

CHAPTER 5

TREATMENT AND DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to put forth a treatment plan for the historic cultural landscape of Bryce Canyon National Park that will preserve historic character by mitigating and preventing undesirable change and decay as well as addressing specific management issues with sensitivity to the historic context. The inclusion of management issues is critical for the success of this process, for historic preservation does not occur in a vacuum; continued visitor needs within the Park, as well as financial, maintenance and environmental concerns must be considered in addition to the significance and integrity of the landscape and its characteristics. Bryce Canyon National Park, like many other national parks, was not sited per-chance in a wilderness area; it was created as a showcase for that wilderness. The dynamic character of natural systems must be recognized right alongside the evolving needs of tourism and the changing theories of Park administration.

This final chapter of the Cultural Landscape Report will begin with a summary of the management objectives identified by Park personnel during the CLR process along with other existing planning and policy information that could influence the treatment approaches. The Treatment Philosophy section will present a primary treatment for the whole landscape and discuss more specific treatment recommendations in specific management areas. Next the section will discuss Overall Treatment Guidelines designed to assist in maintaining and improving integrity throughout the two Study Areas. Because many of the identified Management Objectives and concerns are shared between the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area and the Old NPS Housing Study Area, Overall Treatment Guidelines will be shared between the two Study Areas and respective Districts unless otherwise noted. Finally, Specific Treatment Recommendations will be presented in order to address particular issues found within each of the Study Areas.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The last General Management Plan (GMP) for Bryce Canyon National Park was completed in 1987. The document identifies a number of issues within the Study Areas, however in the ensuing twenty years, most if not all of the courses of action selected to address these issues have been seen to their conclusion. This includes the removal of the Standard Cabins from the area around the Bryce Canyon Lodge and construction of new dormitories for concessionaire employees in the Old NPS Historic Housing District as well as the rehabilitation of buildings in both Historic Districts to improve their functioning as visitor and employee lodging. Although the need for a new GMP for the Park has already been identified by the NPS, the results of this report reinforce the need for a new planning document.

The 1987 GMP did identify the need for additional housing for both Park and Concessionaire employees within and outside of the Park. Although the new dormitory structures were added to the Old NPS Housing Study Area, current Park personnel have indicated that they do not completely satisfy this housing need. A continued need for housing for seasonal and permanent employees is a significant issue for Park management.

In on site discussions with the Park staff (June 2008), a number of Management Objectives specific to the Study Areas were identified. A number of these objectives are shared between the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area and the Old NPS Housing Study Area.

- A number of social trails have emerged in the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area, particularly trails that travel between the visitor lodging areas and the Rim Trail and the parking areas. Eliminating unnecessary trails by encouraging visitors to use established trails and restoring vegetation on the unwanted trails is a goal of Park management. The ultimate circulation pattern and trail recovery should also serve to help prevent new social trails from forming.
- Both the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area and the Old NPS Housing Study Area have been treated as fire suppression areas historically. Although fuels management for structure protection was not identified by Park personnel as a significant concern within the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area, it was recommended that fire would help the overall health of the forest here, particularly by reducing the size and density of the understory species such as manzanita. The forested knolls within the Old NPS Housing Study Area were reported to present a more significant fire threat to historic structures, due to a combination of topography and fuels present. Also of concern are hazard trees whose condition potentially threatens visitor safety and structural elements.¹
- Bryce Canyon is a Designated Night Sky Park, and maintenance and even improvement of the dark night sky condition is a critical element of any future development. Balancing the need for reduced light escape and glare with visitor safety needs is an important consideration to any existing or new development within the Park.
- Cyclic maintenance is necessary on the historic structures, particularly the Standard and Deluxe Cabins and the Residential Cabins. This includes exterior wall repair, painting and roof repair and resealing.
- The sewer line from the Bryce Canyon Lodge to the Sewer Lagoon is scheduled to be upgraded in 2008.

TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY

Treatment of cultural resources is guided by the standards contained within *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (1996) and Director’s Order-28 *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1997). These documents outline four treatment alternatives for cultural landscapes:

- *Preservation* maintains the existing integrity and character of a landscape by preventing or reducing the impact of the passage of time. It includes maintenance, stabilization and protection, and precludes major additions, alterations or demolition.
- *Rehabilitation* maintains the existing integrity and character of a historic landscape, but allows limited additions or alterations to accommodate a compatible contemporary use. In rehabilitation efforts, it is critical to preserve contributing features and historic integrity.
- *Restoration* reestablishes the form, features, and character of a cultural landscape as it existed at a specified period in history. In some cases, restoration can involve the reconstruction of missing historic features or removal of features built after the historic period. Restoration is only recommended when necessary to the public understanding of the cultural associations of a landscape.
- *Reconstruction* results in a newly created landscape identical in form, features, and details to a non-surviving cultural landscape or portion thereof as it appeared at a specific time period. Reconstruction of a whole absent landscape is only recommended when other treatment options fail to fulfill specific management objectives and will be undertaken only upon specific written approval of the director after policy review in the Washington NPS office.

Recommended Treatment Approach

The process for creating recommendations for treatment of a cultural landscape begins with selecting one or more of these four alternatives as the primary treatment approach for the landscape as a whole. This overarching treatment philosophy provides a framework within which recommendations for the treatment of individual features are made. These individual treatments may differ from the primary treatment, but they must remain consistent with and supportive of the overall treatment approach for the District.

¹ Meeting with Bryce Canyon National Park Management Team (on site), June 2008.

Preservation is the overarching treatment for both the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area and the Old NPS Housing Study Area, with selected rehabilitation and restoration used when specifically needed within particular management areas:

- *Preservation*: the application of measures necessary to sustain the existing integrity of an historic property. Efforts focus upon ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features to protect and stabilize the property. Extensive replacement and new construction are generally not a part of preservation treatments. Upgrading of mechanical, electrical, plumbing and other code-required systems is appropriate with this treatment. Preservation is generally considered appropriate treatment when the property has distinctive materials, form and features that are essentially intact and when continuing use does not require extensive alterations to the existing historic structures or landscape features.

The extent of intact elements and land uses make the Study Areas for the Bryce Canyon CLR good candidates for preservation treatment. Maintenance and repair of landscape features has been the management approach within the Park for the last decade— although the limited definition of the Historic District boundaries studied here constrains and limits potential preservation efforts. The recommended treatment would focus on retaining all remaining historic, character defining elements within the Districts, though minor modifications to these elements to ensure continued use are possible, as long as the changes do not compromise integrity.

- Historic use patterns of the property will be maintained when possible and, when necessary, new uses will be selected that maximize the opportunity to retain materials, features and spatial relationships.
- The character of the property will be preserved as much as possible, and intact or repairable materials or patterns will be retained rather than replaced.
- The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention. Where deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, scale, compatible material selection, color and texture.
- Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate and conserve existing historic materials and features will be properly documented for future research and analysis.

- *Rehabilitation*: the process of making a property compatible for another use through repair, alterations and additions while preserving features and characteristics that convey its historical values. Limited repair and replacement of existing features is appropriate when necessary for new or continued use.

Because the needs of visitors and staff within all national parks is constantly evolving and because continued use of historic landscape features is one way to ensure their ultimate preservation, rehabilitation is an appropriate treatment for some elements and sections within the Study Areas. Especially important are changes made to the landscape that enable continued improvement to human accessibility and ensure the ongoing ecological health and sustainability.

- Historic use patterns of the property will be maintained when possible and when necessary; new uses will be selected that maximize the opportunity to retain materials, features and spatial relationships.
- The character of the property will be preserved as much as possible, and intact or repairable materials or patterns will be retained rather than replaced.
- New additions and alterations will not destroy historic materials, features or spatial relationships that characterize the property. New development will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with historic scale and proportion, materials, features, and site planning
- New additions or alterations will be undertaken in such a manner that, if these additions were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired. Administrative planning, design and construction of new work will be properly documented for future research and analysis.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Vegetation Monitoring within Developed Area

A lack of detailed vegetation information from the periods of significance within the Study Areas hampered this investigation and limited the ability to make specific detailed recommendations. Larger scale studies (often referred to in landscape ecology as the “landscape scale”), such as those done in recent years in the Park as a whole, fail to appropriately document the specific changes happening within the segmented and highly impacted Developed Area, including the Study Areas. Studies conducted at a smaller scale (often referred to by planners and landscape architects as the “site scale”) are able to capture the sorts of detailed changes that occur in such areas. Landscape ecologists refer to the “grain” of a study, which determines its ability to address fine or large scale patterns within the landscape. A small scale or fine grain, scheduled monitoring of the vegetation within the entire Developed Area of the Park should be performed by individuals with an expertise in forestry health and management. A regularly scheduled study, over the course of several years, will offer critical information that will assist in determining the actual effects of fire suppression, visitor traffic, and invasive species with respect to forest and meadow ecological health within the two Study Areas and their respective Historic Districts and other areas of development and intensive use. Such studies help to guide future planning and design efforts and offer important information related to Park natural interpretation.

Revision of the National Historic Register District Boundaries

The National Historic Register Nomination forms for both the Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District and the Old NPS Housing Historic District were drawn up to include the historic structures in the district and exclude non-contributing, more contemporary development. However, the proximity of these boundaries to the buildings and the exclusion of the natural context that surrounds them present a problem for historic preservation in the future. Although the buildings have inherent value as examples of the Simplified Rustic and Rustic architectural styles and methods of construction, they also represent a larger pattern of community design that was an important part of National Park development during the period of significance. Therefore, it becomes important to preserve not only the buildings, but their context within the natural setting, including the topography, vegetation and natural systems. These natural features must be viewed as contributing to the period of significance because these natural features create the rustic setting for the buildings.

More recent development, not within the periods of significance, such as the Sunrise Motel and the Concessionaire Dormitories intruded upon the natural areas surrounding the historic buildings and impacted viewsheds and natural character. Although the appropriate studies were completed to assess the impact of these developments upon the Historic Districts, the tight boundaries drawn by the National Historic Register Nominations did not adequately protect the

Districts from such negative impacts. Additionally, as the NHRP nominations focused solely on historic structures, the importance of the vegetation, landforms and natural systems surrounding the structures was not addressed, nor was the importance of the relationship between the context and the buildings. These relationships were compromised with newer development, and as a result the overall District lost integrity. Expanded boundaries will further protect the integrity of the Historic Districts by giving the natural features status as character defining elements that need to be protected and requiring future development in the expanded District to consider more carefully the broader natural context of the entire Study Area. Thus protected, the architecture and the natural systems will work together to more completely and accurately demonstrate the rustic landscape as a whole.

Revision of the Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District boundaries is proposed for the following expansion (*Figure 5-1*): to include the meadow in front of the Lodge and the tree lined edge along the Rim Trail to the south and southeast, the forests around the District to the Lodge Loop Road to the north and the Lodge Access Road to the west. This includes the knoll where the Standard Cabins were once located – although the structures are gone, the natural feature of the knoll and the forest still contribute to the overall character of the District as a forest village (the Lodge was sited at the base of the knoll rather than the top, for example, and the forest was retained even though development later occurred on the hill). The meadow in front of the lodge gives the lodge itself a sense of place by providing a natural setting with scenic value, albeit not the powerful vista of the rim itself. The forest surrounding the meadow is vital to defining the meadow as well as for shielding the Lodge from the rim and below (which was an important and deliberate consideration at the time of design, as discussed in Chapter 4). The forested edge should include sufficient depth of the tree canopy to protect the viewshed, but should not include the Rim Trail. The recommended vegetation study should assist in determining the precise location of the edge of the meadow and the forest boundary.

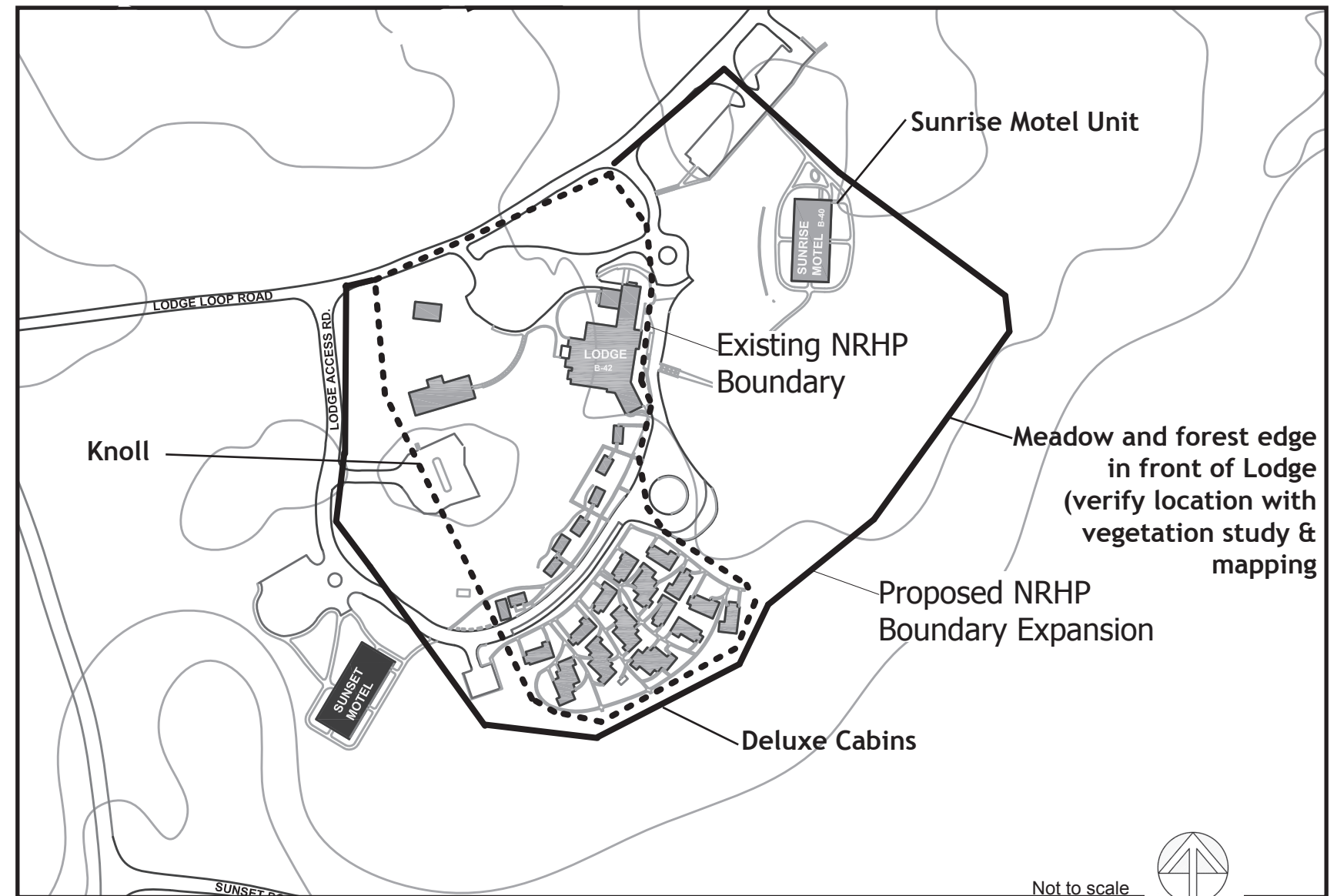


Figure 5-1.
Proposed Revisions to NRHP Boundaries - Bryce Canyon Lodge Historic District

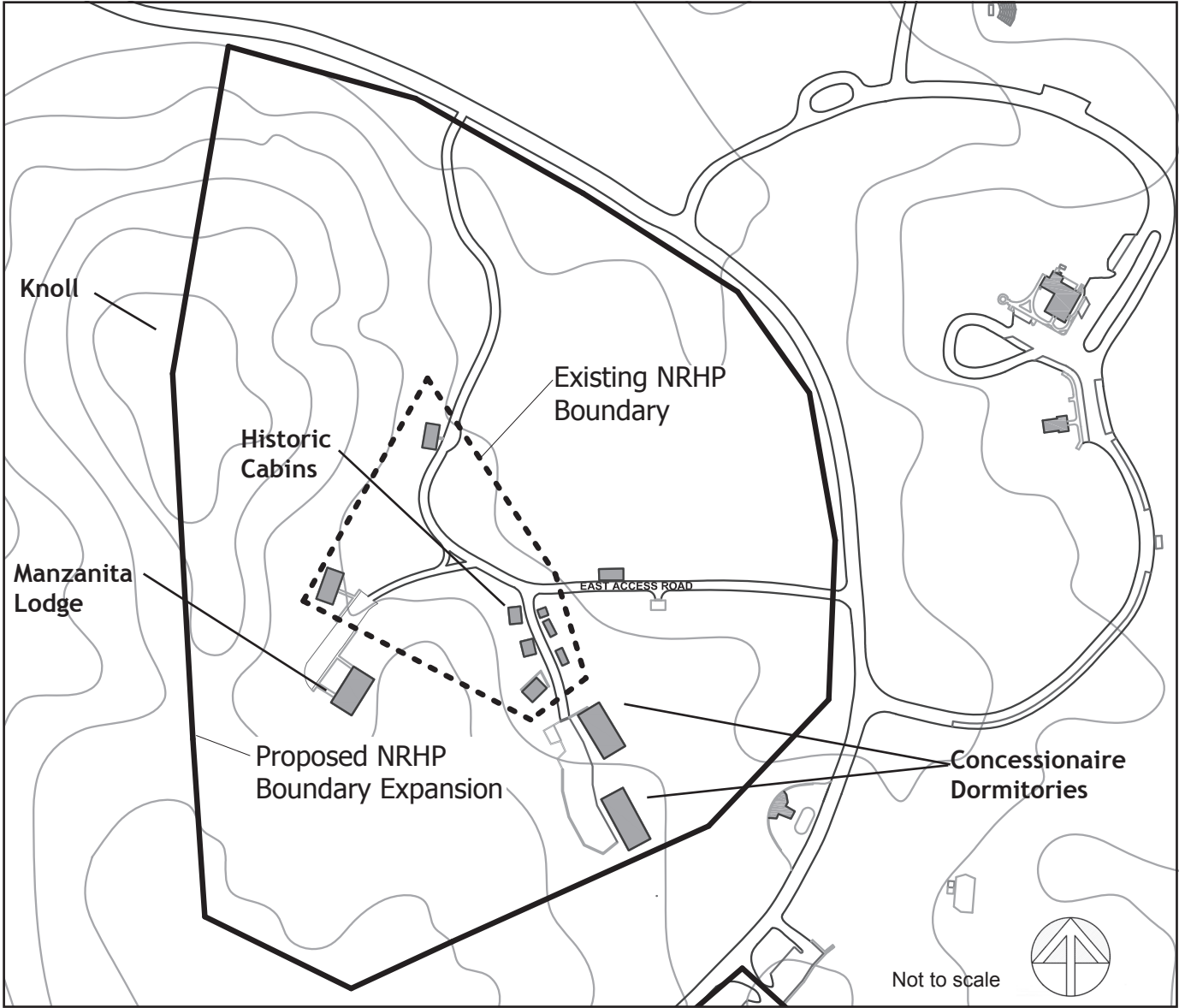


Figure 5-2.
Proposed Revisions to NRHP Boundaries - Old NPS Housing Historic District

The revision of the Old NPS Housing District boundaries is proposed for the following (*Figure 5-2*): to include the knoll to the west, which creates a sense of place for the whole District, to include the meadow to the east and the tree lined edge that surrounds the meadow, which helps to isolate the residential uses from the visitors (as recommended for the Lodge district, the recommended vegetation study should assist in determining the precise location of the edge of the meadow and the forest boundary). This helps to shield visitor views of administrative features in keeping with the notion of segregating uses - a goal of Park designers from the period of significance. Also included in the NRHP boundary expansion proposal is the area currently occupied by the two modern Concessionaire Dormitories (Ponderosa and Whispering Pines). These structures are not contributing to the historic character of the landscape. As was discussed in the previous chapter, their materials, scale and siting upon the land are incongruous with the Rustic and Simplified Rustic style of the historic landscape. Their construction was not consistent with the careful site planning doctrines of landscape architecture that characterize the period of significance. However it is the land upon which these dormitory buildings sit that has value as a potentially contributing feature within the period of significance – regardless of the presence of the non-contributing structures.

Overall Treatment Guidelines

These guidelines are intended to establish a consistent overall approach to site preservation and development for the Study Areas to be applied to all current and future planning and design efforts, including construction projects. These overarching guidelines should complement the Specific Treatment Recommendations made later in this chapter. They have been organized into categories similar to those of the inventory and analysis chapters, with recommendations for Land Use, Natural Systems, