

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION**



## CHAPTER IV – LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

### INTRODUCTION

The Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District and the Old NPS Housing Historic District and corresponding Study Areas examined in this CLR are distinguished from each other by location and purpose, but together they are representative of park development characterized by principles in park planning that had been formalized by the National Park Service between the years of 1916-1942. This time frame is closely aligned with the end of World War I (1914-1918) and the beginning of World War II (1939-1940). During this period, the national park system was extensively developed and modernized, with landscape architects and architects employed to create service villages within the parks that reflected a consistent “Rustic style” character and appearance. This aesthetic has had an impact on the way that visitors experienced, and expected to experience, the scenery and recreational amenities of the national parks. Between the establishment of Park facilities in 1924 and America’s entry into World War II in 1941, the concessionaire and administrative facilities developed within the Lodge Study Area and the Old NPS Housing Study Area were deliberately planned to compliment the Park’s natural environment as well as to provide for the needs of a wide range of visitors.

The fourth chapter of this Cultural Landscape Report will begin by providing a background of the process and terms used in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination and a summary of the NRHP documentation as it relates to the Study Areas. Based upon this documentation and upon the research conducted for the History and Current Conditions Chapters, a statement of significance for the two Study Areas is presented which will also establish periods of significance. Next, comparisons will be made between the existing and historic landscape conditions and characteristics in order to determine the specific nature of the changes that have occurred in the landscapes over time. A detailed roster of landscape characteristics identified in the Existing Conditions Chapter, accompanied by their determination as “contributing”, “non-contributing” or “compatible” within the periods of significance has been included as Appendix A.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### Background of National Register of Historic Places Process

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) determines the significance in American history of a district, site, building structure or object through a process that compares historic context with existing condition to evaluate the property’s contribution to cultural heritage.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory and Report (CLI, CLR) method developed through the guidelines established by the National Register of Historic Places examines *landscape significance* according to specific *criteria (A, B, C, D)* within a *period of significance*. Significance, as defined by the National Park Service, is the meaning and value ascribed to a landscape through its relationship to the larger historical context (McClelland et al. 1990). It is a summary of defining events, activities, and participants in the history of the landscape. Research must also assess the degree to which the landscape retains its *integrity*. *Integrity* is determined according to how much of the landscape has retained its historic appearance or continuity of landscape functions, uses, and meanings and, as a result, can still tell its own story to perceptive visitors (McClelland et al. 1990, Cowley 2002). A property can be *significant* with respect to one or more of four different *criteria*. The purpose of employing a variety of *criteria* is to assist in recognition of different values that each property might embody (National Park Service 1995). Properties must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for National Register listing.

*Criterion A* identifies properties that are associated with an event, or series of events, or activities or patterns of development.

*Criterion B* applies to properties that illustrate an important individual’s significant achievements or association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

*Criterion C* relates to properties that illustrate significant elements of design or construction, have high artistic values, or are examples of important builders or architects. They embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master.

*Criterion D* is generally applied to archeological sites. These sites must have made or have the potential to make important contributions to our understanding of prehistory or history.

Analysis of this information is conducted through a discussion of 13 landscape characteristics including: natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, cultural traditions, cluster arrangements, circulation, topography, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, constructed water features, small-scale features, and archeological sites (not applicable to this study were constructed water features and archeological sites; cultural traditions and cluster arrangements were included throughout other sections). These characteristics are “the tangible and intangible aspects of the landscape that have influenced its development or are the products of its development” (Page 1998, 70). Characteristics and features are described as *contributing*, *non-contributing* or *non-contributing/compatible* to the periods of significance.

#### Summary of National Register of Historic Places Registration Forms for Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District and the Old NPS Housing Historic District and BRCA Multiple Property Documentation Form

This Report includes two Study Areas that were derived from respective NRHP Districts: the Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District and the Old NPS Housing Historic District. The two Study Areas overlap with supporting historical documentation that applies to all developed areas within the Park. This CLR therefore combines both Study Areas with information on respective Districts into one document. This Report is in agreement with the historical background for significance, statements of significance as well as the periods of significance outlined in the NRHP Registration Form for each District. This CLR also agrees with the historic context and subthemes outlined in the NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form for Bryce Canyon National Park, particularly as they relate to development within the Park as a whole. Historic context and subthemes listed in documentation include the following:

- Context 1) Development of Recreational and Administrative Infrastructure in Bryce Canyon National Park 1924-1944 with subthemes that include Concessionaire Development in BRCA, 1924-1944 and National Park Service Administrative Development within BRCA 1928-1944
- Context 2) Influence of landscape architecture on National Park service facilities and the development of rustic building design. Within the framework of the cultural landscape as presented in this CLR, the second historic context should be expanded to read as follows: *Influence of landscape architecture on site planning and comprehensive park development including service facilities and the development of rustic building design.*

The NPS landscape architectural design standards that structured park planning within the Western United States and in particular Bryce Canyon National Park, during the periods of significance, are outlined in greater detail in a subsequent section in order to more carefully document landscape planning efforts.

This CLR presents Study Areas that were examined collectively in response to a wide overlap in history, analysis, and recommendations. In keeping with existing NRHP recommendations, the Districts and Study Areas in this CLR use the individual periods of significance established under Criterion A and C. Post WWII development (after 1945) and Mission 66 development (initiated in 1956) were not included in the period of significance. Within the Study Areas of this CLR, it is only the Utah Parks Service Station that occurred during these time periods; the structure is listed on the National Register for Historic Places and is thus protected. See the Historic Structures Report completed

on the Service Station in 2004 for guidance regarding that structure and its surroundings.

The periods of significance for the two Study Areas have different start dates in order to reflect dates of construction projects for each District. However, much of the discussion in this Report is related to landscape architectural concepts and the influence this design profession had on Park planning at Bryce Canyon National Park. Therefore the text often notes a *single period of significance*. Additional comprehensive research of all developed areas in the Park might be warranted and one representative start date for a single period of significance established parkwide to better represent the landscape as a whole system.

The National Register of Historic Places nominations for these districts were completed in 1994, along with a number of other properties and areas of the Park, including the Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District, the Bryce Canyon Inn, and the Old Administration Building. Although a detailed analysis of these other historic structures and Districts was not completed as a part of this CLR, some inventory and discussion of them can be found in Chapter 3 Existing Conditions under their respective Sub-Areas.

### The Old NPS Housing Historic District (Study Area)

#### *Statement of Significance*

The Old NPS Housing Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. The following text includes paraphrased segments (indicated through indented text) from the statement of significance found in the NRHP Nomination Form<sup>1</sup> used to establish District status.

The Old Housing Historic District is associated with the development of NPS administrative infrastructure in Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA), and is included in the property type that contains all improvements initiated by the NPS. It is recommended eligible under Criterion A (for its associative value) and under Criterion C (since the buildings remaining in the District are representative of “Simplified” Rustic design). Areas of significance include architecture, government, and recreation.

This District represents the first housing development within the park specifically designed to house NPS employees. The initial building constructed in this vicinity was the original Ranger’s Residence—an “exaggerated” rustic building with a massive stone foundation and fire place. Between 1930 and 1940, several small scale buildings were added to the district,

designed for unmarried seasonal NPS employees as well as a single, small dormitory. Their presence reflects the need for additional Park personnel and also the availability of construction funds and manpower during the New Deal era. All of the plans for the buildings in the District originated from the NPS Branch of Plans and Design.

The District as a whole meets the registration requirements established for its property type. Overall, the exterior surfaces of the building within the District possess integrity of materials, workmanship and design. Contemporary, intrusive elements are limited to the addition of two new dormitories adjacent to the south edge of the District. *These new buildings are visible primarily from HS-10 and do not adversely affect the remainder of the District. The boundary for the District can be drawn to exclude these new buildings.*

This CLR disagrees with the last two sentences in this statement. The new buildings are visible from the Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District as the scale of the aforementioned buildings is larger and would not have been consistent with design standards used during the period of significance. Therefore the small scale of the cottage residences suffers as a result of the nearby out-of-scale larger dormitories. During the period of significance, attention was paid to maintaining the Old NPS Housing District as a zone for staff housing; it was segregated from visitor functions and views into the housing area were purposely obstructed. The small cabins of this zone fit with the topography and were surrounded by pine trees – many within scant feet of the structures themselves. The natural slope of this knoll and another adjacent knoll, as well as the pine cover was used to create an enclosed forested village atmosphere. The topography and natural setting was as much a part of the Rustic style as were the buildings. The newer Concessionaire Dormitories built to replace lodging lost with the removal of the standard cabins near the Lodge disrupt this forest and are highly visible from visitor use areas. Their large scale construction, the massive regrading of slopes necessary for their siting and the removal of the forest cover has had a dramatic effect upon the historic district as a whole.

Cabin designs were simplified and economized from the more elaborate structures in the visitor areas – thus the term “Simplified” Rustic style architecture arose. During the New Deal era, these non-invasive design techniques matured under the direction of Thomas Vint. Vint became the assistant landscape engineer for the National Park Service in 1923 and an associate landscape engineer in 1926. In 1927, he became the chief landscape architect in the NPS landscape program. Under Vint’s leadership, national park planning based on harmonizing with nature within “naturalistic” (rustic) principles of design, reached its zenith; these design standards had become a code of ethics within landscape architecture and preservation.

#### *Period of Significance*

The Old NPS Housing Historic District period of significance is listed as 1932- 1944 with a beginning date reflecting the date of construction. This time frame is characterized by work programs established during the New Deal era; improvements were made in Bryce Canyon National Park as well as many other national park throughout the country.

### Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District (Study Area)

#### *Statement of Significance*

The Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District was included in the NRHP under Criterion A (for its association with the development of the Park’s recreational facilities) and under Criterion C (as an example of Rustic building design). The District is associated with the development of concessionaire facilities and partnerships between the NPS and Union Pacific Railroad’s Utah Parks Company (1924-1944) and reflects the architectural work of Gilbert Stanley Underwood (1890-1960) who was an American architect praised for his lodge designs. Daniel Ray Hull (1890-1964), Chief NPS landscape engineer (landscape architect) collaborated with Underwood in an integrated design approach of the architecture and landscape architecture for the Lodge and cabins at Bryce (1924) as well as other National Parks including Zion (1924), the Ahwahnee Hotel at Yosemite (1927) and the Grand Canyon Lodge (1928).<sup>2</sup> Hull was instrumental in making Rustic style architecture a recognizable NPS park style. He stressed the following toward this achievement: comprehensive site planning, subordinating development to the natural scenic landscape qualities, responding to the natural topography, sensitive building siting, vegetative screening, and using natural forms and natural materials in architectural design.<sup>3</sup>

The Bryce Canyon Lodge was built between 1924 and 1925 using local materials and construction techniques. The Underwood design of the Lodge is a masterful example of NPS Rustic style architecture constructed by the railroads. The railroads and related concessionaires typically brought the first development to the parks, and the National Park Service promoted the hiring of landscape architects, architects, and engineers to develop plans and oversee construction of site facilities. This was a period in time when landscape architecture played an important role in influencing architecture and site planning toward the development of an appropriate park style.

The Lodge and Deluxe Cabins were given National Historic Landmark status in 1987. The following text includes paraphrased segments (indicated

---

<sup>1</sup> National Register of Historic Places - Registration Form, Old NPS Housing Historic District. Prepared by Janene Caywood, Historical Research Associates, Inc. December 31, 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Birnbaum, Charles A., and Robin Karson. 2000. *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

<sup>3</sup> Birnbaum, Charles A., and Robin Karson. 2000. *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.



through indented text) from the statement of significance found in the NRHP Nomination Form<sup>4</sup> used to establish National Historic Landmark status for the Lodge and Deluxe Cabins.

Bryce Canyon Lodge and the Deluxe Cabins are the work of master architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood; they are excellent examples of Rustic style architecture encouraged by the National Park Service and built by the railroads. The architecture is based on the use of native onsite materials that look as if they were constructed by craftsmen with simple hand tools. Structures, including the Lodge, were designed to be highly compatible with the surrounding landscape through the use of materials, appropriate scale, architectural massing and design details. The railroad's need to provide visitor amenities and services was adequately met and in doing so an important American style was created that became a distinct characteristic of national parks. By enhancing the scenic qualities of Bryce Canyon and the other stops on the "Union Pacific Loop" through noteworthy architecture and landscape architecture, the Railroad was aiming to increase ticket sales thus competing with other railroad companies that were offering similar services and visitor experiences at other Parks including: Yellowstone, Glacier, or the south rim of the Grand Canyon. The buildings' primary significance is architectural although other areas of significance include regional transportation and tourism, as part of the Union Pacific Railroad/Utah Parks development in Utah and northern Arizona. This is the last development of the Utah Parks Company in Utah retaining high standards of architectural integrity.

The Lodge was sited away from the plateau rim so it would not interfere with the majestic quality of this scenic landscape, yet close enough to allow visitors easy access to the panoramic views. The deliberate placement of the Lodge away from the rim not only kept the scenic quality of the rim intact, it also became an important ethical consideration for park site planning. It was thought that vistas and views should not be disturbed by human development and that natural vegetation and landscape systems should be maintained in such a way as to minimize the impact of the built environment, thus creating a sense of "living within nature" and rustic experience.

The Lodge was designed to be a central focal point of a complex that included visitor cabins, dormitories, and service buildings. The front of the Lodge was a bustle of activity as this was the point of tourist arrival, spontaneous and arranged gathering, and the famous sing-aways (see

Chapter 2) . It was the dominant building in the landscape and had deliberate spatial connections to other Park facilities, particularly the Deluxe Cabins (completed in 1929). Smaller in scale than the Lodge itself, the Deluxe Cabins were located below the Lodge, within the natural setting of a pine grove to the southeast. These cabins were placed in an arrangement so that they responded to the lay of the land thus giving them a "nestled into the landscape" appearance. The highly textured rubble masonry chimneys and stone corner piers on the exterior of the cabins add visual interest characteristic of Rustic style architecture that presents an integral relationship between the building and the natural surroundings.

The irregular massing and chunkiness of the Deluxe Cabins imitates the irregularities found in nature. The detailing of both the Lodge and the Deluxe Cabins is exhibited in rough stonework and large logs that emphasize connection to nature. The stones, quarried locally, match portions of the surrounding geology. The logs are the same size as the surrounding pines. The rough stonework, the free use of logs particularly on the buildings' exteriors, the wave-patterned shingle roofs (appearing in the main Lodge and the Deluxe Cabins), the wrought-iron chandeliers, and the exposed framing and trusswork give the buildings a rustic honesty and informality characteristic of park architecture.

The structures of the Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District, their materials and arrangement on the site as well as the clear integration of architecture and site architecture within the natural landscape itself was an overarching characteristic of NPS planning and a design philosophy that had been fully developed at Bryce Canyon National Park. The Rustic style architecture of the Lodge, Deluxe Cabins, Standard Cabins and other structures was a response to the forest, meadows, and the flow of topography. The built environment was meant to seem as if it were an integral part of the natural landscape itself. In this way the overall design was a reminder that humans are collectively a part of something larger.

#### ***Period of Significance***

The Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District established a period of significance from 1924-1944; the start date is aligned with construction of the main Lodge building and spans, to the end of World War II in 1944. This was an era characterized by the development of visitor facilities by the Utah Parks Company and the National Park Service.

#### **NPS Landscape Architectural Design Standards<sup>5</sup>**

##### ***Influence of Landscape Architecture on National Park Service Facilities and the Development of Rustic Style Architecture and Site Planning***

The National Park Service was established as the administrative control for the design and management of the national parks in 1917. The early years of the establishment of the National Park Service (1916- 1942) can be characterized as an era where planning philosophies and site design doctrines were created. The park style that emerged during this era was built as an amalgamation of ideas from previous landscape planning approaches including those from the English landscape style and theories promoted by early American landscape architects. Andrew Jackson Downing made popular the importance of connecting people to nature by emphasizing the role nature played in architectural design as presented in his book *Cottage Residences* (1844). Theories promoted by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and continued through the work of his sons in the landscape architectural firm, the Olmsted Brothers, promoted site planning and architectural form as a direct response to the natural conditions of the site and the notion of separation of pedestrian and vehicular (carriage) traffic became a signature element in their park designs. Charles Eliot's work stressed the value of comprehensive park planning and careful understanding of site conditions as a tool for design. His philosophy on the management of vegetation in natural areas was widely accepted among landscape architects and used to develop approaches used by the NPS with respect to vegetation and scenery. "His techniques included vista clearing, vegetation studies, and general landscape forestry, allowing the park designer to manipulate the character of vegetation to attain a healthy and scenic landscape" (McClelland 1998, 3). The collection of writings, teachings, and design work from these landscape designers and the ones to follow, inspired NPS park planning and led to the development and refinement of a park Rustic style and Simplified Rustic style that was used in architecture, site planning and landscape architecture.

Henry Hubbard, Frank Waugh, and Charles Punchar made numerous suggestions on landscape architectural design that began to rigorously structure NPS park planning, forming the basis of park appearances. Their collective work on sweeping road alignment, mass and void of native plantings, views and vistas, park development zoning, and use of natural materials including cobblestone, rock, and timber brought to focus this evolving "naturalistic" style. Waugh, a professor of landscape architecture at what is now the University of Massachusetts, had several seasonal contracts with the Forrest Service and the National Park Service. He promoted the naturalistic park style (Rustic style) through a handbook

<sup>5</sup> These design standards were extracted from: McClelland, Linda Flint. 1998. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*. Maryland; The Johns Hopkins University Press.

<sup>4</sup> National Register of Historic Places - Nomination Form. (<http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NHLS/Text/87001339.pdf>) (Visited August 2008) Nomination form for Bryce Canyon Lodge and Deluxe Cabins.

(1930s) for the Civilian Conservation Corps for restoration, conservation, and management of state/national parks and national forests. At Bryce he made several recommendations and suggested that a comprehensive development plan be made “in order to avoid serious mistakes.”(1923) He was also instrumental in advising NPS that visitor accommodations should include not only Deluxe Cabins for wealthy travelers but modest housing arrangements such as Standard Cabins and campgrounds to serve a more economically diverse population.

Daniel Hull (who worked with Underwood on several park projects) was likely to have overseen Park planning at Bryce Canyon; he certainly contributed to the development of Rustic style architecture and the site design aesthetic that characterized the Park during the periods of significance. Hull and other landscape engineers (landscape architects) from the era including Thomas Vint, Horace Albright, Samuel Parsons Jr., Conrad L. Worth, and Albert Taylor played important roles in further shaping and refining the theories that led to park site planning during the periods of significance. As a result masterful executions of Rustic style architecture and site planning were implemented at Bryce Canyon.

An overview of this style from Linda Flint McClelland’s text *Building the National Park: Historic Landscape Design and Construction* describes in detail this style and the events that contributed to its making. She writes (1998, 1) “During the formative years of National Park Service, from 1916 to 1942, landscape architects, architects, and engineers forged a cohesive style of landscape design which fulfilled the demands for park development while preserving the outstanding natural qualities for which each park had been designated. This style subordinated all built features to the natural, and often cultural, influences of the environment in which they were placed. Through time it achieved in each park a cohesive unity that in many cases became inseparable from the park’s natural identity.”

