

(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: 14000419

Date Listed: 7/18/2014

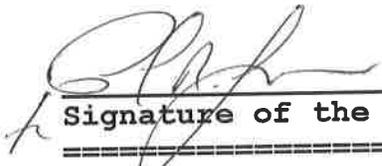
Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp
Property Name

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: *Along north banks of Dana Fork of Tuolumne River, east of Tuolumne Meadows.*

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



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 Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp

other names/site number Tuolumne Soda Springs Lodge, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge

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N/A not for publication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

[Signature] Date June 4, 2014
Signature of certifying official/Title
National Park Service
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

[Signature] Date 7/19/2013
Signature of commenting official Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.

State Historic Preservation Officer Title California Office of Historic Preservation
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] Date of Action 7/19/2014
Signature of the Keeper

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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	
69	28	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
70	28	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/wood/granite
 walls: canvas/wood/galvanized metal

 roof: canvas/shake/galvanized metal

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other: _____

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

The Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp District is located along the banks of the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park in California. It was among three original High Sierra Camps established in 1916 and is one of six camps that comprise the modern loop system. The roughly twelve acres are typified by a rolling terrain speckled with large granite boulders and enclosed by an evergreen forest dominated by lodgepole pines. Tuolumne Lodge, as the camp is commonly known, is the most readily accessible of the High Sierra Camps located at the end of an access road off Tioga Pass, the vehicular route that provides the only east-west passage through the park. By trail, Tuolumne Lodge is seven and a half miles from Glen Aulin, seven miles from Vogelsang via the Rafferty Creek Trail, and twelve and a half miles from Vogelsang via the Ireland Creek Trail. It is the starting point for all pack trips, given its close proximity to the large stable operation located along the access road, about a mile away. Tuolumne Lodge is also the largest of all the camps with accommodations for 264 guests and employees in 66 contributing tent cabins. Other contributing features include a dining tent/cook house, bath house, storage shed and fire ring. The district maintains a high level of integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Narrative Description
LOCATION & SETTING

The Tuolumne Meadow High Sierra Camp Historic District is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range at an elevation of 8,755 feet. It is approximately ten miles northeast of the geographic center of the 1,200 square mile Yosemite National Park and set along the banks of the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River. It is the only one of the six High Sierra camps with vehicular access and the ease of access plus the large number of accommodations make it the most visited of all the High Sierra Camps; many guests never leave it for the other, more remote High Sierra Camps. Like all the High Sierra Camps, it is open on a seasonal basis that is dictated by snow fall in the autumn and snow melt in the spring.

Although the camp itself is somewhat secluded, the Tuolumne Meadows area is a busy hub and Tioga Pass, open seasonally, is well traveled. The Tuolumne Meadows area is a center for scientific research as well as an administrative area, evidenced by the presence of Bug Camp, Ranger Camp and Road Crew Camp, all which provide seasonal housing for a variety of park staff. There is also a gas station, post office, grocery store, stables, snack bar, and a recreation store within two miles of the camp to the west.

The camp is surrounded by a dense lodgepole pine forest, which accentuates its isolation at the end of the access road. Tuolumne Lodge is outside of the officially designated wilderness zone of the park; the boundary lies south across the river and north of Tioga Pass some 400 yards away. The camp is also just outside of the eponymous Tuolumne Meadow, the largest sub-alpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada, which lies both to the northwest and southeast. Trees are interspersed between the buildings, blurring the edges between the forest and the camp. The river runs along the southern boundary; beyond it Unicorn Peak and Lember Dome are visible. The promise of good fishing and swimming as well as a dependable water supply were instrumental in determining the location of the camp.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The High Sierra Camp idea was the product of National Park Service director Stephen Mather's desire to encourage park visitation out of Yosemite Valley and into the high country. Mather believed that the Park Service could better fulfill its responsibilities to interpret the agency's conservation role if visitors experienced Yosemite wilderness, and encouraged

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the park concessioner, the Desmond Park Service Company, to build backcountry destinations. Tuolumne Soda Springs Lodge was one of three such "mountain chalets" that first opened in 1916, creating an opportunity for visitors to experience wilderness without sacrificing basic comforts or enduring the physical requirements of carrying shelter and food. Although the camp was located just off of the Tioga Road, travel by the road was exceptionally challenging until it was completely paved in 1934 and most early visitors arrived by foot or saddle from Yosemite Valley. In the first year of operation, Tuolumne Lodge received the fewest visitors of the three High Sierra Camps.

