the High Sierra Loop Trail, and a trail that connects Glen Aulin Camp junction to Pate Valley. The spur trail leads from the trail junction west of Glen Aulin Camp across two bridges to the site of the camp. The first bridge, a modern metal structure, spans the Tuolumne River. The second is wood and crosses Alkali Creek and is non-contributing. Crossing the two bridges is the only way in and out of the camp.

Circulation within the camp is informal; all paths are unpaved, well worn, generally curvilinear, and vary in width. Over the decades excessive and undefined social trails have led to the compaction of soil and dearth of understory vegetation within the camp. During the summers of 2005 and 2006, volunteers worked on the High Sierra Camp Restoration Project with the goal of "bringing the camps to a more natural condition helping to enhance guests' experiences by improving the camp aesthetics and reducing dust." As part of this project, 600 linear feet of trails within the camp were delineated; vegetation islands were created using rocks and logs as borders; formerly trampled areas were decompacted; native seeds and duff were spread; and native plants were transplanted.

No historic images have been located that verify historic circulation patterns. However, the locations of the campfire ring, rock outcroppings, mature trees, and buildings have changed little and limit the possible paths of travel. Circulation routes are likely similar to the historic paths. Although the historic configuration of the paths cannot be documented, the current paths are compatible with the historic character of the camp. In addition, the delineating materials are appropriately naturalistic and easily reversible.

A backpackers' campground, which is maintained by the National Park Service (NPS), is located northeast of Glen Aulin Camp and outside the district boundary. The Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp and backpackers' campground are distinctly separate. Each has its own restrooms, water source, bear boxes, and campfire rings. Circulation also serves to separate the camps: on the trail into Glen Aulin Camp, a sign directs backpackers away from the tent camp to a trail that runs along Alkali Creek to the backpackers' campground. The backpackers' campground has not been included within the historic district boundaries for a number of reasons described in the boundary description.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

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Stone Cook House, permanent building (c. 1935)

Measuring 20'2" by 14'3", the stone cook house is a simple building with a roughly rectangular footprint. The walls are thick, load-bearing granite fieldstone and rest on a concrete slab foundation. Deeply recessed mortar joints give the exterior walls the appearance of dry-laid stone. The front-facing gabled roof structure rests on the stone walls and consists of log beams, purlins, and trusses. Galvanized corrugated metal roofing topped with half logs clads the roof. Some of the logs retain their bark, while others are stripped. The log purlins are exposed at the gable ends, and at the apex of the gable end, the wall is covered with vertical log siding.

On the east elevation, there is one small window, and on the west elevation, there are two small windows. Heavy wood lintels span the openings, and the windows are wood, three-light, awning sash, which open inward. Wood-framed metal screens are mounted on the exterior. The opening on the south elevation is fitted with a wood Dutch door, which is covered with metal cladding. On the interior side of the Dutch door, there is a wood screen door. Directly above is a transom with metal-clad exterior wood shutters, an interior metal screen, and a twelve-light casement window. In the south elevation, a pair of wood doors, also clad in metal, opens into the tent diner. A twelve-light transom sits above the doors, and a metal screen is located at the interior.

The east elevation has a small shed-roofed addition. Wood shingles clad the walls, and metal standing-seam panels cover the roof. A second shed-roofed addition abuts the west elevation. The addition's walls, doors, and roof are clad in vertical half logs.

At the interior the ceiling is open, and the log beams and rafters are visible. The walls are plastered, and the beams and rafters are varnished.

Lantern Shed, permanent building (c. 1935)

The lantern shed is a small building with a square footprint measuring 6'2" on each side. Board-and-batten siding clads the walls of the wood-frame structure. The building rests on a concrete slab foundation, and a gabled roof tops the building. Wood shingles, currently covered with a tarp, cover the roof, and rafter ends are visible along the eaves. A wood rail-and-stile door is located on the northwest elevation. Patching suggests a window has been covered on the southeast elevation. The building is in poor condition.

Tent Diner (foundation c. 1935)

Measuring 18' by 23'10", the tent diner is rectangular in plan and abuts the south elevation of the stone cook house. An interior steel frame forms a gabled roof and wall structure, which is covered in canvas. Horizontal bands of wood-framed screens span the east and west walls. A wood door is located on the south end, and a pair of wood doors from the stone cook house lead into the tent diner's north end. The structure has a reddish tinted concrete floor, and a small wood-burning stove is situated at the south end of the room. A combination stone and concrete ramp at the tent diner's south end leads to the campfire ring.

Tent Bath House (foundation c. 1935)

The tent bath house is rectangular in plan and measures 8' by 20'. The structure is a steel pipe frame that supports an asymmetrical gabled roof and rests on a concrete slab foundation. Canvas covers the frame. Native granite stones are piled around the perimeter of the slab. Corrugated panels mounted on the steel frame divide the building into two halves: one for women and one for men. Each side has one stove, two sinks, and showers. Partial wood doors (open at both the top and bottom) at the east and west sides of the structure provide access to the interior. Two combination concrete and stone steps are located between the stone cook house and the tent bath house.

Employee Tent Cabin E1 and E10 (foundations c. 1935)

Employee Tent Cabin E1 faces southwest and is set slightly away from the communal and guest tent cabins. Employee Tent Cabin E10 faces southwest and sits to the northwest of the stone cook house. Each cabin rests on a concrete slab foundation that measures roughly 12' by 14'. A steel frame structure creates a gabled-roof form that is covered with plastic canvas. An additional canvas rain fly supported by steel brackets and beams covers the roof. Unlike the communal-use tents (such as the tent diner), the employee tent cabins are fire-resistant treated plastic canvas not fabric canvas. A door opening is centered on a short side of the tent and is fitted with a wood door with a screen in the upper portion. One window-sized opening is located on each of the long sides of the tent and is fitted with insect mesh and covered with a retractable plastic-canvas flap. The cabin has a small stove with stove pipe, which vents out the rear of the tent.