Collectively, landscape architects from this era worked with the NPS to develop management philosophies and design aesthetic standards that would shape distinctive patterns of development in national parks throughout the Western United States. These aesthetic standards offer a guide to the design ideology applied to NPS planning—an approach which led to the rustic park character of Bryce Canyon National Park.<sup>6</sup>

### ***The Principles and Aesthetic Standards for Rustic Park Development***

This style is best characterized by an overarching philosophy in which the natural features of the parks took precedence over the built environment. This concept thus created a cohesive style of design where park facilities

such as lodges, visitor cabins, comfort stations, stores, ranger stations, and other functions would be designed to exist in harmony with scenic and natural qualities. Built amenities were carefully placed in a way that preserved the natural setting or intrinsic landscape identity. As park planning evolved, landscape stewardship and visitor comfort and experience played a dynamic role in development. The interlocking configuration of architecture, roads, trails, visitor services, and staff housing and related functions constructed during the periods of significance were shaped by masterful designers who were able to fully understand these considerations and synthesize them into fully functioning and harmonious landscapes. Thus site plans were holistic in nature and designers studied the entire Park toward the development of cohesive plans. As an organizational tool, the landscape characteristics used for analysis purposes are listed (in part) here as a way to describe the NPS design philosophy that created the basis for the landscape style that shaped Bryce Canyon National Park.

#### Natural systems and features

- The natural environment was managed for health.
- The impact of the built environment was minimized while the natural environment was showcased.
- Natural systems and features played an important role in planning for development; architecture was subordinate to nature. Natural slopes and vegetation were used as amenities; they were organized and coordinated with development.
- The integrity of natural systems and features were preserved; minimal impact was made to natural systems; preservation of characteristic scenery was called for.
- Where development occurred the surrounding natural landscape was to look as if it had never been disturbed. Buildings were to have the illusion that they were somehow a part of nature—that they grew up out of nature. Structures were to seem as if they “fit” with the majestic landscape.
- Natural beauty should not be destroyed by any other use.
- The use of native plant materials was advocated.
- Site analysis was used in developing designs thus existing natural systems and features structured patterns of development.

#### Spatial organization

- Zones of compatible use in planning development dictated how site plans were organized. These considerations were made in conjunction with understanding and appreciation for the patterns of the natural landscape. Related site functions were often placed adjacent to one another while dissimilar uses were placed away from each other and screened by use of natural features. In particular, staff related functions were located away from visitor functions and were screened from view.

By using a zoned approach meaningful relationships between buildings and outdoor spaces could occur and harmonious spatial sequencing from one function to another could showcase natural wonders.

- Spatial harmony was achieved through a careful blending of the built environment with the natural. Considerations included: appropriate architectural scale, built forms that were in alignment with existing topography; use of existing forest vegetation for screening and protection. Existing vegetative cover was used to provide a “forested village” atmosphere. Spatial sequences were highly orchestrated. Lodges were often located at some distance from the spectacular natural view – to protect the ecology and provide a sense of drama once the view revealed itself.
- Parking was often located behind the pavilion or lodge so that the space between the lodge and the grand natural feature (the plateau rim in the case of Bryce Canyon National Park) could be protected from the high volume of automobile traffic.
- Views were important considerations in attaining spatial design harmony.
- Organization of spaces and spatial sequences included and unfolding of vistas and a variety of places where visitors could stop.
- Designers wanted to get people out into the landscape through scenic roads and nature trails. Straight lines in pathways and roads were discouraged.
- Within residential areas, spatial organization helped to create a small-scaled village atmosphere.
- The village compound included a careful method of choosing sites for the location of buildings; attention was paid to the proximity and relationships of other structures, human uses or natural systems—and organic pattern of development was employed as apposed to grid patterns.
- Considerations for scale included the clustering of small residential cabins with larger pavilions or lodges located as a central or focal feature.

#### Land use

- Visitor accommodations stressed conveyance and comfort and included pavilions, inns, lodges, cabins, camping, comfort stations, museums and information, picnicking, supply stores, gas stations, signs, and water fountains.
- Staff accommodations were usually screened from visitors’ views and were separated; ranger stations, residences, workshops, garages for ease in managing park maintenance were some of these uses.
- Utilities were planned for and often screened or placed underground. These include electricity, telephone, sewage, water. Planning these in conjunction with other functions was critical - proper siting was

---

<sup>6</sup> Many of these standards were derived from: McClelland, Linda Flint. 1998. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*. Maryland; The Johns Hopkins University Press.



difficulty in remote locations.

#### Cultural Traditions

- Native materials were stressed and traditional building techniques emphasizing hand craftsmanship of Rustic style structures were often employed. Use of log construction, stone foundations, overhanging roofs, small paned windows came together in this style.
- Design rejected regularity and symmetry; inspiration was derived from the Arts and Crafts movement, Swiss Adirondack style architecture, and nature itself.

#### Cluster Arrangements

- Located in pine groves and accessed by meandering paths, the cottage-style cabins were built to harmonize with the natural setting; they were nestled into natural setting (trees and topography).
- Smaller buildings were often sited against hillsides in order to provide a scenic backdrop for the village atmosphere; this served to protect the cluster of cabins from outside views.
- Visitors' comfort, convenience, and overall scenic experience was a priority in arrangements.

#### Circulation

- One-way curvilinear entry drives were used for tour buses and automobiles dropping off visitors so that they might experience the lodge front entrance.
- Loop entry drives for lodges were often used.
- Roads followed natural contours with attention to opportunities for vistas.
- Roads were not to detract from natural scenery.
- Curved road alignments were favored with sweeping lines that provided a variety of views and spatial sequences. Straight lines in roads and pathways were not favored as flowing lines had a more natural appearance and were able to better blend with the topography and vegetation.
- Road surfaces were often crushed stones as this had a more natural appearance.
- Roads were designed for recreational scenic experience not just for function or as a way to get visitors to destinations or services.
- Pedestrian pathways were meandering and not straight.
- Trails were designed to provide visitor access but to also protect the natural landscape.

#### Topography

- Buildings and site features were placed in to have a deliberate relationship with topography.
- Grade as a result of the construction process were a careful balance of cut and fill—new slopes were to blend seamlessly into the existing topography so as to make construction seem as if it “fit” with the grade. Created slopes were gentle and sweeping (low percent slope) and not abrupt (steep).
- Natural topography was used as a design element thus the cottage cabins in the Old NPS Housing District were placed at the base of a natural slope to provide cover, seclusion, and give a “nestled” in nature feeling.

#### Vegetation

- Vegetation and vegetative patterns were used in the process of design as vital elements that helped shape development configurations. Existing vegetation was used to frame lodges, screen service areas, and provide an enclosed atmosphere for clusters of buildings particularly cottage style cabins.
- The character of the vegetation could be manipulated to attain a healthy and scenic landscape.
- “Vegetation was selectively thinned, transplanted, cleared, or reintroduced to open up scenic vistas (not recommended between Lodge and rim at Bryce Canyon as this was not the intent during the period of significance), prevent fire hazards, or blend construction with the natural setting of the park” (Mc Clelland 1998, 2).

#### Buildings and Structures

- Subordination of structure to natural environment was paramount. Structures were to appear to be in harmony with the natural systems.
- Rustic style architecture used in lodge designs was inspired by the vernacular Swiss Adirondack style that was combined with Arts and Crafts influences from the Bay Area architects; these were merged in an understated expression.
- Use of natural materials found locally such as logs and stone masonry were employed.
- The Rustic Style and the Simplified Rustic Style used in NPS New Deal era cabins sought to create a small-scaled “nestled in the woods” atmosphere.
- Buildings fit with the topography with minimal topographic cut and fill. Slopes created as a result of construction were to smoothly “meet the grade” of existing contours.
- Development (roads and structures) were carefully situated and constructed to blend unobtrusively into the natural setting. They were

to lay “lightly on the land”

- Good architecture was born out of a through “study of the site” Hull (as quoted by McClelland 1998 , ) or site analysis.
- It was important to have a cross-section of residences to serve an economically diverse population..
- Coordinated with buildings were elevated terraces, sweeping stairways, and stone parapets.
- Proper scale in development was critical. The lodge or hotel was larger thus a central point of development and activity. Other service functions such as stores and museums were mid-sized. Closely clustered together residential cottage-like cabins were deliberately small in scale.

#### Views and Vistas

- Buildings were often located away from important natural scenic views so as to not distract from the impact or grandness of majestic views.
- Development strived to maximize the preservation of characteristic scenery.
- Non-public areas (staff only areas) and unsightly utilities were screened from view.
- Views were orchestrated in conjunction with spatial sequencing.
- Designers considered ways to make public areas visible, and thus accessible to visitors. Roads and paths were often oriented to maximize the views of both built and natural elements within the landscape.

#### **Conclusion**

Landscape architects and architects worked with the NPS to provide visitor amenities that would not disrupt the scenic and natural qualities of the national parks. During the periods of significance, Bryce Canyon and other national parks experienced an increase in visitors, thus the demand for park facilities and visitor comforts also expanded. Standards in design were created to insure that park structures and facilities would blend and not disturb the natural environment—its ecology and scenic and recreational value. The layout of the Developed Area at Bryce Canyon National Park had been informed by the collective amalgamation of landscape architectural design standards as outlined previously. Out of these standards the Rustic style in architecture and a corresponding style in site design evolved and characterized development. Buildings were required to fit with the land and natural setting and to respond to one another in meaningful, compatible relationships. Park development had a rustic village atmosphere with soft winding pathways and hand crafted, scale-appropriate buildings made from natural materials found regionally. Use of native materials, including native plants, helped the Rustic style develop its regional strength and provided each park with a unique sense of place. Site designs were cohesive and born out of a clear understanding of the site—its

geology, soil, topography, meadows, forests, and other natural features. Circulation patterns flowed as they followed the topography; roads were surfaced in crushed stone and pathways were often left unpaved. Attention was paid to the relationships of facilities; similar uses were located in the same area while dissimilar uses were separated and often screened through siting that employed the use of existing natural features. Architectural scale was used to create hierarchies of space and to create order within the naturalistic setting.