Citing low visitation during World War I, Desmond Park Service Company closed the High Sierra Camps in 1918 and this camp was virtually abandoned until 1923, when the camp was reopened under a new name, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge High Sierra Camp. That year, a separate "hikers' camp" was established next to the river, which included two dormitories and a dining room. In 1924, an appraisal was conducted by the Yosemite National Park Company, the new concessionaire operating the High Sierra Camps. The records reflect the influence of the climate and location was obvious in the choice of materials and design of buildings. The following structures are listed: the main lodge, two side by side structures measuring 18' x 84' with served as a lobby, dining room, commissary and kitchen; four dormitories measuring 18' x 24', two each for women and men (these likely included the hikers' camp dormitories); two bathhouses measuring 18' x 24', one each for women and men; two storerooms one measuring 10' x 16' and one measuring 18' x 24'; three toilet rooms of varying sizes; and 50 tent cabins, each measuring 12' x 14'. This collection of structures are each described as canvas-covered, wood-framed and built on wooden platforms that were designed to be disassembled and stored at the end of each season. Two permanent buildings were also present: a single story peeled-log ice house, measuring 15'6" x 18'6"; and a single story log frame storeroom with wood shake siding, measuring 20' x 38'. These structures were constructed to withstand heavy snow loads and were assembled from local materials that were easily available and required little transportation. A four-foot high wooden fence enclosed a small horse corral, while a larger enclosure for grazing was formed by twisted wire stapled to trees.

Photographs and a map that accompany the report reveal an entrance road lined with boulders that included a drop off zone just north of the main lodge. A parking lot was located just off the road to the west. Pedestrian circulation through the camp was informal and there is no evidence of lined pathways. Tent cabins were located north and east of the main lodge, arranged very loosely in five arched rows from east to west. Guest tent cabins are numbered 1-49, with the number 13 being replaced with 12A. A women's toilet and bathhouse were directly east of the main lodge, on the edge of the tent cabins. Two dormitories, labeled "women help" were southeast of the main lodge; the corresponding men's dormitories were southwest of the lodge, separated from the women's dormitory by the ice house, store house, and men's toilet and bath house.

Tioga Road is shown on the map, as it provided vehicular access and came within a quarter mile of the camp. It was originally known as the Great Sierra Wagon Road, built to access silver mines east of the park's eastern boundary. In 1915 park director Stephen Mather purchased the road and deeded it to Yosemite National Park. That same year it was also partially paved, widened and renamed the Tioga Road. By 1934, however, the road was realigned, leaving the camp in relative seclusion at the end of a dead end access road three quarters of a mile away.

Although discussions ensued between the concessionaire and the superintendent to relocate Tuolumne Meadow High Sierra Camp to a location much closer to the new road alignment, in the end a move was abandoned in favor of remodeling. A new main lodge was completed by 1939 in approximately the same location as the original side by side tents, just ten yards north of the river. The new structure expanded upon the previous one by including a kitchen, storeroom and icehouse in addition to the dining and office services, all under one roof. The shape of the structure suggests the expansion was achieved by building around the icehouse and storeroom, which were removed once the construction was completed. The finished building offered multiple functions under its oddly shaped roof. Additional improvements around this time included construction a new bathhouse and toilet structure located northwest of the main lodge building among the guest tent cabins and a small, wood-frame tack enclosure next to the corral. Records indicate guest accommodations included 46 tent cabins and employee housing included four tent cabins and two dormitories. Nine tents were added in 1952 and another nine in 1956, bringing the total of tent cabins to 64 for guests and four for employees.

By 1961, the end of the period of significance, the facilities at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge High Sierra Camp included the main lodge, the toilet/shower house located north of the main lodge, a corral along the west edge of the development, an

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entry road, turn around, and parking lot, a fire pit just east of the lodge, and 68 guest and employee tent cabins. Guest tent cabins were loosely arranged in arched rows that extended east from the parking lot. They were uniformly sized, canvas-covered, wooden-framed structures on wooden platforms. The doors of each unit opened to the southeast, toward both the lodge and the river. Depending on surrounding topography, some units were equipped with stairs. Employee housing was located west of the main lodge building. Pedestrian circulation through the site was undefined, but repeated trips between cabins and the bathhouse, main lodge and the river wore away the fragile meadow grasses leaving bare earth trails.

A few changes have occurred to the layout of the camp since the close of the period of significance. In 1969 the corral operation was moved from the west edge of the camp to a new location closer to Tioga Road, approximately three quarters of a mile away. A single storeroom remains in this area, but all other associated structures were removed. About this time a small segment of the entry road was realigned to terminate in the parking lot to the west. The drop off / turn around area north of the main lodge was removed in this project. In 1983, an unusually intense snowstorm collapsed all of the wooden tent structures and splintered the platforms. The platforms were rebuilt out of poured concrete in slightly modified locations and orientations, and removable metal poles replaced the wooden framing. New tents were added as well to bring the overall total to 95; 69 guest accommodations and 26 for employees. The same storm collapsed the framing for the main lodge. It was reconstructed with the addition of a small vestibule along the west façade. Circulation has been somewhat formalized throughout the camp. A loop service road encircling the tent cabins was constructed out of gravel to accommodate the gasoline powered cart that is used by staff members to drop off wood and replace linens. Beginning in 2004, camp employees formalized pathways by lining common routes with either rocks or fallen limbs. Vegetation has filled in those untrammelled areas, further defining paths.

While Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp historic district has undergone changes and alterations since the period of significance, the district retains a high level of historic integrity in terms of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The camp has retained its original function as a High Sierra Camp, providing food and accommodations to those who desire a high country experience. The camp remains in its original location next to the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River. The footprint of the camp continues to convey the historic character of the district in feeling and association with its relationship with the contributing historic resources, natural landscape, and its association with the High Sierra Loop system. The arrangement of tent cabins and service facilities have remained consistent over time with a few modifications and additions and siting of new structures has been sensitive to the historic patterns. Overall, the changes have had a minimal impact to the site's historic integrity and noncontributing resources do not detract from the overall feeling of the district.

The Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp is distinctive from the other high sierra camps, most notably because it is located near a road and is accessible to automobiles. This relative ease of access to Tuolumne Meadows likely also explains the large size of this camp with 66 guest tent cabins. In addition, this is the only High Sierra Camp that does not have an adjacent Backpackers Camp: at Tuolumne Meadows the campground is roughly 1.5 miles west of the High Sierra Camp.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Bath House (Building, 1938)

The bathhouse was constructed in 1938 north of the main lodge building, surrounded on three sides by guest tent cabins. It is rectangular in plan, measures 19' x 48', with the longitudinal axis running roughly west to east. It is a one story building constructed on a poured concrete foundation. The wooden framed structure has plywood walls that are sheathed in corrugated metal and painted brown. The roof is also brown painted corrugated metal with shallow eaves and exposed rafter tails. Two small window openings are located along the south elevation and two larger openings are located on the east and west elevations. Two doorways are located along the south elevation, one each for men and women. There are no doors, but 6-foot high wooden L shaped screens block visual access beyond the threshold. A series of six wooden lockers with screened openings sit along the west elevation on poured concrete foundations. The north elevation has a series of storage shelves enclosed by large sliding doors. The entire northern elevation is surrounded by a 6 foot high metal fence with green vinyl privacy slats which shields the work area from view. The fence is not historic.

Tuolumne Meadows Lodge (Building, 1939)

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This building was constructed in 1939 to replace the original Lodge, and is located slightly east of the earlier building. It is an amalgamation of building types; one part has a slab-on-grade foundation, wood framing and canvas roof and walls and the other has concrete footing with wooden piers over a crawl space, wood framing, a composite roof and board and batten siding. The building has three distinct zones: a dining and reception area, a storage area, and a kitchen and loading dock.

The dining and reception area is contained within the wood-framed canvas tent. It is 87' x 25' with a seven and a half foot deep covered porch that wraps around the north and east sides. The entry is located on the north elevation, surrounded on both sides by one-over-one double hung windows. The south elevation mimics the north, with additional windows in place of the door, and three banks of windows are evenly spaced along the east elevation. The west elevation contains a small awning that is 16' long by 6' wide, and provides an outdoor seating area. The kitchen is attached to the dining area along the west elevation.