Guest Tent Cabins 1-8 (foundations c. 1935)

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Each of the eight guest tent cabins measures roughly 12' by 14', and all face northwest toward the campfire ring. The tents are composed of steel frames, which are inserted into metal poles set in the concrete foundation slab at the corners and long sides. The frames support the gabled-roof form of the canvas, which is nailed to 2" by 4" wood baseboards at the interior. An additional canvas rain fly supported by steel brackets and beams covers the roof. Unlike the communal camp tents (such as the tent diner), the guest tents are plastic-coated "CDAI Flame-Resistant Fabric" not standard canvas. A door opening is centered on the northwest side of each tent and is fitted with a wood door with a screen in the upper portion. One window-sized opening is located on each of the long sides of the tents and is fitted with insect mesh and covered with a retractable plastic canvas flap. The buildings sit on concrete slab foundations; some have granite stones embedded into the concrete. Concrete steps lead to the door openings. Each tent has a small stove with stove pipe, which vents out the rear of the tent. The number of steps for each tent varies based on the terrain, ranging from one to three steps.

Concrete Slab (c. 1935)

A small concrete slab foundation measuring 7'9" by 8' sits immediately adjacent to the northwest elevation of the stone cook house. The concrete slab foundation is set on granite stones. The slab is currently being used as a storage platform for propane tanks although it likely was originally used as the foundation for a tent cabin.

Stone Stove and Chimney (c. 1935)

Northeast of the stone cook house there is a dry-laid stone stove and chimney. Pipes project from the face of the stove, suggesting the stove may have been gas heated at some point. The stove likely dates from the period of significance. It does not appear to be in use.

Campfire Ring (c. 1960)

The campfire ring is the physical and social center the camp and consists of an inner stone ring and an outer stone ring, which is set with mortar. Several logs have been laid between the two rings. Modern metal-and-wood benches are fixed in place around the campfire ring. Sketches show that in 1982 log seating was used, indicating the benches are a more recent alteration.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Comfort Station, permanent building (c. 1980)

The comfort station is a small building with a rectangular footprint measuring 12'9" by 10'. The walls are board and batten on the southwest and northeast elevations and uncoursed fieldstone veneer at the northwest and southeast elevations. A steeply pitched, front-facing gabled roof covers the building. The roof is composed of layers: plywood panels topped by corrugated metal panels covered, in turn, by split logs. Purlin and rafter-ends are exposed at the gable ends and eaves. The building rests on a concrete slab foundation. Combination concrete and stone stairs lead to paired doors on the southwest and northeast elevations. The doors are clad in board and battens that align with those of the walls. Two diamond-shaped vents are located at the top of each door. Interior plywood partitions divide the building into four sections; each is accessible by one of the exterior doors. Three rooms contain toilets, and one has a urinal. There are no sinks.

Wood Shed, permanent building (c. 1965)

The wood shed is roughly square, measuring 8'2" by 8'1". The walls of the structure are composed of 4" by 6" wood posts set in precast concrete blocks, and the walls are clad with 1" by 12" vertical board siding. A door, also made of vertical board siding, is located on the southwest elevation. The building does not have a permanent roof: a single board spans the top of the building and supports a flat canvas covering.

Dry Storage Shed, permanent building (c. 1990)

The dry storage shed measures approximately 4' by 8' and has a rectangular footprint. The wood-frame structure and shed roof are faced with metal panels, and the building sits on a concrete slab foundation. The only opening is on the east elevation and is fitted with a metal door.

Metal Shed, permanent building (c. 1990)

The metal shed measures 16'1" by 10'1" and has a rectangular footprint. The wood-frame structure and gabled roof are clad in corrugated metal siding. Wood boards line the eaves and gable ends. The building is raised off the ground on posts set in concrete footings. Wood stairs lead to metal doors on the north and south elevations.

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Employee Tent Cabin E2 (c. 1990)

Employee tent cabin E2 faces southeast and is set somewhat away from the communal camp structures. The cabin rests on a concrete slab foundation that measures roughly 12' by 14'. A steel frame structure creates a gabled-roof form that is covered with canvas. An additional canvas rain fly supported by steel brackets and beams, covers the roof. Unlike the communal-use tents (such as the tent diner), the employee tents are "CDAI Flame-Resistant Fabric" not standard canvas. A door opening is centered on the southwest side of the tent and is fitted with a wood door with a screen in the upper portion. One window-sized opening is located on each of the long sides of the tent and is fitted with insect mesh and covered with a retractable canvas flap. The cabin has a small stove with stove pipe, which vents out the rear of the tent.

Employee Tent Cabin E9 (c. 2003)

Employee tent cabin E9 faces southeast and is set near Alkali Creek away from the other camp structures. The cabin rests on a concrete slab foundation that measures roughly 12' by 14'. A steel frame structure creates a gabled-roof form that is covered with canvas. An additional canvas rain fly supported by steel brackets and beams, covers the roof. Unlike the common-use tents (such as the tent diner), the employee tents are "CDAI Flame-Resistant Fabric" not standard canvas. A door opening is centered on the southwest side of the tent and is fitted with a wood door with a screen in the upper portion. One window-sized opening is located on each of the long sides of the tent and is fitted with insect mesh and covered with a retractable canvas flap. The cabin has a small stove with stove pipe, which vents out the rear of the tent. Although a 1953 site plan of the site shows a tent cabin at this location,⁴ the footprint appears to have been reoriented since 1953, and the current foundation is likely a more recent replacement.

Wood Bridge over Alkali Creek (abutments c. 1935, superstructure c. 2000)

The wood bridge over Alkali Creek has undergone major alterations, but still retains its historic abutments. The bridge abutments at each stream bank and approach are fieldstone with cement mortar and appear to date from the early development of the camp. The bridge superstructure is of more recent construction: it is primarily pressure-treated wood, a modern material. The deck measures 50' by 6'5". Side rails approximately 7' tall line the sides of the deck and are composed of heavy timber posts topped by heavy timber beams. Horizontal wood boards span the posts at the lower level. Diagonal wood braces oriented perpendicular to the deck (like buttresses) rest on heavy timber beams mounted to the underside of the bridge deck. All joints are secured with metal plates, and diagonal steel ties provide further lateral reinforcement.

INTEGRITY

Today, Glen Aulin Camp reflects many of the qualities that characterized it during the period of significance, 1927-1961. The extant historic buildings and structures, including the stone cook house, tent diner, tent bath house, lantern shed, and guest and employee tent cabins, help convey the design, character, and functional relationships of the High Sierra Camps. With the exception of the early comfort stations and one tent pad (E9), the foundations and buildings of Glen Aulin Camp as shown on a 1953 site plan are extant and intact. Similarly, although two tent cabins (E2 and E9) and several sheds have been added, overall, the layout of buildings and features have a high degree of integrity from the historic period. The canvas material that clads the tent cabins has been replaced and is modern. However, this is to be expected: by nature canvas fabric must be periodically replaced especially in a harsh outdoor environment such as the High Sierra.