During the periods of significance these standards went beyond mere aesthetics to become ethical considerations regarding park planning and human interface with nature. At Bryce Canyon National Park, preservation efforts warrant cohesive design approaches that take into consideration these standards which should be applied with advice from professional landscape architects and architects, as was the practice when the Park was developed. The spirit of Bryce Canyon National Park's Rustic style architecture and site architecture (the built environment) can only be preserved with an understanding of the natural context. Preservation techniques will therefore incorporate notions of nature as systems that are dynamic.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

The primary goal for this part of the chapter is to compare the condition of the landscape during the period of significance and the current condition, identifying similarities and differences and evaluating how evolution has affected the historic integrity of the place as a whole. Because cultural landscapes are a complex collection of elements working together at different scales, the analysis considered the landscape from different scales. First, the Study Areas will be discussed broadly at the landscape scale, and then examined through each of the individual landscape characteristics discussed in the previous chapter. The final analysis included in Appendix A will give a detailed inventory of each landscape element, including both existing features and features which are no longer present in the landscape, and record their condition and contribution to the historic landscape. Features are determined to be:

- contributing (surviving from the period of significance)
- non-contributing (not from the period of significance)
- compatible (not contributing but supportive of the period of significance)
- missing (present during the period of significance, but no longer extant in the landscape)
- undetermined (insufficient information available to establish a date of origin for the feature)

### The Old NPS Housing Study Area

The first permanent and seasonal residences constructed for Park officials at Bryce Canyon National Park were built in this area. As opposed to the facilities constructed for concessionaire use, the NPS housing units were deliberately sited away from visitor service facilities, so as to avoid visually interfering with the Park experience, and yet still convenient to shared facilities such as the cafeteria. The result was an informal grouping of residential structures that created an intimate housing village for Park staff that was shielded from visitor's eyes and isolated from the bustle of the tourist activities. No additions to the area were made between the construction slump caused by WWII and the expansions conducted in 1984. The 1980's additions, larger in scale, serve functional needs for cost effective housing but are not in keeping with the scale and character of the Simplified Rustic style and related landscape aesthetic presented by the original housing structures and the overall setting created by harmony between built structures and natural features. As a result, the character of the area was dramatically altered. The Utah Parks Company Service Station is included in this Study Area because of its physical relationship to the housing units, but due to its date, purpose and architectural style is treated here as a separate, free-standing unit. It was not included in the District in the NRHP Nomination, and its date of construction (1948) and purpose support its continued presence as an independent, significant element in the Park Developed Area. A Historic Structures Report completed in 2004 on the UPC Service Station recommended rehabilitation of the Service Station to serve those enjoying the Park via bicycle.

#### *Spatial Organization*

The buildings included in the Old NPS Historic Housing District were the first grouping of structures along a service road that housed a large number of other NPS administrative facilities within the Park. The road known now as the East Access Road was originally the sole road to the housing cluster as well as the horse barn, warehouse, mess hall, and another NPS dormitory – all to the west of the current District. This arrangement would have created a larger administrative spatial unit, all of which was shielded from visitor sight lines by the forest and topography that occurred to the south of the Old NPS Housing structures. The realignment of the Rim Road in 1958, however, divided the area into two distinct development clusters. The new Rim Road route (referred to, at the time, as the Lodge Bypass Route) would pass very close to and in some cases directly over many of the facilities in the western part of this old administrative unit. In keeping with the NPS policy of screening such land uses from visitors, the maintenance and housing functions in that part of the unit were relocated. In many cases (such as the horse barn), the actual structures were relocated to the area now known as the Mixing Circle. Other structures were removed altogether (a more detailed description of these changes can be found under Circulation).

The historic structures from the existing grouping were (at the time of the road realignment) shielded by forest cover and topography and thus they were maintained in their original positions. These remaining structures are well maintained and forest cover and topography still serve to separate them visually from visitors. However, vehicular and pedestrian flow has been altered and the overall Rustic village character has been compromised by spatial relationships to the newer larger units. The harmonious feeling between the architecture and landscape was not achieved in the later dormitory additions, some of which, unlike the historic structures, are visible from several visitor vantage points.

#### *Land Use*

The Study Area has remained an exclusively residential area for Park employees, though the residential population has expanded to include concessionaire employees as well as NPS staff. As it was in the period of significance, today the Study Area houses a mix of permanent and seasonal residents, giving the community a high degree of occupant changeability over the course of each year. These occupants tend to modify their residences in small ways, adding and moving small scale features such as log piles, decorative plantings and site furniture (benches, tables, clothes lines).

#### *Circulation*

During the period of significance, access to the Study Area was available from only one point directly off of the Rim Road north of the Lodge. This road continued past the residential area, over a low saddle between the knolls and continued on to the NPS maintenance area. At some point after 1955, a second access point was created when a road was installed around the northern edge of the knoll behind the housing area. With this alignment, it was no longer necessary to go through the main housing area to reach the maintenance and dormitory buildings to the west. When the Rim Road was realigned in 1958, creating the current route that bypasses the Lodge area, the direct vehicular connection between the housing and the maintenance area was eliminated and the maintenance area was moved (*Figure 4-1*). The portion of the road between the Ranger's Dormitory and the maintenance area was removed as well, though traces of it remain.

Two large parking areas, built after the 1980's, were added to accommodate the newer lodges. The parking adjacent to the Manzanita Lodge is essentially a widening of the old roadbed with parking along either side. This new dormitory unit is actually located on a low knoll, connected to the parking area by a wide staircase with 3 landings. The slope has been seeded with grasses in an attempt to return it to a natural appearance, but it is steeper than the surrounding, natural topography. The parking area adjacent to the new Concessionaire Dormitories is larger, and is bounded on one side by



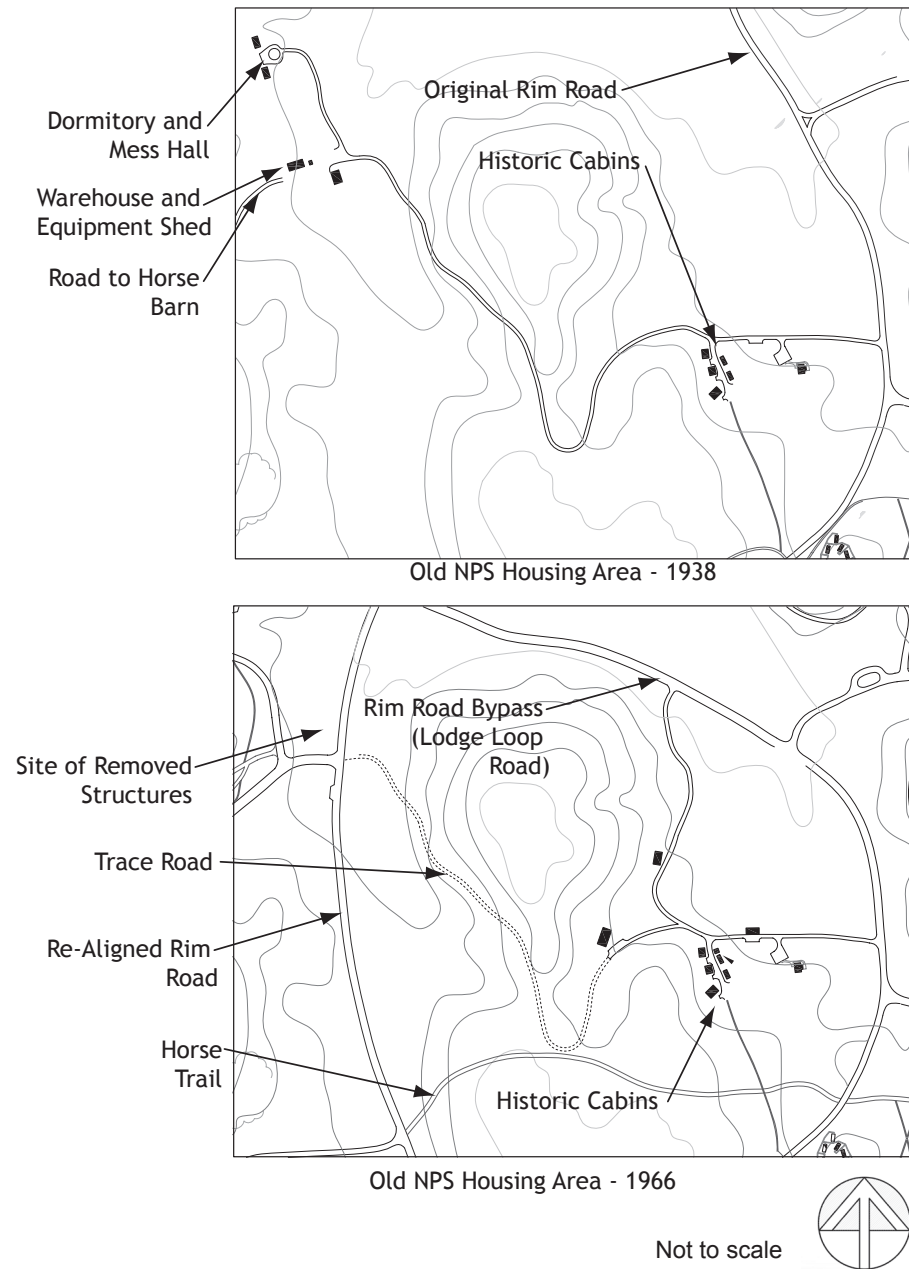


Figure 4-1.  
Changes to Old NPS Housing Study Area with Realignment of Rim Road

a large retaining wall made of decorative concrete masonry units which holds back the hill slope that would have been present here. The material of the retaining wall is inconsistent with the native stone retaining walls seen in other parts of the Park. In addition to a difference of materials, both of these parking areas have proportions that are too large for the original small scale village atmosphere of the housing area (*Photograph A/1 and A/2*). These out of scale parking areas have increased traffic flow through the historic parts of the Study Area, particularly in front of the smaller cabins (B-5 and B-7-10). Within the period of significance, and before the construction of the Concessionaire's Dormitories, the small spur road that is aligned with the front of these cabins would have received only occasional vehicular traffic. The addition of the combined 40 space parking areas have significantly changed this traffic pattern resulting in degradation of the quiet village atmosphere – reducing the overall historic integrity of the area.

