NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

662

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED 2280
AUG - 8 2014
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area Historic District
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Big Basin Redwoods State Park
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 Sky Meadow Lane
City or town: Boulder Creek State: CA County: Santa Cruz
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** X **statewide** ___**local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X **A** ___**B** X **C** ___**D**

8/5/14

Jenan Saunders/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer **Date**

California State Office of Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

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 of the Keeper — 9/24/2014 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	☐
Public – State	X
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	☐
District	X
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
11	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
DOMESTIC/Secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
DOMESTIC/Secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
OTHER/Minimal Traditional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:
Concrete foundation, wood walls, composition roof

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area Historic District is located in Big Basin Redwoods State Park, 23 miles northwest of Santa Cruz, California. The district is set along Sky Meadow Lane, a spur off of Sky Meadow Road, about two miles northwest of park headquarters by road. The site is level and open, and known as one of the rare sunny spots in the densely forested park. Sky Meadow Lane is characterized by its sweeping curve, and by the maple trees that line both sides of the roadway. The residential area contains seven one-story, wood-framed single-family homes. Four of the homes were completed in 1942 and are located on the south side of Sky Meadow Lane. Three homes, completed in 1948, are set on the north side of the lane. The homes are designed in the minimal traditional architectural style. The four homes built in 1942 feature prominent front gables, front porches, and bay windows, while the later homes reflect the evolution of the minimal traditional style, with smaller gables and porches. The district also contains one wood-framed two-car garage and two wood-framed four-car garages, as well as one noncontributing residential trailer. Alleys run behind the homes on both sides of Sky Meadow Lane. Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area retains a high level of integrity of location, setting,

design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The location and setting of the homes and garages have not changed since they were completed. The buildings are largely in their original condition, and thus possess integrity of workmanship, design, and materials. The district retains integrity of feeling and association, since the homes have been used continuously as employee residences. The residential area remains the largest and most intact housing development built between 1941 and 1955 in a California state park.

Narrative Description

Big Basin Redwoods State Park lies in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California, forty-three miles southeast of San Francisco and twenty three miles northwest of the city of Santa Cruz. The park contains 18,130 acres of land in one large and several smaller, noncontiguous parcels, and it includes almost the entire Waddell Creek watershed. The park is characterized by steep, north-south running ridges, canyons, perennial streams, and old-growth redwood forest. Park elevations range from sea level to more than 2000 feet.

The Coast Redwood groves are the park's primary attraction. Coast redwoods are the tallest trees on the planet, and at Big Basin, they reach to over 300 feet high. The park's oldest trees are about 2,000 years old. The trees are found only in coastal areas between southern Oregon and central California, where they thrive in the cool, foggy climate. The park also has a variety of other microclimates and environments. Douglas fir, madrone, tan oak, and wax myrtle grow amongst the redwoods in the park, while a mixed evergreen forest thrives at slightly higher elevations. Knobcone pines, chinquapin, and buckeye dominate the canopy on the dry, south facing ridgetops. Waterfalls, as high as 60 feet, dot the park. A freshwater marsh near the mouth of Waddell Creek on the Pacific Ocean provides a rare example of a relatively undisturbed coastal freshwater marsh in California.

Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area is set on Sky Meadow Lane, a spur just west of Sky Meadow Road, in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The residential area is accessed by following Sky Meadow Road from its start on Highway 236 near Bloom's Creek Campground, just southeast of park headquarters, for 1.95 miles. The area sits at 1,268 feet in elevation. The site is level and open, and known as one of the rare sunny spots in the densely forested park. The residential area contains seven one-story, wood-framed single-family homes, four on the south side of Sky Meadow Lane and three on the north side. Alleys run behind the homes on both sides. From Sky Meadow Road, Sky Meadow Lane exhibits a gentle arc to the south before curving north to meet Sky Meadow Road again, west of the residential area. The lane is lined with maple trees on both sides in front of the homes, and a large lawn occupies the area to the east of Residence 16 (see map in Figure 2; numbered Residences (R) and Garages (G)).

Residences 7, 8, 9 and 10, are set east to west along the south side of the lane. A paved and gravel alley runs behind, to the south of, these four homes. A residential trailer is set to the west of Residence 10. Residences 14, 15 and 16 are set on the north side of Sky Meadow Lane. Residence 16 occupies the area directly across the lane from Residence 10, while Residence 15 is

set just west. Residence 14 occupies the western end of the lane. A dirt alley runs behind and north of these three homes. All seven employee residences were based on standardized plans produced by state architects. They were designed in the minimal traditional architectural style.

There are three garages in the residential area. A two car garage for Residence 7 lies just west of the home, across the alley. A four car garage for Residences 8, 9 and 10 is set behind Residence 10 on the alley that runs south of the four homes. A four car garage for Residences 14, 15 and 16 is set 15 feet west of Residence 15 and 20 feet east of Residence 16, off of Sky Meadow Lane.

Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area—Contributing Resources

The historic district includes ten contributing buildings, including seven homes and three garages, and one contributing structure, Sky Meadow Lane.

Residences 7, 8, 9, and 10

Residences 7, 8, 9 and 10 were built in 1941-1942 and are identical in plan to each other. They were built from standardized plans and were known as "State Employee Residence, Standard Type." These homes were built in the minimal traditional architectural style. They are single story and rectangular, measuring 38 feet by 34 feet, with two bedrooms and one bath. They rest on concrete perimeter foundations, with a wood frame floor system over a crawl space. The homes are wood framed, with beveled board siding. A medium pitched, side gabled roof tops each building. A galvanized steel stovepipe extends from the front slope of the roofs. The eaves extend about a foot beyond the front and rear walls of part of the homes, with exposed 2x4 rafters.

The right side of the front elevation consists of a front facing room with a roof that is cross gabled in relation to the rest of the roof. Wood framed, two-over-two sash windows occupy this part of the elevation. A wood-floored porch is set to the left, and is covered by a shed roof supported by three 6" by 6" posts. Each porch has railings made of 2" x 4" wood posts. The wood framed front doors have five glass panels. To the left of the door, a wide fixed single pane window is flanked by two two-over-two sash windows; the porch covers half of this window.

The rear of the house has a small wooden porch on the southeast end; a shed roof supported by 6" by 6" posts covers the porch. Five concrete stairs lead from the porch into the backyard. The rear door is wood and includes four fixed glass panes in its upper half. Three wood-framed two-over-two sash windows are located to the left (northwest) of the porch. The northwest side of the home has three two-over-two sash windows. The southeast side has a three-sided bay window, topped with a small roof, just left of center. Two two-over-two sash windows are set left and right of the bay window. Both the northeast and southwest elevations have wood louvered attic vents.

The exterior paint wall color is beige, while doors, window frames, and trim are painted a darker tan. A concrete walkway leads from each front door to Sky Meadow Lane. The four homes are surrounded by lawn and maple trees. A 5'6" tall wood stake fence surrounds each backyard.

Integrity
Residences 7, 8, 9 and 10 retain a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The homes' location and setting are unchanged since they were completed in 1942. These four homes were raised and placed on new foundations in 1949 with new drainage systems installed around the outside of the foundations at this time. The buildings are largely in their original condition, and thus possess integrity of workmanship, design, and materials. The homes retain integrity of feeling and association, since the homes have been used continuously as employee residences. A few wood windows have been replaced with vinyl on Residences 7, 8 and 9, but the window configuration remains the same as when built. Composition shingle roofs have replaced the original shingle roofs. However, these changes do not diminish the homes ability to convey significance.

Residences 14, 15, and 16
Residences 14, 15, and 16 were built in 1947-1948 and are identical in plan to each other. These were based on standardized state parks designs called "Inland-Type Residences." They are wood framed, rectangular, and single story, measuring 44 feet by 27 feet. The homes contain two bedrooms and one bath. They rest on concrete perimeter foundations, and each have a wood-frame floor system over a low crawl space. A small wing extends five feet from the south side of the east elevation. The walls are covered with wood drop siding. The buildings are topped with a medium pitched side gabled roof. The eaves extend for 1'6" beyond the walls of the home on the front and rear sides, with exposed 2" by 4" rafters. A galvanized steel stove pipe extends from the top of each roof.

The front (south) elevation has a small porch with five concrete steps leading to the stoop. The porch is sheltered by a small cross gable roof which is supported by 4" x 4" posts. A pair of one-over-one sash windows occupies the wall to the left of the porch, and two single wood framed windows are set to the right. The rear elevation contains three large and one small one-over-one sash windows. The left half of the east elevation has a 15 foot wide wing extending five feet to the east, with a hollow core wood door with a window on the right, and a one-over-one sash window to the left. The west elevation has three on-over-one sash windows and a wood louvered gable end vent. The homes are painted beige, with tan trim. Wood stake fences, 5'6" high, surround lawns and the homes. A concrete walkway leads from Sky Meadow Lane to each home.

Integrity
Residences 14, 15 and 16 retain a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The homes' location and setting are unchanged since they were completed in 1947. The buildings interiors and exteriors are largely in their original condition, and thus possess integrity of workmanship, design, and materials. The homes retain integrity of feeling and association, since the homes have been used continuously as employee residences. The original shingle roofs have been replaced with composition shingle roofs, but this change does not diminish the homes' ability to convey significance.

Garage for Residence 7

The garage for Residence 7 is set west of the residence, across the alley behind the home. The two-car garage measures 25 feet by 20 feet. It is wood framed and covered with beveled board siding, with vertical board and batten siding on the gable ends. The building is set on a poured concrete slab, which also serves as the floor. It has a medium gable roof, with eaves that extend about a foot beyond the walls on the northeast and southwest sides. The front elevation has a pair of sideways-sliding garage doors, offset to the right side. Two pairs of wood framed, six-light, inward opening hopper windows occupy the rear elevation. The same type of window is found in the center of the southeast and northwest elevations. The building is painted beige, and is surrounded by unpaved ground. There is gravel directly in front of the building, and a paved driveway lies 15 feet to the northeast.

Integrity

The garage retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The garage's location and setting are unchanged since it was completed in 1942. The building is largely in its original condition, and thus possesses integrity of workmanship, design, and materials. The garage retains integrity of feeling and association, since it continues to be used as a garage. The roof has been replaced, but this does not diminish the garage's ability to convey its significance as part of the historic district.

Garage for Residences 8, 9, and 10

A four car garage for Residences 8, 9 and 10 (G10) is set behind Residence 10 on an alley that runs south of the four homes. It was completed in 1942. The building measures 40 feet by 30 feet and rests on a poured concrete foundation and floor. It is topped with a medium pitched side gabled roof. The interior is accessed by a pair of side-sliding wood doors that occupy the front (north elevation) of the building. Two pairs of wood framed, six-light, inward opening hopper windows occupy the rear elevation; the same window is also found on the southwest elevation. The northeast elevation has a pair of wood framed casement windows in the center. The building is covered with beveled board siding, with vertical tongue and groove boards on the gabled ends. The building is painted beige, with tan window and door trim. A gravel driveway leads to the garage doors.

Integrity

The garage retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The garage's location and setting are unchanged since it was completed in 1942. The building is largely in its original condition, and thus possesses integrity of workmanship, design, and materials. The garage retains integrity of feeling and association, since it continues to be used as a garage. The roof has been replaced, but this does not diminish the garage's ability to convey its significance as part of the historic district.

Garage for Residences 14, 15, and 16

A four car garage for Residences 14, 15 and 16 (G16) is set 15 feet west of Residence 15 and 20 feet east of Residence 16, off of Sky Meadow Lane. It was completed in 1942. The garage measures 40 by 21 feet and rests on a poured concrete foundation. It is wood framed with wood

drop siding. It is topped with a medium pitched side gabled roof. The eaves extend about one foot over the east and west sides of the buildings, and are supported with exposed 2” by 4” rafters. The front, or south elevation, has two pair of evenly spaced side sliding wooden garage doors. Both the east and west elevations have a hollow core wood door with four fixed panes on the upper half on the right side, a pair of wood framed one-over-one sash windows to the left, and a wood louvered vent. The north elevation has no windows or doors.

Integrity
The garage retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The garage’s location and setting are unchanged since it was completed in 1942. The building is largely in its original condition, and thus possesses integrity of workmanship, design, and materials. The garage retains integrity of feeling and association, since it continues to be used as a garage. The original shingle roof has been replaced with a composition shingle roof, but this does not diminish the garage’s ability to convey its significance as part of the historic district.

Sky Meadow Lane
Sky Meadow Lane was built in 1949. Previous access to the homes was via an unpaved road in the same location. It is a paved roadway that provides access to Lower Sky Meadow. It is a spur off of Sky Meadow Road, a road that connects Upper and Lower Sky Meadow and the maintenance area to the headquarters area. The lane connects, on the western end, with the unpaved alley that runs north of residences #14-#16. The road is 891’ long and 26’ wide. The road is curvilinear and lined on both sides with maple trees.

Integrity
The roadway retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The lane’s location and setting have not changed since it was completed in 1949. The lane possesses integrity of workmanship, design, and materials. The lane retains integrity of feeling and association, since it continues to be used as a roadway to access the residential area.

Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area—Nonontributing Resources
There is one noncontributing building in the district: a single-wide residential trailer, which lies just west of Residence 10.

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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1941-1949

Significant Dates
1942, 1948, 1949

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
State of California, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Beaches and Parks

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under Criterion A for its association with development in Big Basin Redwoods State Park and in California State Parks. Lower Sky Meadow was the first residential complex built in a California state park between 1941 and 1955, an era when the construction of employee housing in California state parks became a priority and standardized plans were utilized in the parks for the first time. Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area remains the largest and most intact example of a California State Park housing development built during this period. The historic district is also eligible at the state level of significance under Criterion C, for its representation of minimal traditional architecture in California State Parks. Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area meets the criteria for listing as defined in the *Historic Resources of Big Basin Redwoods State Park* Multiple Property Documentation Form, with a period of significance 1942 to 1949 when the resources were built.

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

Historic Context

Early History of Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Big Basin Redwoods (originally called California Redwoods) State Park was established in 1902 after a long campaign by the Sempervirens Club to preserve the site. The park's creation represented an early victory in the history of the conservation movement. The park was the first redwood forest that was preserved as the result of citizen action, and it also became the first California state park. Big Basin Redwoods became a popular destination with the amenities of a full-fledged resort during the early twentieth century. Between 1902 and 1933, the state built roads, hiking trails, lodging, campgrounds and other visitor facilities, as well as maintenance buildings and employee residences. These residences included about four detached dwellings and two concession dorms for employees. The structures were built in various locations throughout the park, rather than in a designated employee housing area. Development during this time can be characterized as ad hoc. There were no comprehensive development plans; instead, the state constructed buildings in response to public or staff needs.

By 1930, Big Basin was firmly established as a popular vacation spot for many San Francisco Bay area residents. Over 1,500,000 people lived in the San Francisco Bay area in 1930, and Big Basin remained the only park where the state provided and maintained infrastructure and facilities for hiking, camping, and other recreational pursuits. Californians sought not only to view redwood trees and enjoy nature and outdoor activities, but to escape the foggy San

Francisco Bay area for the sunny Santa Cruz Mountains.[1] However, visitor and service facilities could not keep pace.

Additional visitor facilities at Big Basin Redwoods were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. The federal government created the CCC in 1933 in an effort to provide employment to young men during the Great Depression. The CCC program employed three million men between 1933 and 1942, in projects ranging from reforestation to road building to construction of visitor facilities on public lands across the country. State parks were the beneficiaries of much of this work. The CCC provided the first comprehensive construction program for California state parks, and by 1940, the vast majority of facilities in these parks were the product of CCC work.

CCC work at Big Basin Redwoods transformed the park. While construction efforts at Big Basin prior to 1933 had been ad hoc, responding to visitor demand, the CCC utilized the expertise of National Park Service architects and landscape architects to formulate plans that protected natural resources while accommodating tourists. Big Basin Redwoods was one of the first California state parks to receive a CCC camp, and CCC workers constructed buildings in the distinctive Park Rustic style, built roads, trails and other recreational amenities, and developed the first park master plan for the park.

Unlike other California parks, Big Basin had significant visitor facilities before 1933, and CCC work expanded the park's infrastructure and amenities. Civilian Conservation Corps architects developed a master plan for the park, and crews constructed buildings and structures in the distinctive Park Rustic style. CCC crews removed existing buildings and rerouted roads and trails in order to provide more orderly development that would better protect the park's natural resources. They also built new visitor facilities that would better serve park visitors and staff. However, they built little employee housing.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park, 1941-1955

Big Basin Redwoods State Park, like all California state parks, experienced a sharp increase in visitation after World War II. The state's population grew tremendously, by more than 3.5 million people between 1940 and 1950.[2] Rationing and travel restrictions ended in 1945, work weeks shortened, and Californians increasingly spent their leisure time pursuing outdoor activities. Frederick Law Olmsted reported in 1950 that Big Basin "has long suffered from an overload of visitors," since there were only two state parks, and few other recreation areas, near the San Francisco Bay Area.[3] During a single month in 1946, 145,000 tourists visited the park, compared to 165,000 for all of 1945. In 1946, 427,000 visited the park, more than any other state park in California.[4]

---

[1] Kim Baker, Oral Interview with Jim and Aileen Brush, August 30, 2002, Volume III, *Big Basin Redwoods State Park Centennial Oral History Projec*t, 30, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.
[2] U.S. Census Bureau, http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/resapport/states/california.pdf.
[3] Frederick Law Olmsted, *Report of Frederick Law Olmsted to the California State Park Commission*, (Sacramento: Superintendent of State Publishing, 1951), 22.
[4] California State Parks, Guide to Big Basin (map), 1948, San Francisco Public Library, Big Basin Clipping File Kennedy, 45.

Despite the growth, far fewer buildings and structures were constructed during the post war era in California state parks than had been built during the 1930s. However, some new facilities, such as employee housing, were erected. Little housing for employees was built during the CCC era, and with the tremendous growth of the park system between 1928 and 1950, there was a dire need for more employee residences. Comfort stations and campgrounds were other commonly constructed facilities.

Most new buildings constructed after World War II in California state parks represented architectural styles that could be built quickly and at a low cost. The CCC had provided legions of men who could perform detailed craftsmanship on state park buildings, but during and after World War II, the labor pool was significantly smaller and funds were less available. As a result, state parks' planners sought to produce standardized plans for employee residences, comfort stations and other building. Buildings designed from standardized plans could meet the needs of park staff and visitors, but required a minimum of money and labor.[5] Economical construction became particularly important in 1947. The state had diverted 70 percent of offshore oil revenues to state parks and beaches beginning in 1943, but in 1947, the federal government impounded the money, leaving state parks without a major source of funding.

To produce these standardized plans and to develop California state parks during and after World War II, the parks' department sought the experience of men who had supervised CCC construction, while also looking to those who understood the construction of inexpensive structures. Daniel Hull, who had been the NPS state park inspector for California during the 1930s, now served as chief engineer for California State Parks, and he oversaw the production of the standardized architectural plans. The California State Parks' engineering department grew from two to thirty-one employees between 1945 and 1947, in order to fulfill the need for new construction in parks. Hull retired in 1947, and former Army Corps engineer Edwin Kelton took over supervision of many of the final plans. Kelton had worked on prefabricated, mass produced buildings and standard plans while in the Army Corps of Engineers; the U.S. military had been an innovator in designing and building structures based on standardized plans. The Office of State Architecture (OSA) refined plans produced by the parks department, and developed additional plans.[6]

The result was simple, unornamented buildings that were finished to complement the natural setting. These plans were characterized by horizontal shapes, small scale, lack of ornamentation, and simple lines. Similar types of buildings had similar floor plans, but different finishes or materials depending on geographic location—beach, valley, desert or mountain. Wood siding, painted forest green and dark brown paint, was most commonly used in forest settings, while concrete, stucco and tile were used in desert and beach areas. A building set at the beach, for

[5] Allen, 21-24; "News and Views," February 1948, Department of Natural Resources Records, Records of the Division of Parks, Construction Files, California State Archives.
[6] Allen, 15-16; 20-22.

example, would have stucco walls and a tile roof. The same building in a mountain setting would instead have wood siding and a snow-bearing shingle roof.[7]

This period of development spanned from 1941, when the CCC completed work in California state parks, to 1955, when architect Robert Uhte began designing new, modern buildings for California state parks. Uhte produced new standardized plans that replaced plans created during the 1941-1955 period. Buildings and structures based on these newer designs were constructed as part of a master plan for the state park system that was approved in 1956. The restoration of offshore oil revenues in 1954 allowed the state to fund development called for in the new master plan.

At Big Basin Redwoods State Park, the most significant development project of this era was the Lower Sky Meadow housing area. Lower Sky Meadow was the first employee housing complex built in a California State Park after the CCC program was discontinued in 1941. Construction began in October of that year, and though bad winter weather hindered work, four identical two-bedroom residences were completed in the summer of 1942. One two-car garage and one four-car garage were also built in Lower Sky Meadow at this time. The site was considered the only sunny location in the park, and it also represented a safer location for employees housing than Governor's Camp. Staff had rarely been able to live in the park in the winter, since existing housing in the densely forested Governor's Camp was in constant danger from falling trees during winter storms.[8]

Three other residences and one four car garage were built in Lower Sky Meadow as part of a larger state park initiative. In 1946, state parks' architects planned fifty-four residences and garages to be built throughout the state park system, in order to provide housing for growing numbers of staff. The next year, administrators implemented an official program, the State Park Residence Program of 1947-1948, to fulfill the need. Three residences and one detached garage were completed in Lower Sky Meadow, across the street from the four existing homes, in 1948. One additional home, identical to these three single family homes, was built in the maintenance yard (about two-thirds of a mile by road from Lower Sky Meadow) at the same time.[9] In 1953-54, two additional homes and two duplexes were constructed about a mile north on Lodge Road, in an area known as Upper Sky Meadow.[10]

All seven homes in Lower Sky Meadow were constructed in the Minimal Traditional architectural style.[11] Minimal Traditional style was commonly found in domestic architecture in

[7] Allen, 15-22.
[8] Darwin Tate, Report of the Activities of the Division of Parks and Beaches for October 1941, November 17, 1941, Department of Natural Resources Records, Records of the Division of Parks, Administrative Files, Monthly Activity Reports, California State Archives.
[9] Roland, *Park Rustic Buildings and Structures in the California State Park System*, 18; Allen, 24.
[10] Joseph Knowland, *California State Parks Progress Report, 1946-1948*, 19; Roland, *Park Rustic Buildings and Structures in the California State Park System*, 69.
[11] State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, "Employee Residence #7" Primary Record; State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, "Employee Residence #8-10" Primary Record; State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, "Employee Residence #14-16" Primary Record.

the United States from about 1930 to 1950. The style emerged as a response to Depression era privations. Minimal Traditional homes are simplified, less expensive versions of the Colonial and Tudor period revival architectural styles of the 1910s and 1920s, with lower pitched roofs and without period detailing. The style incorporated basic Colonial and Tudor forms, while also displaying the modern and International style preference for little ornamentation. These one or one-and-a-half story homes had practical floor plans, and they were known for being durable and functional. Built-ins and quality cabinetry were typical in these homes. Prominent front gables, reminiscent of Tudor style, and small covered porches were common. Garages were usually detached. Six or eight-pane and bay windows were often found. Horizontal or vertical board siding was often used in gables, for contrast. These homes were affordable, due to the fact that builders could use mass produced and prefabricated materials. The style was one of California's most popular in the 1940s, and the homes at Lower Sky Meadow exhibit most of these features.

The style remained popular after World War II, since resources were still limited and inexpensive construction methods and materials were paramount. However, designs were further simplified. The homes increasingly became small cottages. Front porches had been prominent details in earlier homes, but they were replaced by much smaller porches or covered stoops by the late 1940s. The homes at Lower Sky Meadow reflect this shift. While the homes built in 1941-1942 have prominent front porches, the homes completed in 1948 have significantly smaller porches. The front gables on the later homes are much smaller than the earlier examples, and the later homes lack bay windows. The Minimal Traditional style gave way to ranch style in the 1950s.

Lower Sky Meadow remains the largest and most intact residential complex in a California state park that was built between 1941 and 1955, a distinct era in California state park development that is characterized by the first attempts to use standardized plans to construct park buildings. It is also the largest complex of minimal traditional-style homes in any California state park. Other residential areas were built in state parks during this time, yet none are as large or retain as much integrity. At San Clemente State Beach, the headquarters complex contains seven residences and five garages, yet only four of the homes date from the period between 1941 and 1955, and the complex does not exhibit the architectural uniformity of Sky Meadow. At Humboldt Redwoods State Park, a complex with eight residences and six garages exists, but only three of these residences and garages were built between 1941 and 1955. Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park contains an employee housing area with four residences, three of which were built during this same period, and three garages. At Samuel P. Taylor State Park, a complex of four single family homes, one duplex and four garages, built in 1949-1950 and based on standardized plans, is extant; however, the homes do not form a coherent complex. Other state parks contain residential areas that contain one or two homes from this era. Lower Sky Meadow residential area also represents the largest and most intact complex of the housing property type as defined in the *Historic Resources of Big Basin Redwoods State Park* Multiple Property Documentation Form.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Archival Collections

Big Basin Redwoods State Park Records, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

California Department of Parks and Recreation Records, California State Archives, Sacramento, CA.

Primary and Secondary Sources

Engbeck, Joseph. *State Parks of California, From 1864-Present*. Portland, OR: Graphic Arts Publishing Center, 1980.

Kennedy, Kathleen. *Historic Resources Study for Big Basin Redwoods State Park (Draft)*, January 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

Knowland, Joseph. *Annual Report of the California State Park Commission, 1948-1949*. Sacramento: State Printing Office, 1950.

Roland, Carol. *Park Rustic Structures in the California State Park System: Survey and Evaluation*. July 2003. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

Knowland, Joseph R. *Annual Report of the California State Park Commission*, 1948-1949.

_____. *California State Parks Progress Report, 1946-1948*. Sacramento: Superintendent of State Printing, 1949.

State of California, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Beaches. *State Park Employees' Residence, Standard Type*, April 11, 1952.

_____. *Inland Type Residence*, March 1, 1947.

State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation. Primary Record, Residence #7. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

_____. Primary Record, Residence 8. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

_____. Primary Record, Residence 9. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

_____. Primary Record, Residence 10. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

_____. Primary Record, Residence 14. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

_____. Primary Record, Residence 15. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

_____. Primary Record, Residence 16. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

_____. Primary Record, Garage for Residence 7. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

_____. Primary Record, Garage for Residences 8-10. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

_____. Primary Record, Garage for Residences 14-16. October 2009. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA.

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
_X__ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
__X_ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository:
California State Parks Archives; California State Library; History San Jose

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.45

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: NAD 1983
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.182432 Longitude: -122.205580
2. Latitude: 37.182336 Longitude: -122.204596
3. Latitude: 37.182146 Longitude: -122.204443
4. Latitude: 37.182032 Longitude: -122.205402
5. Latitude: 37.181544 Longitude: -122.205514
6. Latitude: 37.181536 Longitude: -122.205715
7. Latitude: 37.181715 Longitude: -122.205733
8. Latitude: 37.182039 Longitude: -122.206719
9. Latitude: 37.182182 Longitude: -122.206750
10. Latitude: 37.182334 Longitude: -122.206638

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The district is bounded on the north by the Unnamed Alley (unpaved) that lies north of Residences 14, 15, and 16. The District is bounded on the east at the intersection of Unnamed Alley and Sky Meadow Lane. The boundary then proceeds west along Sky Meadow Lane up to Residence 10 (R10); the south across a second Unnamed Alley to include Garage 10 (G10); thence northwest along the second Unnamed Alley to include Garage 7 (G7) at the western boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary includes all seven homes, three garages, and one road that historically have been part of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area, and that retain historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Christy Avery
organization: National Park Service
street & number: 909 1st Ave, 5th Floor
city or town: Seattle state: WA zip code: 98104
e-mail Christine_Avery@nps.gov
telephone: 206 220-4127
date: August 6, 2010; Revised February 2014
Revised 2014 by California State Parks Archaeology, History & Museums Division Staff

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area Historic District

City or Vicinity: Boulder Creek

County: Santa Cruz County State: California

Photographer: Christy Avery

Date Photographed: July 7, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 13. North façade of residence #7. Residences #8, #9, and #10 are identical to this. Camera facing south.

2 of 13. North façade and west side of the garage for residence #7, camera facing southwest.

3 of 13. South side (rear) of residence #7. Residences #8, #9, and #10 are identical to this. Camera facing north.

4 of 13. Garage for residences #8, #9, and #10, north side. Camera facing south.

5 of 13. Alley behind residences #7 through #10, camera facing east.

6 of 13. South side of residence #14. Residences #15 and #16 are identical to this. Camera facing north.

7 of 13. West and south sides of residence #16. Residences #14 and #15 are identical to this. Camera facing northeast.

8 of 13. Garage for residences #14 through #16, south side. Camera facing north.

9 of 13. Alley behind (north of) residences #14 through #16. Residence #16 is on the right; the garage for residences #14 through #16 is on the left. Camera facing southeast.

10 of 13. Residences #7 and #8, camera facing south.

11 of 13. Sky Meadow Lane, camera facing southeast. Residences #10 and #9 are visible on the right hand side of the lane. Residence #16 is visible on the left.

12 of 13. The entrance to the Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area Historic District. Sky Meadow Lane leads to the right; on the left is the unpaved alley behind residences #14 through #16. Residence #16 is in the center of the photo. Camera facing east.

13 of 13. North and east sides of Residence #8, camera facing southwest.

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 100 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.

Figure 1. Geographical Map of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area (within Big Basin Redwoods State Park). Portion of Big Basin (1991) USGS 7.5' Topographic Map.

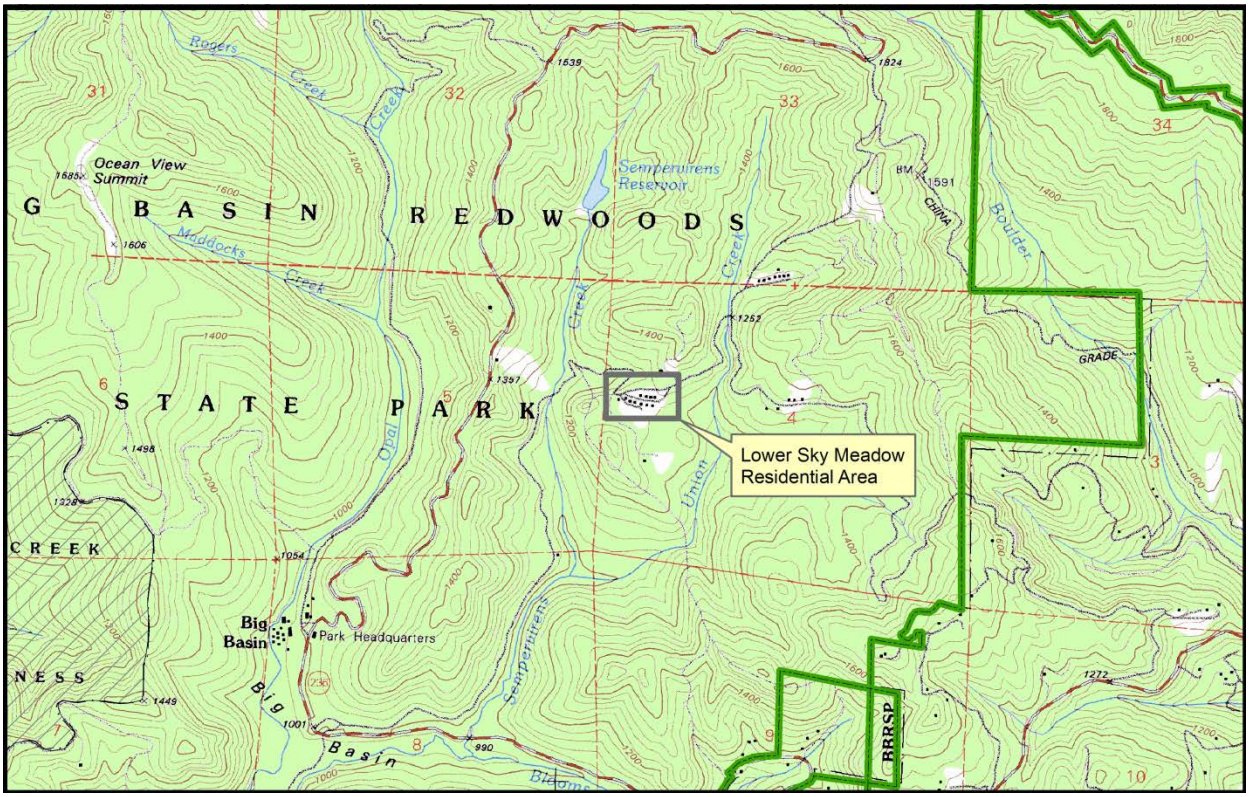


Figure 2. Photo Key/Location/Sketch Map of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area. Portions of Big Basin Redwoods SP – General Topography (California Division of Beaches and Parks, 1957): mosaic of sheets 19 and 21.

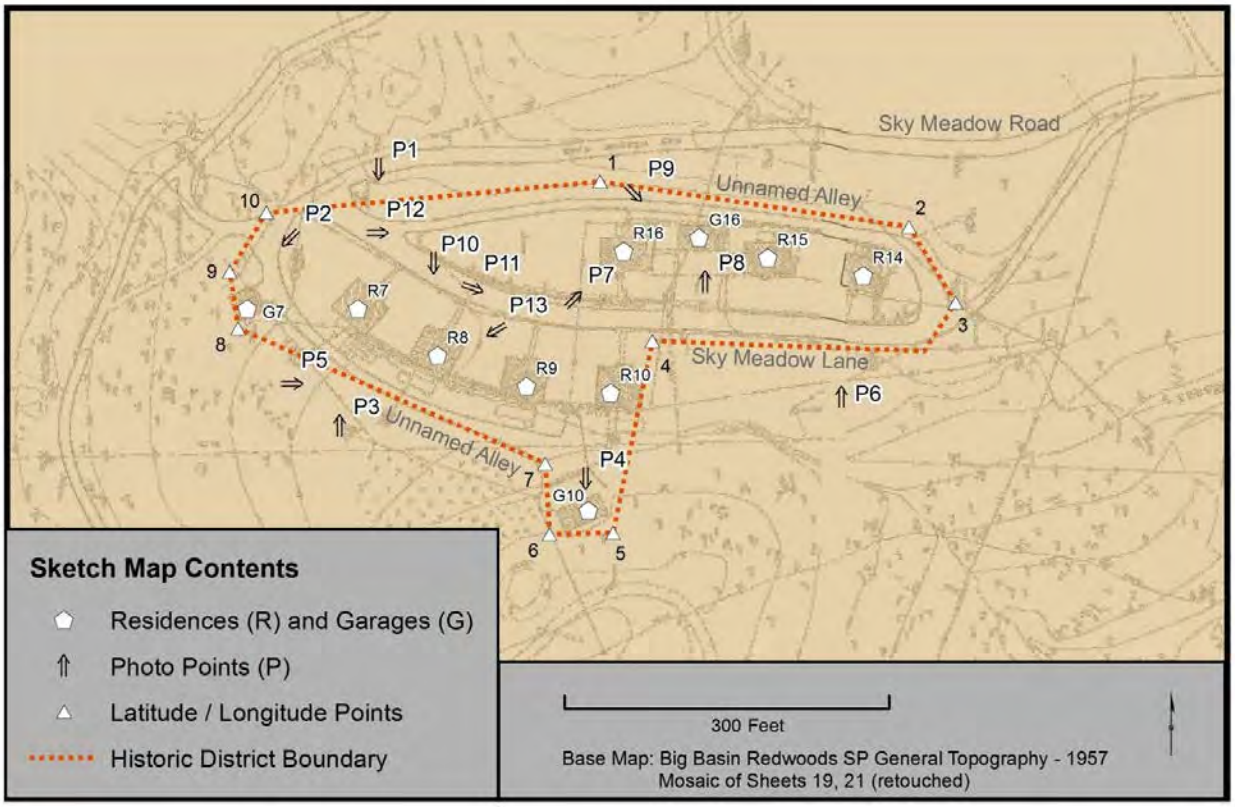


Figure 3. Big Basin Redwoods State Park: General Topography. Drawing 3319.2. California Division of Beaches and Parks (1957). Sheet 19 of 26.

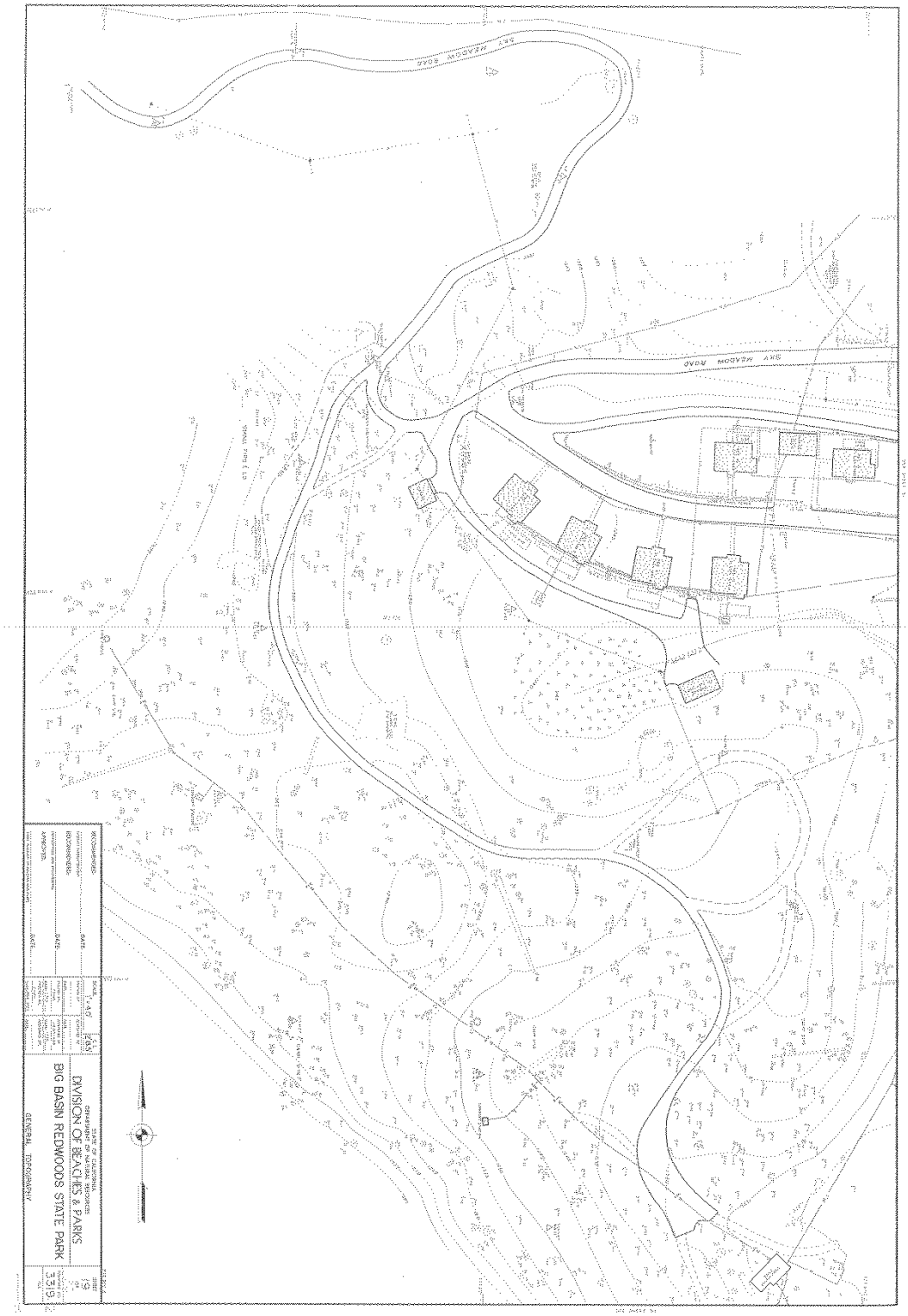
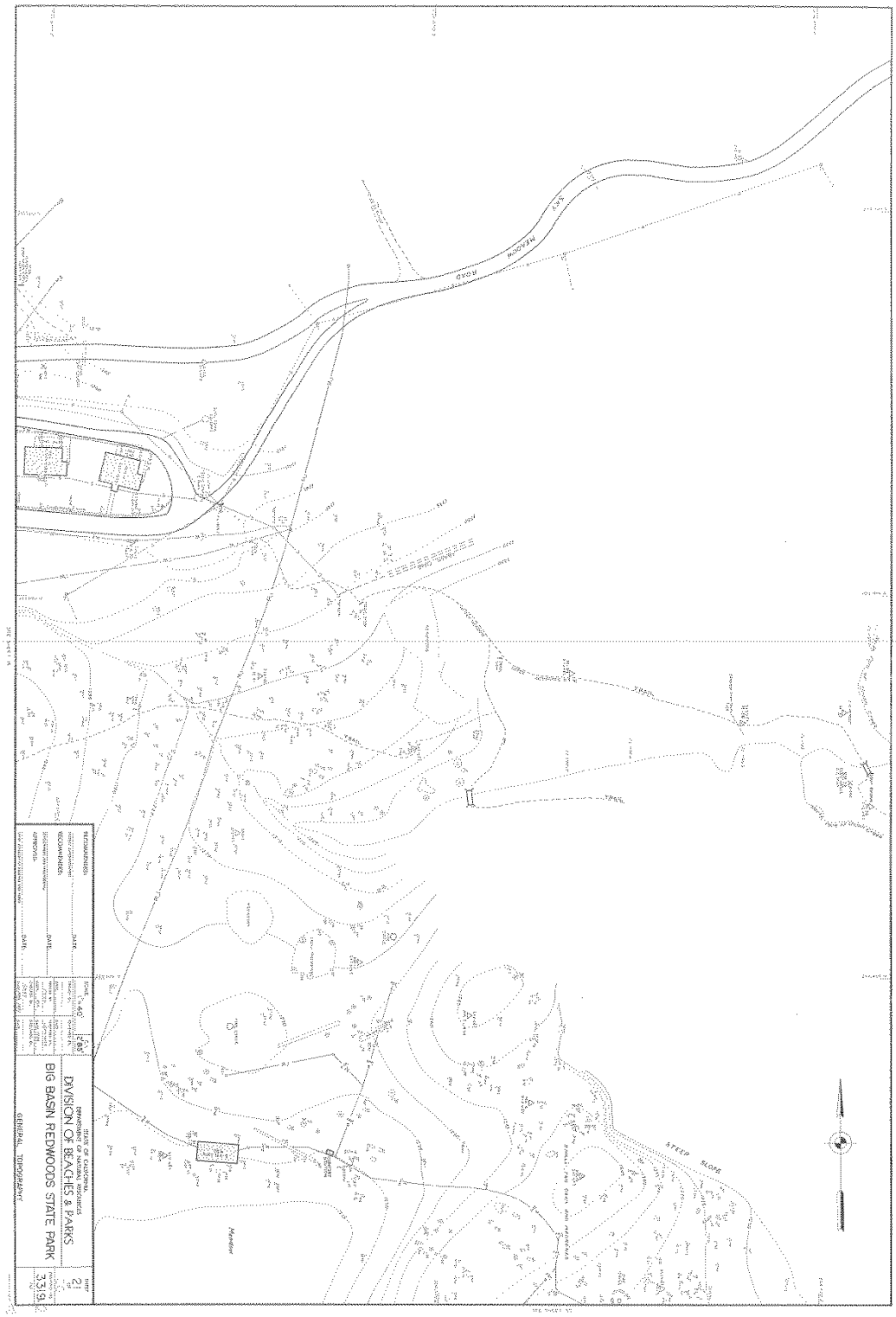


Figure 4. Big Basin Redwoods State Park: General Topography. Drawing 3319.2. California Division of Beaches and Parks (1957). Sheet 21 of 26.



14