The kitchen is a rectangular plan, 39' x 18' with its longitudinal axis running east to west. It has one story and is constructed on concrete piers and wooden posts. The entire length of the north and south walls are lined with windows, one fixed three-over-three on both the east and west ends and five sliding one-by-one windows in between. It has a Dutch gable roof covered with composite shingles and board and batten siding painted brown. The storage facility and loading dock abuts the kitchen at the west end, connected by an enclosed walkway.

The third section of the building includes storage and a loading dock. It is a rectangular plan, 40'x20' with its longitudinal axis running east to west. Like the kitchen, it has one story and is constructed on concrete piers and wooden posts. A bay of fixed three-over-three windows is located along the north elevation. It has a Dutch gable roof covered with composite shingles and board and batten siding painted brown. The loading dock is located along the west elevation.

Guest Tent Cabins 4-12, 14-70 (66) (Buildings, 1916)

Tent cabins have been a part of the Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp since its beginning in 1916. The contributing guest tent cabins (4-12; 14-70) are located north of the main lodge building, loosely arranged in rows that extend upslope north from the lodge. The cabins are metal pipe framed, front gable, white canvas tents on a concrete platform measuring 12' x 14' in dimension. Each has a wood screen door painted green with the cabin number stenciled on the front. The employee tents are plastic-coated "CDAI Flame-Resistant Fabric" not standard canvas like the camp's dining tent. While the canvas must be replaced periodically due to its impermanent nature and the wooden foundations have been replaced with concrete, the historic character has remained consistent over time.

Storage Shed (Building, ca. late 1910s-1920s)

The storage shed is located at the west end of camp and was formerly associated with the corral, likely as a tack shed. However, the corral was relocated in 1969, and this building is currently used for general purpose storage. As the original corral is known to date back to at least 1917, and as this building is believed to be associated with the original corral, it likely dates to the late 1910 or 1920s. It is a square plan, 14' x 14', slab-on-grade foundation, and a front gable roof with narrow eaves. The roof is covered in corrugated metal. A large opening on the south elevation spans the entire face, with chamfered corners along the top edges. The building is covered in rough sawn ship-lap wood siding. Wooden T braces have been added inside the building to support the roof.

Campfire Ring (Structure, pre-1951)

Located just east of the main lodge building, the campfire ring is approximately 8 feet in diameter and constructed out of two courses of local granite stones collected on site. The feature first appears on a map in 1951, though it probably dates from much earlier. The inner ring is two courses high. It functions as an integral part of the social interaction within the camp. Following a tradition that dates back to the earliest days of the camp, park rangers give fireside chats here.

NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Guest Tent Cabins 1-3 (3) (Buildings, 1983)

These three tent cabins, located west of the main lodge building, were added following the 1983 snow storm. They are identical to the guest tent cabins elsewhere: front gable, 12'x14' flame resistant canvas tents supported by metal poles on

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp spans from 1916 (the year the Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp was built) to 1961 (the date Sunrise Camp, the final High Sierra Camp, was built, and the High Sierra Camps were completed). The High Sierra Camp was abandoned from 1919-1922 and these years have been excluded from the property's period of significance.

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: 1916-1918, 1923-1961

Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp is significant under Criterion A at the local level for its role in recreation/entertainment, conservation, and education as one of the 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 popular national parks, which helped acquaint the American public with the conservation objectives of the NPS.

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.¹ 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.²

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).³ 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

¹ Louis Dawson, "Hut History," *10th Mountain Division Hut Association*. 3 August 2010. <www.huts.org/education/hut_history.html>.

² 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.

³ 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/>>.

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the White Mountain National Forest.⁴ 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.⁵

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.⁶ 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.⁷ 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

⁴ Lisa McLaughlin, "Travel: Not Really Roughing It," *Time*, 15 September 2010.
<<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1106327,00.html>>.

⁵ *Appalachian Mountain Club*, 15 September 2010 <<http://www.outdoors.org/>>

⁶ McLaughlin.

⁷ Dawson.

⁸ Tweed, *Uncertain Path: A Search for the Future of National Parks*. 168-170.

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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.

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 CAMPS⁹

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

⁹ 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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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 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 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 stand 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....

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[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 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....¹⁰

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. Carl 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.

¹⁰ Ansel F. Hall, "High Sierra Camps," *Sierra Club Bulletin* 12, no. 1 (1924) 39-42.

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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.

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.

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MAPS AND DRAWINGS

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office

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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 # _____

Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: Yosemite Research Library and Yosemite Archive, El Portal

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12.2 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	11	294624	4194881	D	11	294944	4194753
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
B	11	294860	4194892	E	11	294703	4194661
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	11	294944	4194876	F	11	294624	4194746
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The Historic District Boundary begins at "Point A", which is located along the entrance road to Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp just northwest of where the road divides to the parking lot to the south and the service road to the east. Following the eastern service road, the boundary continues east-southeast for 375 feet before arriving at the first of the camp's tent cabins. From here, the boundary runs due north for 60 feet, offset roughly 25 feet from the nearest tent cabins. Maintaining a uniform distance of 25 feet from the tent cabins, the boundary runs east, then east-northeast, then east-southeast for a total of 675 feet, before arriving at "Point C". From here, the boundary runs due south roughly 400 feet, until arriving at "Point D", which is located at the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River. From here, the boundary follows the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River to the south-southwest for 915 feet, before arriving at "Point E". From this point, the boundary runs due northwest for 395 feet before arriving at "Point F". From here the boundary runs due north for roughly 450 feet before arriving back to "Point A", the district's point of origin. See attached map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp encompasses the buildings and immediate setting historically associated with the complex, including overnight accommodations, guest parking, and eating facilities.

11. Form Prepared By

Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp
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Andy Kirk, Richard Coop, Charles Palmer
name/title Amy Hoke Daniel Schaible, and Allen Edwards
UNLV Public History/ 03/08/04
organization National Park Service- Yosemite National Park date 12/19/11
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Las Vegas/ NV/ 89135-5020/
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e-mail charles_palmer@nps.gov
amy_hoke@nps.gov, daniel_schaible@nps.gov

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.)

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: Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp

City or Vicinity: Yosemite National Park

County: Tuolumne

State: California

Photographer: Allen Edwards and Amy Hoke

Date Photographed: 08/10/2010, 08/11/2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 17: Bath House, facing northwest.
- 2 of 17: Bath House, facing southeast.
- 3 of 17: Lodge, primary entrance, facing southeast.

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- 4 of 17: Lodge, primary entrance, facing southwest.
- 5 of 17: Lodge, covered veranda along northwest façade, facing southwest.
- 6 of 17: Lodge, service yard of lodge, facing northwest.
- 7 of 17: Guest tent cabins and flagpole, facing south.
- 8 of 17: Guest tent cabins along service road, beginning with tent cabin # 30, facing northeast.
- 9 of 17: Guest tent cabins #s 28-30, facing north
- 10 of 17: Guest tent cabin # 36, facing northwest.
- 11 of 17: Storage shed entrance, facing northwest.
- 12 of 17: Storage shed east elevation, facing west.
- 13 of 17: Campfire Ring and benches, facing west.
- 14 of 17: Campfire ring and benches, facing southeast.
- 15 of 17: Noncontributing guest tent cabins #s 1-3, facing east.
- 16 of 17: Employee tent cabins and personal effects, facing north.
- 17 of 17: Employee tent cabin E-20, showing its wood foundation, facing southwest.

Property Owner:

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

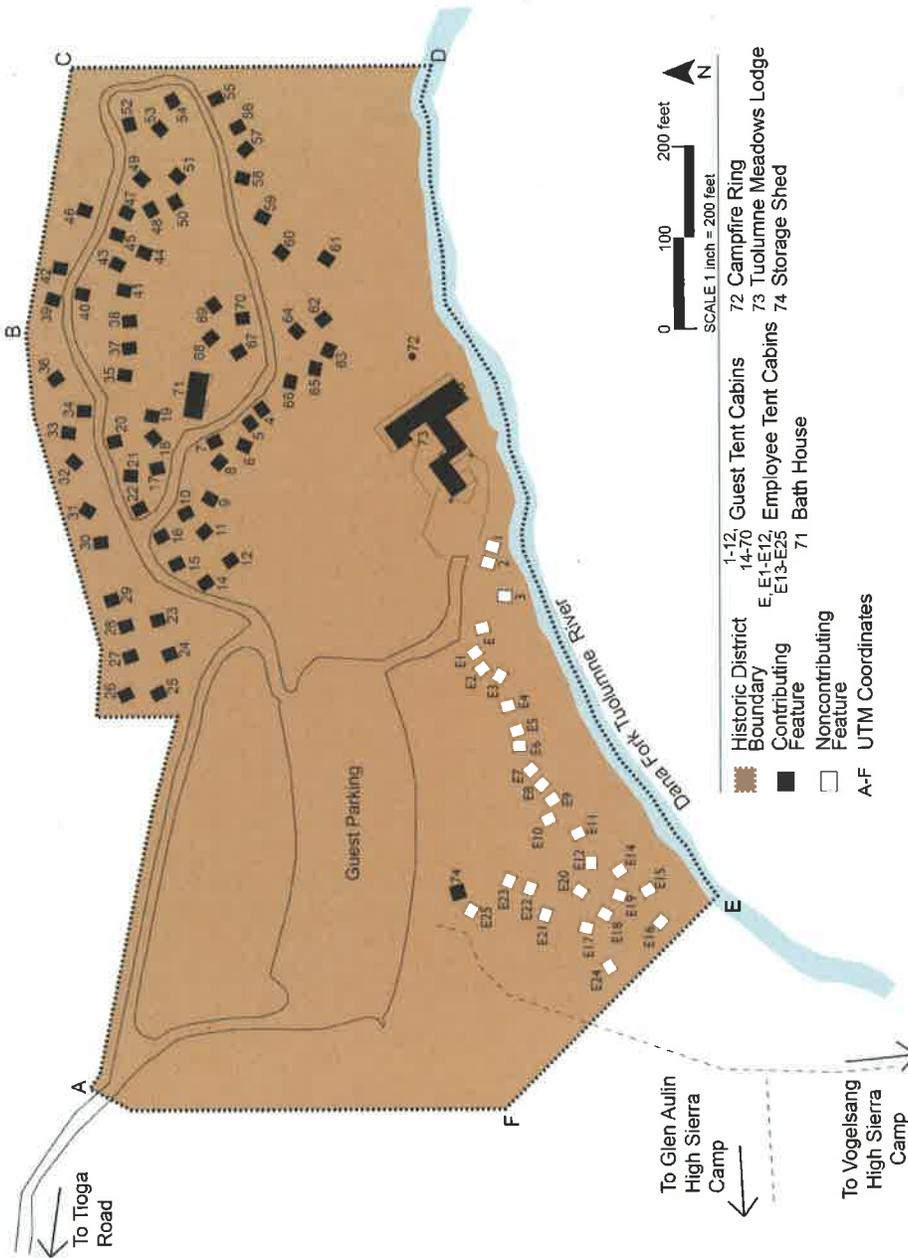
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

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Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp



The building is a long, single-story structure with a gabled roof made of light-colored corrugated metal. The walls are also made of corrugated metal. There are several doors and windows along the side. A prominent feature is a large, vertical blue pipe extending from the roofline. The building is surrounded by tall evergreen trees.

A large, vertical blue pipe extends from the roofline of the building down to the ground level. It appears to be a chimney or vent pipe.

A simple wooden bench is positioned in front of the building, near a large rock. The bench is made of dark wood and has a simple, functional design.

A large, light-colored rock is situated in the foreground, near the bench. The rock is irregularly shaped and has a rough, textured surface.

A small, dark sign is mounted on the wall of the building, near one of the doors. The sign is rectangular and appears to have some text on it, though it is not clearly legible.



TUOLUMNE MEADOWS LODGE

TUOLUMNE STABLES

HUMAN FOOD ISN'T GOOD FOR WILD ANIMALS. THEY FARE BETTER ON NATURAL FOODS.
KEEP THEM HEALTHY AND WILD BY NOT FEEDING THEM.

Please put all trash in Bearproof Dumpsters















28

29



36



BIG OAK
PORTABLE RESTROOMS
883-7707

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BIG OAK
PORTABLE RESTROOMS
883-7707

YCS

**EMPLOYEE
HOUSING AREA**
**EMPLOYEES
AND THEIR
GUESTS ONLY**

25











E 20