New buildings, such as the comfort station, wood shed, dry storage shed, metal shed, employee tent cabins E2 and E9 do not significantly compromise the setting. The employee tent cabin E9, metal shed, and dry storage shed are located away from the historic buildings and structures. The comfort station, wood shed, and employee tent cabin E2 are set closer to the historic core of the camp, but are still at the periphery and do not interrupt the historic spatial relationships. The new buildings are simple, small, and use compatible materials. The buildings and structures of Glen Aulin Camp retain a good degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

In addition to the buildings and structures, a number of aspects of the landscape help to convey the historic character of the site. At Glen Aulin Camp the historic patterns of topography, overall spatial organization, and vegetation types remain discernable, providing a physical context for the site's buildings and structures and helping to convey the site's design, feeling, and historic associations. These qualities are further enhanced by the natural setting of Glen Aulin Camp, which

⁴ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Plat No 23, Glen Aulin Area, High Sierra Camp," Site plan, 1953 (On file at the National Park Service Archive, EI Portal).

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has changed very little since the historic period. In addition, smaller site features that likely date from the period of significance, such as the campfire ring and stone stove and chimney, are also intact.

Some landscape elements have changed or been altered since the period of significance. A few of these detract from the camp's integrity including: the growth of Lodgepole pines obstructing the vista of White Cascade from Glen Aulin Camp, the placement of modern park benches around the campfire ring, and the relocation of the corral away from the camp. Other elements have been altered but are compatible with the site such as: circulation patterns defined during the summers of 2005 and 2006, the reconstructed bridge over Alkali Creek, and two modern wood hitching posts. These changes do not substantially diminish the historic character of the site. Through its extant buildings and features, and intact topography, patterns of spatial organization, and natural setting, Glen Aulin Camp continues to present a coherent picture of an early to mid twentieth century backcountry camp. Overall, Glen Aulin Camp has good integrity.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Conservation

Education

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1927-1961

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Yosemite Park and Curry Company

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp spans from 1927 (the date the camp was first built) to 1961 (the date Sunrise Camp, the final High Sierra Camp, was built, and the High Sierra Camps were completed).

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

Property Type: Resources Associated with Tourism, Recreation and the Preservation Ethic in Yosemite (1864-1973)
Subtype: Camping, Hiking
Period of Significance: 1927-1961

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp is significant under Criterion A at the local level for its role in recreation/entertainment, conservation, and education as one of seven high country camps whose origin dates back to the earliest days of the National Park Service (NPS). Director Stephen T. Mather believed that this type of public service in the Yosemite high country helped fulfill NPS's interpretive responsibility to educate visitors in the conservation role of the agency. The Yosemite camp system initially began in 1916 as an effort to attract people into the park's high country. Its purpose, as time went on, became closely tied to management problems: to relieve congestion in Yosemite Valley by enabling outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the Yosemite wilderness with relative ease and some degree of comfort and to provide a compatible environment in which, through interpretive means, visitors could be instructed in the tenets of conservation and the objectives of NPS in that area. Through the use of organized parties guided by a Yosemite naturalist, NPS established a unique pattern of interpretive service in the high country of one of the most populous national parks, which helped acquaint the American public with the conservation objectives of the agency in all natural areas of the system.

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

HISTORIC CONTEXT: RECREATIONAL MOUNTAIN HUTS

Recreational mountain huts (also known as alpine huts, mountain shelters, mountain hostels, wilderness huts, high huts, backcountry huts or hikers' camps) are found throughout the world, and are particularly abundant in Europe, and range from simple one-room shelters to more elaborate accommodations with multiple bedrooms, common rooms, indoor plumbing, and heat. Recreational mountain huts are built to shelter backcountry travelers such as hikers, mountaineers, climbers, and skiers.⁵ It is probable that Donald and Mary Curry Tresidder, who were influential in growing the High Sierra Camps, were motivated to expand Yosemite's High Sierra Camps while traveling abroad and seeing their popularity of recreational mountain huts in Europe.⁶

In the United States, recreational mountain huts were first used in the northeast. One of the earliest and best-known recreational mountain hut systems was created by the New Hampshire Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC).⁷ Each of the system's eight huts is spaced a day's hike apart (six to eight miles), covering a 56-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail in the White Mountain National Forest.⁸ AMC was founded in 1876 with the mission of preserving the White Mountains. In 1888 the club built the first of eight "high huts," Madison Spring Hut, which was modeled on Alpine shelters. Until destroyed by fire in 1940, the Madison Spring Hut was the oldest in the chain. The Mizpah Spring Hut, completed in 1964, was the eighth and the last AMC hut to be constructed. AMC huts hold 36 to 90 people and provide guests bunks; most huts are full service and include breakfast and dinner.⁹

⁵ Louis Dawson, "Hut History," *10th Mountain Division Hut Association*. 3 August 2010. <www.huts.org/education/hut_history.html>.

⁶ Donald Tresidder was the first president of Yosemite's consolidated concessions operation, the Yosemite Park and Curry Company (YP&CCo.), and oversaw a remarkable expansion of park facilities. Mrs. Mary Curry Tresidder was the heir to the famous Camp Curry concession (founded in 1899) and remained integral to the concessions operations at Yosemite for decades, serving as the Chairman of the Board for YP&CCo. until the late 1960s.

⁷ Madeleine Eno and Katharine Wroth, "Huts and Glory: AMC's Archives Offer a Wry Peek at Life on the High Peaks." *Appalachian Mountain Club*, 15 September 2010 <<http://www.outdoors.org/>>.

⁸ Lisa McLaughlin, "Travel: Not Really Roughing It," *Time*, 15 September 2010. <<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1106327,00.html>>.

⁹ *Appalachian Mountain Club*, 15 September 2010 <<http://www.outdoors.org/>>

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Another example of a recreational hut system is the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association. It is the most extensive mountain hut system in the United States and includes 30 backcountry huts in the Colorado Rocky Mountains connected by 350 miles of backcountry trails.¹⁰ The system was founded in the 1980s and named after the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army, who stayed in mountain huts while training. Not all of the structures were originally built as mountain huts: some were converted from sheep-herder shelters and Forest Service guard shacks.¹¹ The 10th Mountain Division Hut Association accommodates hikers, mountain bikers, and cross-country skiers.

Yosemite's High Sierra Camps are unusual in the context of recreational mountain huts. While most recreational mountain huts in Europe and the eastern United States were maintained by hiking associations, even if situated on public lands, the High Sierra Camps were built and maintained by a for-profit concessioner. Further, most recreational mountain huts were built with the primary purpose of providing year-round shelter, and their permanent buildings are used heavily by cross-country skiers. The High Sierra Camps are distinctive in their emphasis on interpretation programs and their seasonal, temporary nature of buildings.

Within the National Park system, there are other facilities that, like the High Sierra Camps, offer rustic accommodations and are accessible only by foot or pack animal, but differ in that they are primarily permanent buildings and are individual camps rather than a loop system. Some examples include backcountry lodging in Glacier National Park, Sequoia National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Haleakala National Park.

The Sperry Chalet and the Granite Park Chalet are located in Glacier National Park and were built by the Glacier Park Hotel Company, a subsidiary of the Great Northern Railway. Construction on the Sperry Chalet began in 1913, and the complex soon consisted of a stone, one-story kitchen and dining room building and a stone, two-story dormitory. The Granite Park Chalet was built the next year, in 1914, and included a stone, one-story, dormitory building and a stone, two-story building housing a kitchen and dormitory. These developments slightly precede the construction of the earliest of the High Sierra Camps at Yosemite, which were built in 1916.

Sequoia National Park has a single backcountry camp that is very similar to the High Sierra Camps at Yosemite. It is called Bearpaw High Sierra Camp. Located along Sequoia's High Sierra Trail in the Kaweah River watershed, this High Sierra Camp opened for business in 1934. The camp complex includes a dining room/kitchen tent structure, a bathhouse, and, in a very similar fashion as Yosemite's High Sierra Camps, six tent cabins that sleep up to 18 visitors. Also, like the High Sierra Camps at Yosemite, Bearpaw is operated by a for-profit concessioner and offers meals to backpackers that are staying at a nearby backcountry campground.⁷

After the Fred Harvey Company was granted the concession to build a lodge in the Grand Canyon in 1922, the company hired noted architect Mary Jane Colter to design the buildings. Colter named the lodge the Phantom Ranch and designed a dining hall and guest cabins. Phantom Ranch is located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, and is only accessed by foot, mule, or river raft. Additions were made over the decades, and the camp currently includes a combination of historic and nonhistoric buildings and provides guests accommodations, meals, and linens. Although the Phantom Ranch is comprised of permanent buildings and is not a part of a backcountry circuit, it is similar to Yosemite's High Sierra Camps in that it is a backcountry hostelry that is run by the parks concessioner.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park has two lodges accessible only by hiking or horseback: Charit Creek and LeConte. Built as a hunting lodge in 1817, Charit Creek Lodge was converted to a youth hostel in 1987 and a full-service lodge in the 1990s. Sleeping space for 38 guests is provided in two cabins and two bunk rooms, and meal service is included. LeConte Lodge was built in 1926, and sleeping quarters for 50 guests are located in roughhewn cabins and dormitories.

¹⁰ McLaughlin.

¹¹ Dawson.

¹² Tweed, *Uncertain Path: A Search for the Future of National Parks*. 168-170.

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Hiking trails in Haleakala National Park provide access to three small, permanent cabins built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The cabins are usually accessed from different trails and are not part of a loop system. Each cabin offers visitors a stove, kitchen facilities, and bunks, and guests prepare their own meals.

The lodging in National Parks described above is similar to the High Sierra Camps in that guests arrive by foot or pack animal, and simple sleeping accommodations are provided. However, there are important differences. First, the facilities described above primarily consist of permanent buildings. Secondly, the lodges and cabins are not part of loop systems. Thirdly, with the exception of the Phantom Ranch, most are a lodge building type, with at least some of the guests' sleeping quarters located in the main lodge.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: HIGH SIERRA CAMPS¹³

An important and historically significant portion of the Yosemite National Park lies above the elevations normally approached by the casual tourist and sight-seer. The High Sierra Camps allow for exploration and enjoyment of this remote and seasonally accessed part of the park. A series of camps established for the enjoyment of the more adventuresome of visitors, the High Sierra Camps offer support and shelter on several of the trails that carry hikers, riders and backpackers through this rugged and challenging wilderness.

In 1916 the fledgling National Park Service asked its Yosemite concessionaire—the Desmond Park Service Company—to build mountain chalets at Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, and Merced Lake. The Desmond Company owned the Sentinel and Glacier Point hotels and the Big Trees and Yosemite lodges in and around Yosemite Valley. Construction took place during that summer. Each camp contained a frame combination lounge, dining room, and kitchen building roofed with canvas. Guest tents provided sleeping accommodations, and the camp staff consisted of a manager, a cook, and a fisherman. The cost for dinner, bed, and breakfast the next day was minimal. The Desmond Company went bankrupt in 1917, and, as a result, the camps closed the following year. After reorganizing in 1920, the Desmond Company became the Yosemite National Park Company.

In 1920 the Park Service requested that the High Sierra camps be reopened. Superintendent Washington B. Lewis advocated their reestablishment to fill a need he saw for simple, inexpensive accommodations for the park visitor that could be provided at minimum expense to the operator. As a result, the camps at Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne Meadows were reopened as "Hikers' Camps." The first organized party to use them left Yosemite Valley on July 20, 1923, guided by a Park Service naturalist. Other nature-guided parties went out over the next two months and met with considerable success. As a result, Superintendent Lewis requested that the Yosemite National Park Company expand the system to include sites not accessible by roads. He sent Yosemite Park Naturalist Carl P. Russell on a pack trip into the Sierra to choose sites for five additional camps.

The trail-side campsites that seemed best suited to the High Sierra system were at Little Yosemite Valley, Merced Lake, Boothe Lake, the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River, Tuolumne Meadows, Glen Aulin, and Tenaya Lake. Russell selected these locations because of the beauty of their surroundings, their distance from other promising campsites, and the availability of water. In 1924 five of those sites were planned as "Hikers' -Camps," built and operated by the Yosemite National Park Company. The Lyell Fork and Glen Aulin Camps intended for installation were omitted from that year's program of expansion. It was planned that all of the camps would consist of a mess and cook tent and dormitory tents for men and women. Attendants and cooks would staff each camp with equipment and supplies brought in by mules.

During a part of the winter of 1923-24, Naturalist Russell was in San Francisco on Yosemite Museum business. At the suggestion of Yosemite National Park Company officials, he took the opportunity to cultivate the acquaintance of some of the newspaper editors in San Francisco with the intent of releasing to them photographs, maps, and notes on the proposed Hikers' Camps. Writers for the *Call*, *Daily News*, *Examiner*, *Herald*, and the *Chronicle* seized upon the opportunity to use the material. The *Herald* for February 13, 1924, first publicized the camps, and other articles followed in quick succession. By February 17, 1924, the San Francisco office of the Yosemite National Park Company reported that it was somewhat overwhelmed with inquiries engendered by the publicity. The announcement made in the *Chronicle* of May

¹³ This context is based largely on excerpts from the 8 March 2010 Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp National Register Nomination prepared by Andy Kirk, Richard Coop, and Charles Palmer.

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4, 1924 featured a full page of photographs of the camp sites. A 1924 article on the High Sierra camps by NPS Chief Naturalist Ansel F. Hall provided a description of the High Sierra Loop and the comfortable beds and wholesome meals, provided at a mere 75-cents each, that awaited backcountry travelers at day's end.

Meanwhile, the park prepared maps and colored posters announcing the expanded camp system and readied sets of hand-tinted lanternslides of "standard" size featuring the camps and the trails between camps. The Yosemite National Park Company met the expense involved in making those visual devices. During the travel season of 1924, the Hikers' Camps received a good deal of emphasis in evening talks, in a special printed bulletin, and on the pages of the mimeographed "Yosemite Nature Notes." On June 24, 1924, the first backcountry nature guide party, a group of ten, set out from Camp Curry for the Hikers' Camps. Thereafter, for the next six years, the six-day trips were offered throughout the summer at two-week intervals. Almost immediately, it became clear the camps drew people on horseback as well as hikers, and the name was changed from Hikers Camps to High Sierra Camps. Backcountry excursions were operated annually during the eight- to ten-week season during the summer when the snow pack had retreated sufficiently for the parties to access the trails.

By the mid-1920s, seven backcountry camps had been established: Little Yosemite Camp, Merced Lake Camp, Boothe Lake Camp, Mount Lyell Camp, Tuolumne Meadows Camp, Glen Aulin Camp, and Lake Tenaya Camp. The proposed Glen Aulin Camp began operating in 1927, but later moved slightly east of its original location because of a mosquito problem. A few years later the Boothe Lake Camp was abandoned in favor of a new camp, Vogelsang, first located near the junction of the Rafferty Creek and Lyell Fork trails and, in 1940, on the banks of Fletcher Creek. In 1938 the Tenaya Lake Camp was closed, and in its place another was established amidst the mountain hemlocks at May Lake under the ramparts of Mount Hoffmann. This left the Tuolumne Meadows Camp the only one on a road. Sunrise High Sierra Camp was not established until 1961.

The sheer size of and demand for access to this remote area of the park has required significant planning and coordination among the Park concessionaires, NPS, campers, and hikers. The following descriptions of the campsites and their physical relationships demonstrate the logistical dexterity necessary for the park to accommodate the tourists, maintain the integrity of the wilderness area in which these trails and camps exist, and protect the wildlife and scenic beauty indigenous to this region. In addition, the travelers must be protected from significant exposure to the dramatic elements that can change abruptly and without warning. What follows are the original 1924 descriptions of the sites selected for Merced Lake Camp, Tuolumne Meadows Camp, and Glen Aulin Camp:

[Merced Lake Camp:] Those who have climbed to Vogelsang Pass or have followed the Babcock and Emeric Lake Trail to Tuolumne Pass will remember the splendid park of Jeffrey pines that stands where the trail leaves the main Merced Canyon and branches up the McClure Fork. Here, a mile above Merced Lake stands Merced Lake Camp. The region is one of great beauty. The glaciated canyon cuts eastward deep into the heart of the mountains. Through it runs the singing Merced, now plunging over cascades, now flowing deep, now swift, and now loitering for a time in placid Washburn Lake. Not only here, but also in the McClure Fork, Babcock Lake, Bernice Lake, Emeric Lake, and other waters the trout abound. Merced Camp is a good base from which to ascend Florence Mountain or Mount Clark and its lofty neighbors. Within a long day's walk are Yosemite Valley and the hikers' camps at Lake Tenaya (via Clouds Rest), at Tuolumne Meadows (via Tuolumne Pass or Vogelsang Pass), and in Lyell Canyon (via Vogelsang Pass or Tuolumne Pass). A short day westward is the Little Yosemite Camp. A seven-mile climb on the scenic Babcock and Emeric Lake Trail, or on the even more spectacular Vogelsang Pass Trail, would take us to Boothe Lake Camp....

[Tuolumne Meadows Camp:] Of all the spots in the High Sierra, John Muir's favorite was the Tuolumne Meadows. So many are the attractive excursions that may be taken afoot from the camp near the junction of the Lyell Fork and Dana Fork that hikers will be tempted to prolong their stay here from days to weeks. Among the shorter walks are those to Lambert Dome, Dog Lake, Fairview Dome, Evelyn Lake, and Gaylor Lakes; a little longer are the trips to Young Lake, McCabe Lakes, Tioga Pass, Tioga Lake, Ellery Lake, Saddlebag Lake, and Old Tioga Mine; and then there are the ascents of Mount Dana, Mount Conness, Ragged Peak, the rugged summits of the Cathedral Group, and dozens of other unnamed vantage-points. Trails radiate in every direction. A few miles westward are the famous Waterwheel Falls, with Glen Aulin Camp conveniently located for hikers. A little to the south of west the Tioga Road leads to Tenaya Lake Camp, some eight miles distant. Southwest, a full day's walk

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by the Sunrise Trail lies Little Yosemite Camp. Southward one may climb in four or five hours up the Rafferty Creek Trail to Boothe Lake Camp. The Mount Lyell Camp is but two hours' walk southeastward up the canyon.

[Glen Aulin Camp:] From the highland plateau of Tuolumne Meadows one descends abruptly into the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, passing California Falls, Le Conte Falls, and many other spectacular but unnamed cascades. Suddenly one comes upon Glen Aulin, a tranquil little valley shut off from all the world by great sheer granite walls. Here, where the river pauses for a moment before resuming its tumultuous rush into its mile-deep canyon, is Glen Aulin Camp. Waterwheel Falls, the Tuolumne's unique expression of leaping power and spotless beauty, may be reached by a newly constructed trail that further descends the canyon. Within one day to the north of Glen Aulin are Cold Canyon, Alkali Canyon, Virginia Canyon, and Matterhorn Canyon. Four hours to the southward Tenaya Lake may be reached via the McGee Lake Trail; half a day eastward up the Canyon lies Tuolumne Meadows Camp....¹⁴

Since 1925 the High Sierra Camps have been operated by the primary park concessioner. The camps have not principally been money-making ventures: services have been provided generally at less than cost. Russell, later Chief Naturalist of the Park Service, stated once that the High Sierra Camps comprised one of the most important assets of the park. He believed that the resumption of interpretive work in the camps and on the trails between camps in 1923 was a sagacious move on the part of the government, because the backcountry was considered the best field in which to spread the word regarding NPS objectives in the preservation and conservation of natural resources. It was recognized early that the comparatively small numbers of visitors that initially took advantage of this service in the backcountry could not be the criterion for judging the effectiveness of the project. The great advantages of placing a competent naturalist—provided free of charge by the Yosemite Nature Guide Service—with the same individuals day after day amidst the superlative high country surroundings outweighed most of the arguments of would-be efficiency experts in the government bureaucracy. The greatest asset of these ranger-guided trips was that ranger-naturalists would be on hand at moments of greatest visitor receptiveness—while they were viewing magnificent natural wonders—to help them understand and more fully appreciate the innumerable treasures of the Yosemite high country and, on a broader scale, those of all natural areas within the National Park System.

During the 1930s the High Sierra Camps underwent some renovation, and stone cook house/dining structures replaced the old frame and canvas ones. By 1938 five High Sierra camps existed: two original ones at Merced Lake and Tuolumne Meadows, which had ice houses, and new ones at May Lake (replacing the Tenaya Lake Camp), Glen Aulin, and Vogelsang (replacing the Boothe Lake Camp). The company had discontinued the Tenaya Lake and Little Yosemite Valley Camps. Mary Curry Tresidder, president of the Curry Company, established the Sunrise High Sierra camp in 1961 and equipped it with a canvas dining tent and stone kitchen structure. It overlooks Long Meadow on the John Muir Trail a few miles from Cathedral Pass.

By the early 1960s, the popularity of these guided treks had risen to the point that horse-mounted trips left the stables in the Yosemite valley weekly and traversed the trails from camp to camp in a clockwise direction. Hiking parties generally started at the Tuolumne Meadows area and traveled in a counterclockwise direction. Demand for the lodging at the camps has remained high, and currently the available beds are reserved months in advance, although because of cancellations, some permits are available on a day-to-day basis.

Six High Sierra Camps exist today and comprise the High Sierra Loop, a seven-day backcountry experience that is unique within the National Park System and attracts hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts year after year. The camps are along well-marked, safe trails and are open from six to eight weeks a year, from mid-June or early July to Labor Day, weather permitting. Tuolumne Meadows Camp is located at the end of an access road, 1.5 miles west of its junction with the Tioga Road, and is the only High Sierra Camp directly accessible by automobile. It is also the largest unit with 66 tents. Glen Aulin has eight guest tents, May Lake seven, Vogelsang twelve, Merced Lake nineteen, and Sunrise nine. The combination of fresh bed linens, good meals, and the great outdoors presents a unique way for Yosemite visitors to go hiking or backpacking.

¹⁴ Ansel F. Hall, "High Sierra Camps," *Sierra Club Bulletin* 12, no. 1 (1924) 39-42.

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The High Sierra Camps have been significant as an innovative interpretive concept luring more people into the Yosemite backcountry and representing a successful joint effort by the NPS and the Yosemite concessionaire to encourage travel beyond the roads and thus enhance visitor appreciation of wilderness areas. Their establishment also marked an early implementation of the Interior Department's policy of making remote areas of parks more accessible to the visiting public. Another aspect of the 1923 reopening of the camps involved Park Service Director Stephen Mather's strong desire to carry out what he believed were the agency's interpretive responsibilities in the high country. The park established a new pattern of interpretive service there, providing backcountry nature guide trips to the camps, which was unique within the National Park System and set precedents for similar programs in other units. None, however, developed along exactly the same lines as the High Sierra Camps. Despite the initially small number of visitors exposed to this service, Mather and park officials strongly believed that a naturalist talking to the same people day after day, amidst the magnificent peaks and meadows of the backcountry, could exert a stronger and longer-lasting influence on the formation of positive visitor attitudes toward national parks and conservation in general than could result from guided short walks on the valley floor, daily lectures at the museum, or single-day hikes to the valley rim. The High Sierra Loop is considered the highlight of the park's interpretive services to this day.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: GLEN AULIN HIGH SIERRA CAMP

In 1916 the NPS asked its Yosemite concessioner, the Desmond Park Service Company, to build mountain chalets at Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, and Merced Lake. In 1924 Park Superintendent Washington B. Lewis sent Naturalist Carl P. Russell on a pack trip into the Sierra to choose sites for five additional hiker's camps. For one of the camps, Russell selected a site in a valley immediately north of its present location. The area had been named Glen Aulin, "beautiful valley (glen)" in Gaelic, by an Irish topographer in 1913-14. Located at the top of the Grand Canyon of Tuolumne, the dell offered stunning views as well as recreation in the Tuolumne River. Three of the new camps were constructed in 1924; however, two of the camps, the Lyell Fork and Glen Aulin camps, were omitted from that year's program of expansion because of the uncertain travel conditions. Finally, in the spring of 1927, mule trains delivered equipment for guest tents and a cook tent, and Glen Aulin Camp was constructed. Camp supplies included: 12' by 14' tents, an 18' by 24' cook tent, 22 iron cots, one large cook stove, six air-tight stoves, six tables, two flush toilets, mattresses and bedding, and kitchen utensils and food, all of which cost \$900.¹⁵ Camp capacity was 20 guests, and the cost for each camper was a dollar a day, a dollar a meal.¹⁶ Because of intolerable mosquito problems, that season the camp was moved one valley east to its present location.¹⁷ Although no longer located in the same site, the camp retained the Glen Aulin name.

At first the High Sierra Camps were more rudimentary: the tents had dirt floors, showers were not provided, and guests were responsible for their own linens. In answer to guest requests, tent floors, showers, and bedding were provided by the late 1930s.¹⁸ At Glen Aulin the showers and the current tent pads were built, and a stone cook house replaced the old frame and canvas structure. Glen Aulin was the last to have stoves in the guest tents and did not receive them until 1980.¹⁹

Not surprisingly, during World War II the High Sierra Camps were almost deserted, but after the war, their popularity revived.²⁰ A site plan indicates that the principal features of Glen Aulin Camp were in place by 1953. Most of the buildings had been constructed including: eight guest tent cabins, a stone cook house, a tent diner, a tent bath house, a lantern shed, and employee tent cabins E1 and E10. In addition, there were two small comfort stations (since demolished), an

¹⁵ Sargent, 7.

¹⁶ Fernando Peñalosa, *Yosemite in the 1930s: A Remembrance* (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA: Quaking Aspen Books, 2002) 70.

¹⁷ Sargent, 7.

¹⁸ American Planning and Civic Association, *American Planning and Civic Annual* (Washington: American Planning and Civic Association, 1938) 66.

¹⁹ Lloyd B. Dennis, "The High Sierra Camps: An Exhilarating Way to Enjoy Solitude," *Bay Views* (July/August 1980, pg. 65-68) 65.

²⁰ Peñalosa, 158.

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employee tent cabin E9 (since shifted), and the corral (since relocated). Sometime prior to 1959 several new structures had been added: a bridge across Alkali Creek, leach lines and a septic tank northeast of the camp, and a water line from the cliffs southeast of the camp to an outlet below guest tent cabin 8. A "Flame Cabinet" was added to northwest elevation of the stone cook house in 1967. By 1990 several new buildings had been constructed: the employee tent cabin E2 (called "Linen Tent") east of the tent bath house, a comfort station constructed in the same general area as two demolished comfort stations, and a shed addition on southeast side of the stone cook house.²¹ Employee tent cabin E9 was shifted to its current location c. 2003.²²

While the function of the High Sierra Camps has not changed over the past eight decades, the role of interpretative programming has shifted slightly. In the early 1960s, park administration stressed that the services of interpreters should be made available to the greatest number of park visitors. As a result, interpretive programs directed at smaller numbers of guests in the High Sierra were decreased.²³ Currently, interpretive rangers continue to provide some evening programs and hikes, and the camp managers also present some history of the camps at mealtime talks.

²¹ "Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp," List and contact sheets, 1990 (On file at the National Park Service Archive, El Portal).

²² United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service "Topographic Survey: Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, Yosemite National Park" (Site plan, 2003).

²³ Ibid., 63.

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Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
Name of Property

Tuolumne, California
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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
- Yosemite Research Library and Yosemite
Name of repository: [Archive, EI Portal](#)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.1 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

1	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>287364</u> Easting	<u>4198554</u> Northing	3	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>287317</u> Easting	<u>4198449</u> Northing
2	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>287407</u> Easting	<u>4198498</u> Northing	4	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>287268</u> Easting	<u>4198532</u> Northing
5	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>287342</u> Easting	<u>4198557</u> Northing				

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
Name of Property

Tuolumne, California
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Zone Easting Northing

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

See attached map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for Glen Aulin Camp encompasses the buildings and immediate setting historically associated with the complex and is based on natural features that define the site: the Tuolumne River to the southwest, Alkali Creek to the northwest, and the toe of the steep granite slope to the southeast. To the northeast, the boundary encompasses the lantern shed and employee tent cabins E1 and E2. A rock outcropping northeast of the camp separates the camp from a meadow, and the boundary has been selected to bisect the rocky outcropping.

The backpackers' campground to the northeast has not been included within the boundaries for a number of reasons. The campground and the High Sierra Camp each have their own unique history of development, management, and purpose. While the High Sierra Camps have been operated by park concessioners throughout their history and have provided many amenities and comforts of more traditional lodging, the backpackers' campgrounds are maintained by the NPS and provide much fewer amenities. The adjacent backpackers' campground and Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp have completely separate facilities (toilets, water, and campfire rings) and do not share equipment or space. All existing built features associated with the campground appear to be modern.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andy Kirk, Richard Coop, Charles Palmer

Jody R. Stock and Katherine Petrin

organization UNLV Public History/

03/08/04

Architectural Resources Group (ARG)

date 07/05/11

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NV/

89135-5020/

San Francisco

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e-mail jody@argsf.com and katherine@argsf.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
Name of Property

Tuolumne, California
County and State

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: Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp

City or Vicinity: Yosemite National Park

County: Tuolumne

State: California

Photographer: Shayne E. Watson

Date Photographed: August 3, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 30: Stone cook house, permanent building, north and east elevations, view looking southwest.
- 2 of 30: Stone cook house, permanent building, west elevation, view looking south.
- 3 of 30: Lantern shed, permanent building, west and south elevations, view east.
- 4 of 30: Stone stove and chimney, elevation, view looking east.
- 5 of 30: Tent diner, west and south elevations, view looking northeast.
- 6 of 30: Tent diner, east elevation, view looking northwest.
- 7 of 30: Tent bath house, north and west elevations, view looking southeast.
- 8 of 30: Employee tent cabin E1, west elevation, view looking east.
- 9 of 30: Employee tent cabin E10, south and east elevations, view looking north.
- 10 of 30: Guest tent cabin 1, west and south elevations, view looking northeast.
- 11 of 30: Guest tent cabin 2, north and west elevations, view looking southeast.
- 12 of 30: Guest tent cabin 3, north and west elevations, view looking southeast.
- 13 of 30: Guest tent cabin 4, south elevation, view looking northwest.
- 14 of 30: Guest tent cabin 5, north and west elevations, view looking southeast.
- 15 of 30: Guest tent cabin 6, west and south elevations, view looking northeast.
- 16 of 30: Guest tent cabin 7, west elevation, view looking east.
- 17 of 30: Guest tent cabin 8, west and south elevations, view looking northeast.
- 18 of 30: Comfort station, permanent building, west and south elevations, view looking northeast.
- 19 of 30: Comfort station, permanent building, north and east elevations, view looking southwest.
- 20 of 30: Wood shed, permanent building, south and east elevations, view looking northeast.
- 21 of 30: Dry storage shed, permanent building, south and east elevations, view looking northwest.
- 22 of 30: Metal shed, permanent building, north and east elevations, view looking southwest.
- 23 of 30: Employee tent cabin E2, west elevation, view looking east.
- 24 of 30: Employee tent cabin E9, east elevation, view looking west.
- 25 of 30: Wood bridge over Alkali Creek, view looking southwest.
- 26 of 30: Wood bridge over Alkali Creek, detail of bridge approach, view looking northwest.
- 27 of 30: Concrete slab, view looking northeast.
- 28 of 30: Campfire ring, view looking northwest.
- 29 of 30: Water system and waste water treatment system, view looking northeast.
- 30 of 30: White Cascade, view looking south from the beach southeast of camp buildings.

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
Name of Property

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County and State

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
Name of Property

Tuolumne, California
County and State

Property Owner:

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

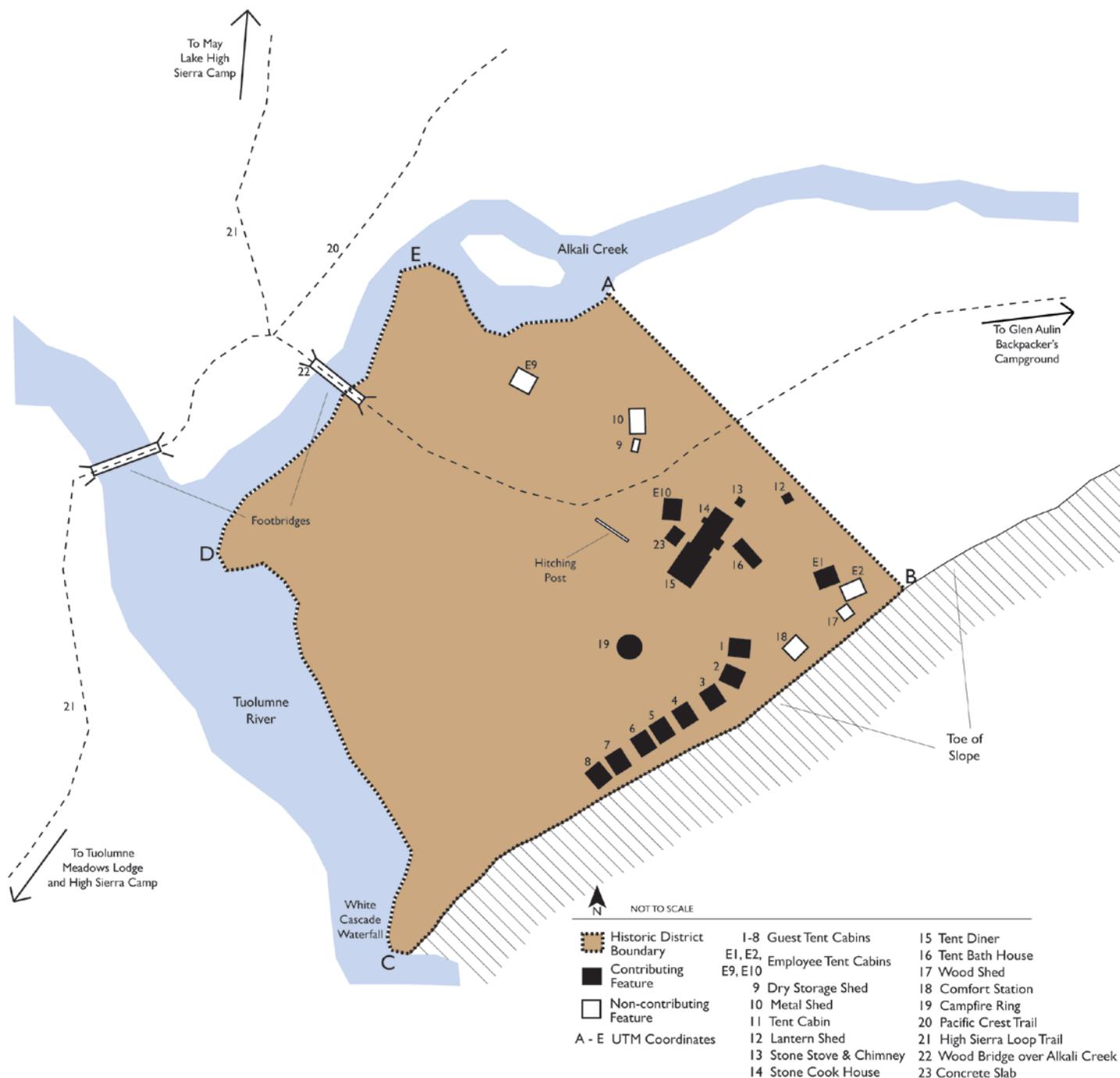
name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
 Name of Property

Tuolumne, California
 County and State

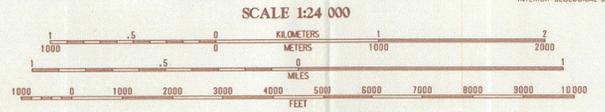


Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY USGS, NOS/NOAA
COMPILED FROM IMAGERY TAKEN 1984 AND 1985
PHOTOINSPECTED USING IMAGERY DATED 1984 AND 1985
NO MAJOR CULTURE OR DRAINAGE CHANGES OBSERVED
PLSS AND SURVEY CONTROL CURRENT AS OF 1986
BOUNDARIES AND NAMES VERIFIED LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
PROJECTION 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR TICS
10 000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS CALIFORNIA, ZONE 3
UTM GRID DECLINATION 1927 (MAG. 27)
1994 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 15' EAST
VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983 (NAD 83) IS SHOWN BY DASHED
CORNER TICS. 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 any
Federal and State reservations shown on this map
Certain land lines are omitted because of insufficient data

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography. 1



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1. Photo Mountain
4	5	6	2. Manshoron Peak
7	8	7	3. Danchberg Peak
		8	4. Ten Lakes
			5. Deep Yarn
			6. Yosemite Falls
			7. Tenaya Lake
			8. Vogelsang Peak

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD LEGEND
Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route
FALLS RIDGE, CA
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1992
37119-H4-TF-024



\$ 8.00





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RESIDENCE
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ENTER



E10

PRIVATE RESERVATION





2



3



4



5

CAUTION:
DOOR OPENS TO THE LEFT
PLEASE BEWARE YOUR
HEAD

6



6

CAUTION
DO NOT TOUCH

BEAR
BEAR



7



8



PLEASE DO NOT FEED OR
HANDLE ANY ANIMALS
OR EQUIPMENT
IN THIS AREA.
THANK YOU.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED OR
HANDLE ANY ANIMALS
OR EQUIPMENT
IN THIS AREA.
THANK YOU.



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