When the changes to the Rim Road necessitated the removal of the NPS maintenance area, it included relocating the horse barn to the area now known as the Mixing Circle. A trail between the new barn location and the rim travels along the southern edge of the Old NPS Housing Study Area. Though it is not clear precisely when this trail was installed, it can be assumed because the horse barn was in a different location, that the trail was not present during the period of significance. However, the close relation of the horse concessionaire activities – whether it be the trail or the barn itself - and the NPS housing is not inconsistent with the historic pattern of land use. Additionally, the natural surface trail and the winding nature of the trail as it traverses and ascends the slope through the forest is supportive of the scenic qualities emphasized during the period of significance as well as the Rustic style of the built environment.

Both formal and informal pedestrian trails through the area have been present since the first structures were constructed, though new ones have arisen as a result of the larger dormitory facilities located here. The trails between the residences and trails to Bryce Canyon Lodge and the General Store are of particular importance. Park and concessionaire employees continue to use these routes as they would have during the period of significance as they commute between home environs and their work activities. These trails remain unpaved, but are well maintained and signed so they are easy to follow.

*Topography*

The forest village atmosphere of the Old NPS Housing Study Area has always been supported by its relationship with the natural topography. Each of the historic buildings was small enough to be located without significant changes to the surrounding topography, and as a result the village feels as if it has evolved within the forest. This was a part of the intention of the



Photograph A/1. Small scale parking area near one of the historic cabins in the Old NPS Housing Study Area.



Photograph A/2. The large scale parking area in front of the new Concessionaire Dormitories in the Old NPS Housing Study Area.



Rustic style that was retained in the Simplified Rustic style of NPS housing at the time. The large knoll to the northwest of the cluster of housing units provides a sense of enclosure for the residences, which is reinforced by the fact that the units have been located in the trees, away from the edge of the meadow to the east. The smaller knoll to the south shields the residences from the Bryce Canyon Lodge, and would have been particularly important when the Lodge was the bustling center of the Park's visitor activities.

The newer, larger dormitory units built in the 1980's and 1990's were at a larger scale, which necessitated considerable re-grading of the topography. The resulting retaining walls and altered topography including filled areas are not consistent with the existing natural slope. Additionally the landscape materials and construction techniques, including the blocks for the retaining walls, were treated in ways not consistent with historic construction materials or techniques.

#### *Vegetation*

In conjunction with the topography, the existing forest vegetation contributes to the atmosphere of this residential village. The vegetation helps to shield views to and from the buildings, offering a sense of seclusion and privacy from the rest of the Park. Additionally, the vegetation serves to buffer those structures that are widely spaced from one another. While the smaller scale and spacing of the historic cabins allowed for less grading and topography change, it also permitted a larger portion of the mature forest vegetation to be maintained in close proximity to the buildings. The larger scale of the newer structures in combination with construction techniques employed during the 1980's and 1990's led to the clearing of all vegetation from the building site and immediate surroundings, most noticeably the mature trees. Though seeding and replanting was implemented to help to restore some of the natural vegetation, the size, age and species of the plants in the revegetated areas is not consistent with the surrounding forest (*Photograph A3*). Particularly, grass species including Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and Crested wheatgrass (*Elymus sp.*) were used in seed mixes, though they would not have been present on those sites prior to clearing.

Due to fire suppression and supplemental plantings, the vegetation throughout the Old NPS Housing Study Area is likely denser than it was in the period of significance. Though precise documentation of the forest progression in this Study Area is lacking. Comparisons of forest density in other developed parts of the Park, however, display a significant increase in density and it can be assumed that density has increased in this location as well (see Photographs R/10 and R/11 in the next section).

Though human traffic has had less of an impact on understory vegetation in this Study Area than in the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area, there are a number of areas that do display signs of overuse. These signs include a lack of grass and bushy understory species such as *Elymus* grass species, Oregon Grape (*Mahonia repens*) and Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*)

close to buildings, roads and trails, though these same plants are prolific just a few feet away in undisturbed areas. However, it is likely with similar pedestrian activity in the Study Area during the period of significance, that this level of disturbance would have been present even then.

#### *Buildings and Structures*

##### Seasonal Employee Housing and Wood Vendor (HS-5,6,7,8,9,10)

This arrangement of small residential structures was built within a 4 year period starting in 1932 (HS-10 was built slightly later in 1939). Though they are not identical structures, their design follows a uniform selection of materials and use of scale which, combined with their close proximity to one another, has the immediate effect of a small-scale alignment of simple cabins placed in neat rows along either side of a quiet street. Representative of the Simplified Rustic style that was applied to the NPS service buildings during this time period, they remain unadorned and are deliberately void of the more elaborate details of the guest-focused structures (such as cut logs, decorative shingles, and large windows). The natural stone foundations and small entry stoops, painted weatherboard siding and simple gabled roofs reflect the basic tenets of the purity of the Simplified Rustic style. Though there might have been more traffic on the Main Access Road during the period of significance, the road between the cabins would have been a dead end, and would have received only limited, local traffic. The buildings have maintained their intimate relationship with one another, the contour of the land, and the surrounding forest, and only a few small scale features exist to remind one of the contemporary era. The most significant impact to these buildings has been the changes to viewshed caused by the addition of the new Concessionaire Dormitories (*Photograph A/4*).

##### Ranger Dormitory (HS-4)

This building is isolated from the buildings in the rest of the Old NPS Housing Study Area by the surrounding forest and topography. Between the time of the construction of the Rim Road Lodge Bypass and the construction of the Manzanita Lodge in the 1980s, this structure would have been alone on the small spur off of the East Access Road. When it was built, however, it was located on the main road between the original Rim Road alignment and the now absent NPS maintenance area and housing facilities to the west. The road would have been busier, and the residence would have been more visible to the other NPS employees. Today, the Ranger Dormitory still has relatively high visibility to personnel, though it is due to the addition of the Manzanita Lodge and its associated parking area rather than due to through traffic. The Dormitory is still used for year-round housing and includes an original stone fireplace. Constructed later within the period of significance (1940) from funds resulting from the New Deal era, this slightly larger structure was meant to respond to the need for additional staff at the increasingly popular Park.



Photograph A/3. The fill area behind the Concessionaire Dormitories. Notice the lack of mature trees near the structure. No new trees have established themselves in this area.



Photograph A/4. The view from the cabins toward the Concessionaire Dormitories today. During the period of significance, this would have overlooked a forested knoll.



#### Seasonal Residence (HS-5)

Like the Ranger Dormitory, this building is spatially isolated from the other structures in the Study Area. This single-unit dwelling maintains much of its original exterior character and materials, and is still nestled in the topography and the forest, almost within sight of the line of smaller cabins to the south. In spite of its relative isolation, the presence of this residence on the entry road does contribute to the overall sense of community in the Old NPS Housing Study Area.

#### Ranger Residence and Garage (HS-1, 3)

The first building constructed in the District was the Ranger Residence. The original structure was more elaborate than the previously mentioned cabins as it included exposed logs and a deep porch. However this structure was destroyed in a fire in 1989. All that remains of the cabin is a stone foundation with steps within a cleared area of land where the building once stood. These features, however, offer intriguing yet obvious clues about the history of the site. Across the road is the Garage. Currently used as storage, this structure is listed as non-contributing in the NRHP nomination form. However, through the use of materials, scale and the building's ability to harmonize with the natural setting, the Garage is compatible with the continuity of style and the residential scale of community.

#### Manzanita Lodge

Located across the road from the Ranger Dormitory, this year-round housing facility was constructed in 1984 and is an example of more recent construction in the Study Area. It is sited on a hill above a parking area, surrounded by forest which is beginning to show signs of recovering from the trauma of the construction process. Though the scale of the building is at odds with that of the historic structures, it is visually isolated within the village (except for the Ranger Dormitory). It is also shielded from the visitor areas by forest and topography. This location would have been consistent with the design strategies of the period of significance. The building does adopt some of the design language of the historic buildings, including the stone foundation, weatherboard siding and simple roof lines. However, the scale of this structure and other construction materials such as the asphalt shingle roofing are inconsistent with the historic style.

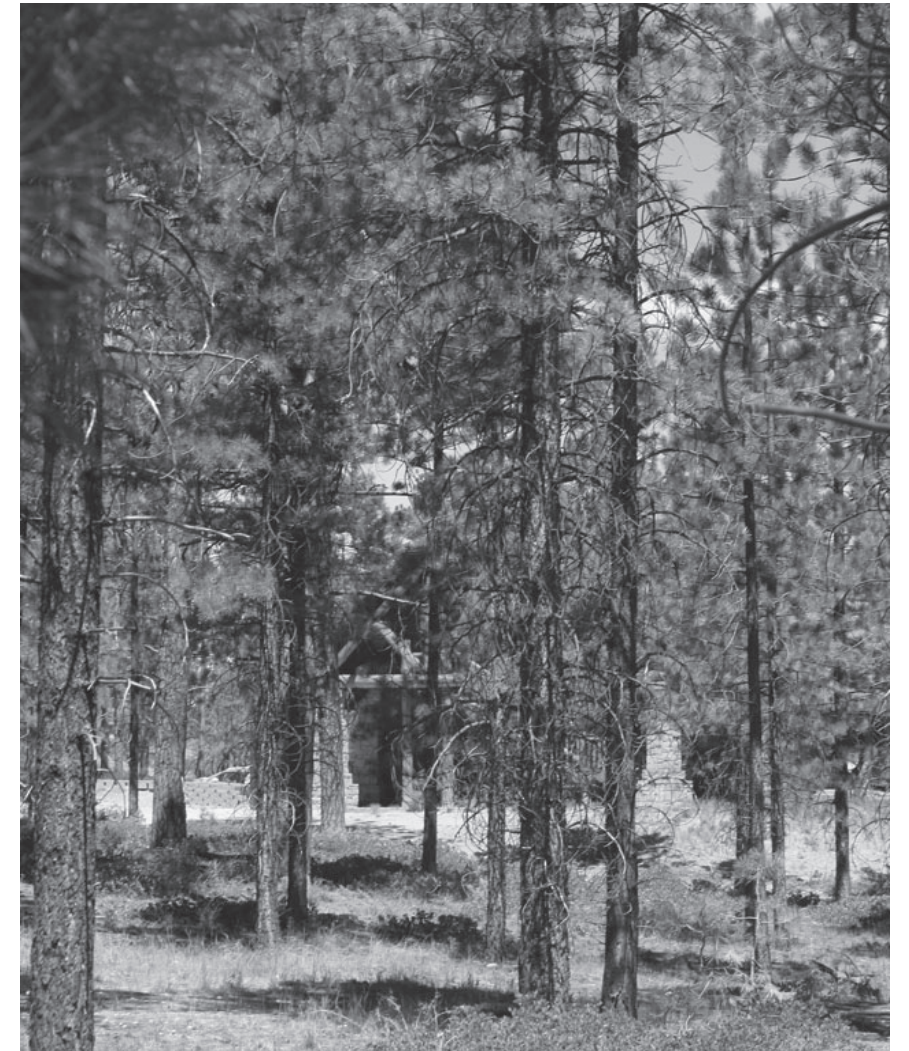
#### Concessionaire Dormitories (Ponderosa and Whispering Pines)

These large group housing structures were built in 1985. Though the buildings' design features do reflect an attempt at the Rustic style, the scale of the structures as well as the materials used are not consistent with the style of the historic buildings in the Old NPS Housing Study Area or the other historic areas of the Park. Green metal roofing,

massive log details and dormer windows are all meant to be reminiscent of the historic Rustic style, but are inaccurate representations of the architecture reflected in historic structures. The size of these buildings also makes them visible from visitor areas and from within the Old NPS Historic Housing Study Area. Combined with the large adjacent parking area cleared to accommodate the concessionaire residents, the resulting effect is one which disturbs the overall historic context.

#### *Views and Vistas*

As discussed in *Topography* and *Vegetation*, the knolls and forests bordering this Study Area served, during the period of significance, to create privacy and shield the NPS Historic Housing to and from the visitor areas. Not only was this seen as a way to enhance the visitor experience (by visually obstructing incongruous land uses), but the privacy it helped to create offered Park staff a means to escape the public realm and visitor bustle of the Park. These features are largely intact today, reinforcing this important aspect of isolation. However, the combination of the siting of the new Concessionaire Dormitories and their larger out-of-context scale disturbs the original intent of the views. As a result those larger non-historic structures are visible from visitor areas and people within these structures have views into the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area (*Photograph A/5*).



Photograph A/5. The view of the Whispering Pines Dormitory from the Lodge Loop Road.



### **The Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area**

Building in the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area was started in 1923 with the construction of the main Lodge building. Throughout the period of significance, visitor and employee facilities were expanding within this area to accommodate the growing popularity of the western Parks. The main Lodge building, sixty-seven Standard Cabins, fifteen Deluxe Cabins, a Recreation Hall and employee dormitory contributed to the sense of a mountain village, with the main Lodge as its bustling heart. Today, the Lodge remains the primary structure, but changes in circulation patterns (both vehicular and pedestrian), spatial organization, built features and activities have dramatically changed the way visitors experience the Lodge and have diminished the impact of the Lodge itself within the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area. Additionally, changes within the park as a whole have contributed to a reduction in the importance of the Lodge within the Park. The development of the Visitor Center and additional lodging opportunities outside the Park has transformed the Historic Lodge Study Area from the central visitor facility at the Park to a minor element and an experience for only a limited number of visitors.

#### *Spatial Organization*

The most dramatic change to the Lodge Study Area since the period of significance has been the removal of all but four of the original 91 Standard Cabins that once occupied the knoll to the southwest of the Lodge building. Originally, the three clusters of Standard Cabins were split to the north and the south of the main building creating, along with the Deluxe Cabins, a series of connected communities with the Lodge as their central hub. The physical and visual connection of these facilities likely would have created that sense of the village within the scenic forest that was a strong component of national park design in the period of significance. The activity of people moving among the cabins and between the various visitor facilities within the Park would have added to this feeling of an active, vibrant community. However, with the cabins removed and the Sunrise and Sunset Motel units placed at a greater distance from the Lodge, that unified village cohesiveness was lost. The motel units, with their larger size, concentration of visitors to indoor hallways and individual parking areas, create small hubs all their own, with limited physical and visual connection with the other Lodge buildings. This change in spatial organization has given the Lodge itself a quieter, more isolated air than it would have had in its heyday.

The removal of the Standard Cabins has also isolated the Recreation Hall and the Male Dormitory. Once surrounded by Standard Cabins housing both employees and guests, the buildings are now alone on the hill behind the lodge, without logical connection to the buildings of the Lodge. A lack of clear established circulation and adequate signage to and from the buildings could cause visitors to be confused about their purpose, and weaken the spatial link which connects the structures to the rest of the District.

#### *Land use*

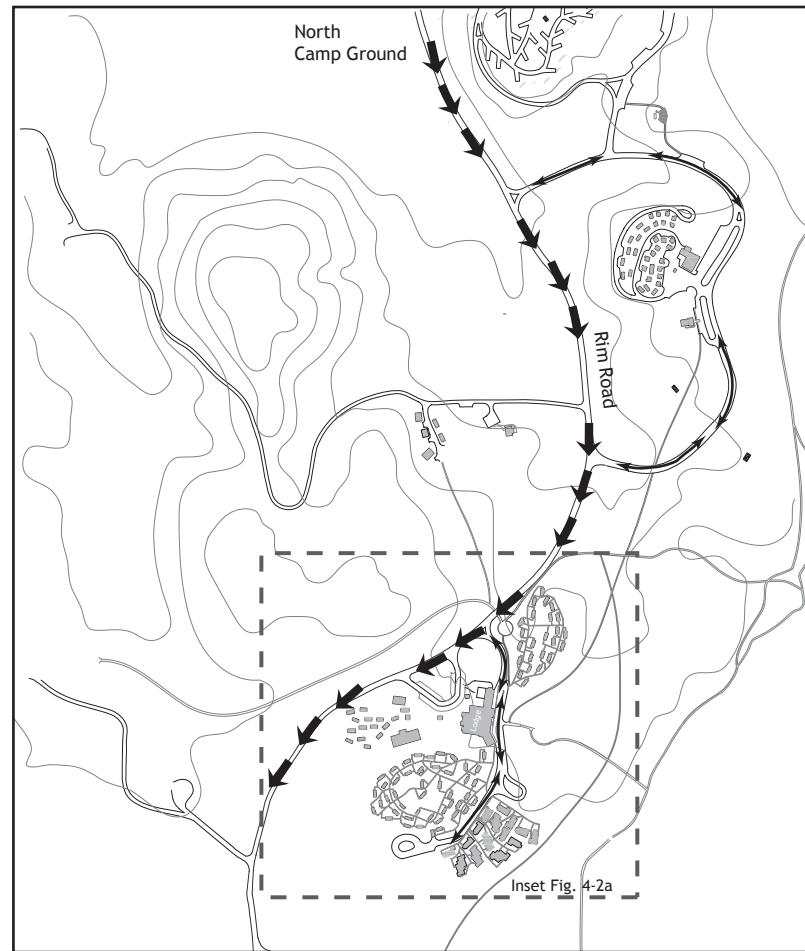
Overall, land use within the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area has remained unchanged, with the primary focus upon visitor accommodation and facilities supported by administrative uses and supplemental employee housing. Though features such as the Horse Corral and parking areas have been moved or re-configured, their continued presence in the area is consistent with usage patterns from the period.

#### *Circulation*

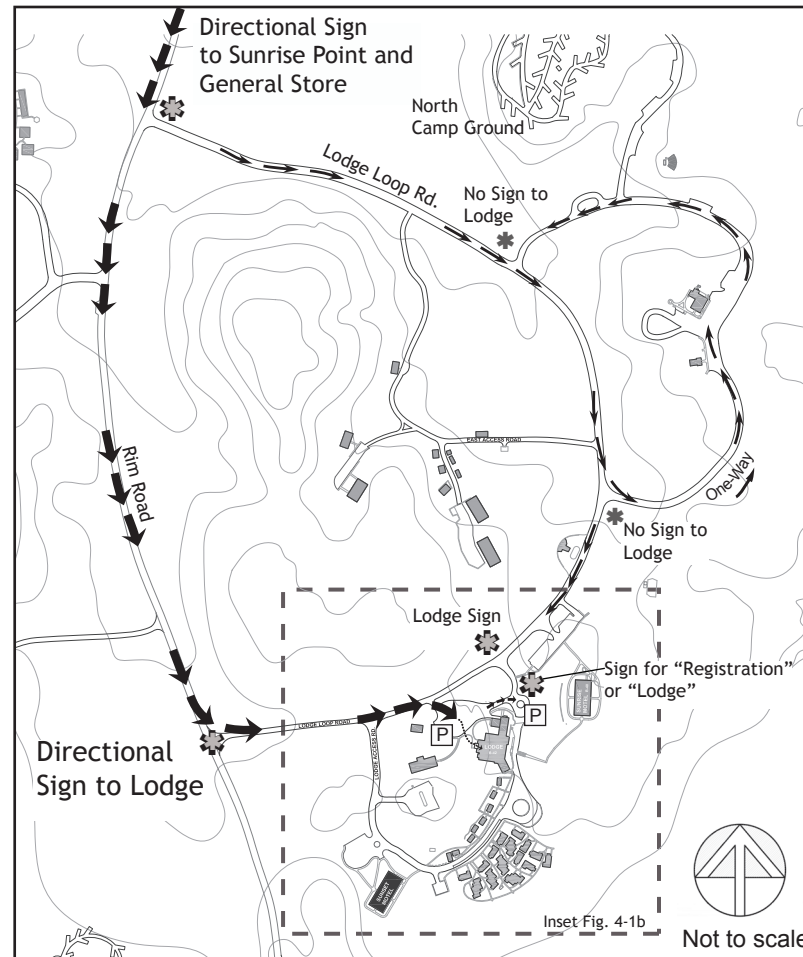
Changes to the Lodge building itself and to the Lodge Access Road have altered the overall vehicular and pedestrian circulation pattern in the Study Area, with a particular effect on the visitor's arrival sequence (*Figure 4-2*). Originally, visitors arriving by car or bus were able to use the road to the east of the Lodge and entered primarily via the building's front façade. The Utah Parks Company buses actually pulled into a parking lane adjacent to the steps to the Lodge, unloading passengers directly to the front of the building. The Lodge Access Road did not link back to the Lodge Loop Road to the south as it does today, so visitors wishing to park in the parking areas south of the Lodge would have been forced to enter and exit by passing again in front of the Lodge. Today there is no vehicular access to the front of the Lodge, and a small turn-around with short-term "registration" parking has been installed just to the north of the building close to the intersection with the Lodge Loop Road. Access to the Lodge Access Road parking near the Deluxe Cabins and for the Sunset Motel is gained from the Lodge Loop Road to the south. The primary access for visitors to the main Lodge building is through the rear of the building near the parking area. Though parking has always been available at this location, it is unclear whether guests regularly accessed the building through the rear patio. The rear entry to the building moves visitors past several unsightly elements of the Lodge, including the employee dining area, the smoking patio and the restaurant dumpster (see Photographs LD/9 and LD/10 in Chapter 3).

The intent of the small registration parking area to the north of the Lodge is to encourage Lodge guests to utilize the front of the building for at least their initial interaction with the Lodge. However, a number of factors work to reduce the effectiveness of this registration parking area for capturing first-time visitors, including the overall vehicular traffic pattern (as dictated by directional signage outside the Study Area), the size and visual accessibility of the rear parking area and confusing signage (*Photographs A/6 and A/7*). When this parking area was installed, the approach of the Lodge Access Road was shifted further to the east of the original alignment, which brings traffic more to the side of the building than the front. This further reduces the visual importance of the front façade of the Lodge.

Closing off the road in front of the Lodge has also eliminated the front of the Lodge as a departure and arrival point for bus travelers. Throughout the



Approach to Lodge circa 1938.



Approach to Lodge 2006.

Figure 4-2.

Changes to the Approach to the Bryce Canyon Lodge with Realignment of Rim Road



Photograph A/6. The Lodge Access Road as it approaches the Registration and Rear Parking Areas. Registration parking is ahead and to the left behind the trees and vegetation, the larger driveway circles to the right to the Rear Parking area.

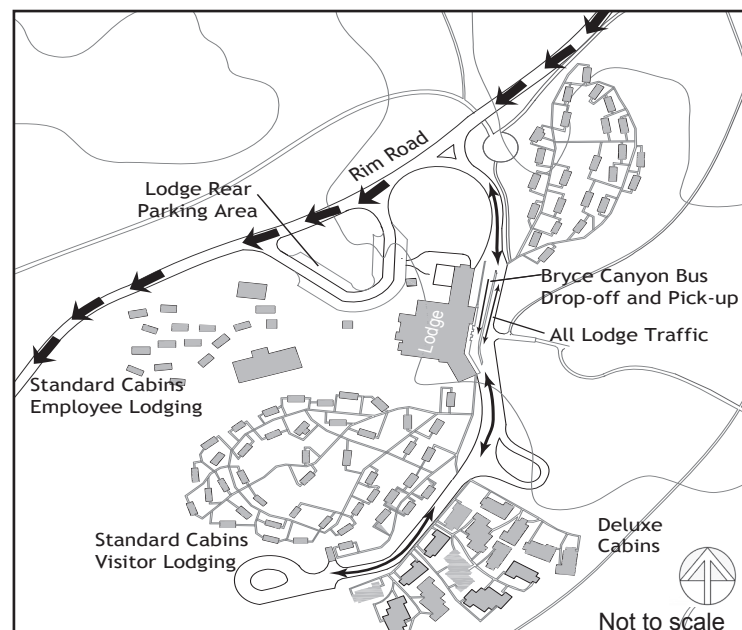


Figure 4-2a.  
Inset.

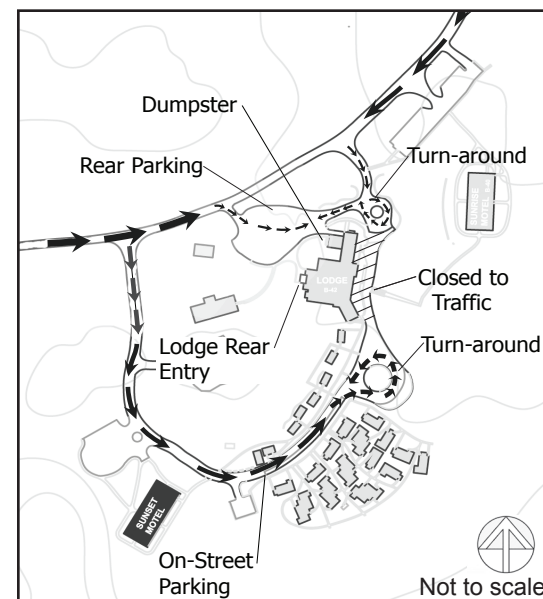


Figure 4-2b.  
Inset.



Photograph A/7. Signage indicating registration parking area as separate from Lodge parking, which could create confusion for Lodge visitors.



period of significance, these bus tours operated by the Utah Parks Company constituted a large portion of the visitors to the Park, so this experience was an important part of any visit to Bryce Canyon National Park. The tradition of Sing-Aways (see Chapter 2) was linked with these bus departures, and was another element of the increased visitor and employee interaction that surrounded the Lodge around this time.

The administrative parking area occupies land that was left empty after the removal of many of the Standard Cabins. Although this parking area is not used by visitors, it is a highly visible feature within the Study Area, largely because it is located at the summit of the knoll near the entry road for the Standard and Deluxe Cabins and the Sunset Motel unit. Signage and features such as parking stops do indicate the space is used for parking, however the natural earth ground surface and irregular shape leave visitors with the impression that the space is unplanned. Its barren appearance coupled with the fact that it is seldom filled with vehicles has an overall effect of a lack of care or design that is not consistent with the rest of the Study Area (see Photograph LD/3 in Chapter 3).

The removal of the Standard Cabins has also had an effect upon the pedestrian circulation throughout the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area. Much of the network of sidewalks and paths that connected the buildings was also eliminated and portions of the area have been returned to unused open space (Photograph A/8). Several developed and social trails connect the motel units, the Lodge and the rim; however the overall pedestrian traffic has likely lessened due to the changed spatial organization.

In the 1970's, the pedestrian paths through the complex of Deluxe Cabins were updated, widened and repaved with concrete. Although these wider walks do facilitate administrative functions (particularly cleaning and maintenance carts) and luggage transport, they do reduce the intimacy of the circulation throughout that area somewhat.

Insufficient documentation exists to determine the age or integrity of the social trails throughout the area. It can be assumed that social trails linking the newer motel facilities are contemporary to the development of those structures and that these trails were not present during the period of significance; however other trails – such as the one between the Deluxe Cabins and the rim – are more difficult to date. Ranger reports from the time do make mention of mitigation done on some unwanted trails within the area, but precise locations are not given. What is clear, however, is that social trails have always been a part of the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area landscape.

#### *Topography*

Minor changes have been made to the topography in the Study Area, primarily in proximity to the areas cleared and leveled for the construction of the newer motel units. These structures, with a larger footprint than

the smaller Standard and Deluxe Cabins, necessitated the creation of areas of cut slopes with retaining walls as well as filled areas which have been seeded and replanted in an effort to return them to a more natural state (see Photograph LD/23 in Chapter 3). Although the clearing associated with Sunset Motel unit in particular has changed the topography immediately around the unit, it did not change the overall topography of the Study Area. The removal of the Standard Cabins from the knolls above the Lodge, however, has changed the way that visitors experience the topography throughout the Study Area. Once a part of the bustling village atmosphere, these knolls now function as open space and occasional parking; the landform now serves as a buffer or barrier, and is not an active part of the visitor's experience.

When the Lodge Access Road was blocked in front of the Lodge and the registration parking area created, a new alignment was developed for the Lodge Access Road, and substantial grading was completed to create the flat space for parking. This resulted in a number of large retaining walls on the west side of the Lodge Access Road (Photograph A/9). The materials used in creating these walls were consistent with the Rustic style of the historic development; however they are again out of scale for the other retaining structures created during the period of significance. They are high enough to effectively prohibit pedestrian circulation across the area toward the Sunrise Motel to the northwest. This helps to further isolate the Motel unit from the Lodge. The space between the retaining walls and the Sunrise Motel was once the site of a number of Standard Cabins, and some small scale features remain to hint of this past land use, including hydrants, light poles and utility boxes.



Photograph A/8. The former location of a cluster of Standard Cabin units, now reverted to open space between the Lodge and the Sunrise Motel Unit.



Photograph A/9. The retaining wall between the Lodge and the Sunrise Motel Unit which creates the space for the Registration Parking Area.



### Vegetation

Due to fire suppression and supplemental plantings, the vegetation throughout the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area is likely denser than it was in the period of significance, though precise documentation of the forest progression in this area is lacking. Comparisons of forest density in other parts of the developed area, however, display a significant increase in density and it can be assumed that this has taken place in the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area as well (*Photograph A/10 and A/11*).

In the areas where the Standard Cabins once stood, vegetation appears to be recovering; however a continued high level of human impact is slowing the return of understory vegetation such as native grasses (*Elymus* species) and shrubs such as Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*). Although this slow return to a natural state may be inconsistent with disguising the remaining effects of the cabins' presence, it is likely – given the activity level in these areas – that a pronounced level of disturbance would have been consistent with the historic condition.

A number of non-native or unusual shrub and tree species which were presumably planted around the cabins and Lodge have become an integral part of the landscape, even though their presence is not entirely “natural”. Some of these have even naturalized within the Study Area, with sprouts, seedlings and young specimens appearing in the near vicinity (*Photograph A/12*). It is not clear from the historic evidence if these species were planted in an effort to deliberately diversify or create an ornamental landscape, or if they were planted out of convenience or even carelessness. For the older, mature trees such as the Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*), it could be assumed that they have been present since the cabins were installed. However, with other species such as the wild rose (*Rosa woodsii*), it is difficult to determine if they were present during the period of significance.



Photograph A/10. The North Campground at the time of its construction in 1935, looking toward the Rim (BCRA Archives ACC381\_CAT3919 #8).



Photograph A/11. The North Campground today. Although this photo is taken from a different vantage point, the change in forest density is obvious.



Photograph A/12. A large Douglas Fir in the Deluxe Cabin cluster. This specimen was like planted when the cabins were built, however a number of younger trees in the area indicate that it has naturalized here.



*Buildings and Structures*

Bryce Canyon Lodge (HS-100)

The Bryce Canyon Lodge remains at the site chosen for it by Underwood and Hull in 1923. This location off of the plateau rim is consistent with the prevailing NPS policy of the time to keep the Park structures from interfering with the scenic qualities of the natural visual attractions. Just as distance, topography and forest cover assured that the Lodge would not be visible from the rim or below, these factors also combine to screen views of the rim and beyond from the building. It is possible, however, that the increase in forest density along the edges of the meadow immediately east of the Lodge has limited the *sense* of the rim's presence (with small glimpses of the horizon) that might have been experienced in the period of significance.

In addition to the change in vehicular access, the roadway in front of the Lodge has also been narrowed, removing the old bus lane and increasing the size of the portico. The massive stone retaining walls, log-rail parapet and planters were installed in the late 1970's and do not reflect the design materials or intent of the Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District. A continuous strip of asphalt remains as a remnant of the roadway, but its original use has been lost, and its materials are inconsistent with its current use (as a walkway).

Much of the mature vegetation immediately surrounding the Lodge dates back to the period of significance. Photos of the Lodge show that many of the large pines present today were in place by the late 1930's (*Photographs A/13 and A/14*). Though some of these trees were saplings during the period of significance they are now mature trees and therefore lend a sense of establishment and character to the landscape. Surrounded by mature vegetation the Lodge itself and the landscape context have a blended appearance that is consistent with the Rustic style (the building seems a part of the landscape) and intent of the Park designers.

Photographs of the front of the Lodge during the period of significance and later show two specimen Ponderosa pine trees near the building entry (*Photograph A/15 and A/16*). The visibility and distinctiveness of these trees made them an important part of the Lodge's façade, as well as giving the building a sense of having been a part of the forest for some time. These trees were removed in the 1990s as a result of their threat to the foundation of the building, and were not replaced. Although other mature vegetation surrounds the Lodge building to help ensure its forest retreat character, the absence of the landmark trees does have a significant impact on the structure's appearance.

The entry sequence to the Lodge, which has been altered as described in "Circulation" above, means that many visitors never utilize the front of the structure. The dumpster and smoking area are some of the first things encountered by these visitors, and the hallway leading from the



Photograph A/13. The front of the Lodge circa 1930, before the campfire ring was removed (BCRA Archives Cope BRCA 2).



Photograph A/14. The front of the Lodge today. Several trees from the 1930's image have matured, lending a more established feeling to the Lodge.



Photograph A/15. A montage of the Lodge with the two prominent Ponderosa pines in place (collected from BCRA Archives).



Photograph A/16. The front of the Lodge today from a similar angle with the prominent trees missing.



rear door to the lobby does not communicate the sense of grandeur that the main entrance was designed to evoke. Restoring the intended entry pattern to the building will have a significant impact upon the way visitors to the Park will experience the Lodge, and will contribute to the understanding of the Lodge as an historic structure with a value of its own.

#### Deluxe Cabin Cluster (HS-200-214)

This cluster of buildings remains much as it would have been experienced during the period of significance. Still catering to the more “elite” visitor, these cabins are among the most desired accommodations within the Park. The arrangement of the cabins in a loose grid, each canted slightly so as to avoid direct window-to-window alignment reflects the careful site planning typical of the period.

#### Standard Cabin Cluster, Linen House and Pump House (HS-110-112 and HS 150-154)

The remaining six Standard Cabins between the Lodge and the Deluxe Cabins were maintained to be representatives of the whole original cluster. Though they do maintain that architectural record, they no longer serve as visitor accommodations. Additionally, because they are arranged in a single line facing the Lodge Access Road, they do not represent the spatial arrangement of the original cluster of cabins, which was similar to the loose grid of the Deluxe Cabins (see Figure 4-2a). Their presence at the base of the knoll does, however, create a greater sense of enclosure to visitors along the Lodge Access Road and the pedestrian paths between the Lodge and the Deluxe Cabins. Because of the new uses of the Standard Cabins and their proximity to the Linen House and Pump House, they have become part of a new grouping of administrative structures within the area that would not have been a distinct unit during the period of significance. This mixing of visitor and employee facilities is consistent with the historic land use pattern.

#### The Recreation Hall and Male Dormitory (HS 105, 106)

These buildings are both in their original location, in close proximity to the Lodge, but separated from it by the base of the knoll and the visitor parking area. Their outward appearance has been altered little since the period of significance. Though both were originally used by Park and concessionaire employees, the Recreation Hall was also once used to present ranger talks to visitors. This use has been eliminated and the talks have been moved to the Outdoor Theaters and the Visitor Center. Interpretive information could help to illustrate how the building was used in the past since the ranger talks were reportedly immensely popular during this time.

During the period of significance, a number of Standard Cabins surrounded the Recreation Hall and the Male Dormitory and were used for employee housing. The removal of these cabins not only changed the spatial relationship of the Dormitory and Hall to each other (the cabins helped to establish a larger unit of employee activity separate from the Lodge), but it also changed the circulation pattern that connected the buildings to the larger Lodge unit. The stepped walkway that currently connects the Male Dormitory to the Lodge’s Rear Parking area cannot be precisely dated, however, it does direct traffic to the side entrance to that building. Photographs from the period of significance show a path which actually directed traffic into the front of the building - which was designed as the logical entry point (*Photographs A/17 and A/18*). There is no trace of the original path today. There is also no formal path to the Recreation Hall - though there may well have been one prior to the removal of the Standard Cabins.

#### Motel Units

Though attempts were made in the construction of the two motel units to match the Rustic style architecture and thematic elements of the historic structures of the Lodge, their typology and scale are sufficiently out of place to keep them from being supporting elements.

#### *Views and Vistas*

Analysis of views and vistas can be found in the Spatial Organization, Buildings and Structures and Vegetation feature categories.



Photograph A/17. The front of the Male Dormitory circa 1940. Note the natural surface path leading toward the entry running bottom, center to left on picture. (Sherratt Library).



Photograph A/18. The existing path to the side entry to the Male Dormitory.



*Small Scale Features*

The majority of small scale features remaining from the period of significance relate to circulation and grading, including sidewalks, retaining walls and steps – though a few other unique items have also survived, such as hand-operated water pumps and fire boxes. The presence of these small details contributes to the overall historic atmosphere of the district. Newer small scale features, including electrical boxes, propane tanks and signage have, for the most part, been designed to integrate or hide within the historic landscape. More transient features such as garbage receptacles, ash containers, bike racks and fire extinguishers have often not received the same thoughtful attention. There is a lack of consistency in these items, and their design tends to not be in harmony with the Rustic aesthetic.

A fire ring was present in the meadow in front of the Lodge from 1928 to 1930; however its usefulness was in question until it was finally removed. No vestiges of this feature remain. There has not been a significant change in the conditions that brought about its removal (primarily cold evening temperatures and the impact upon the native vegetation in the area), and while it may have served as a gathering space and area for informative talks in the past, there are several other facilities within the Park that now serve that function.

Signage on the roadways and around the buildings has been changed over time to reflect changes in the layout, circulation and land use. These signs have typically been designed to maintain the Rustic character – often being made of wood or colored in a natural tone. Because the signs evolved over time, they can be inconsistent, confusing or misleading, even to experienced visitors.

A few small scale features remain in areas where the Standard Cabins were removed that hint at the historic conditions. Items such as electrical boxes, light poles and flat pads seem to float in the forest in certain areas, becoming clues for those interested in the history of the Lodge (*Photograph A/19*).



Photograph A/19. A utility pole with a light remaining in the area where the Standard Cabins were removed between the Lodge and the Sunrise Motel unit.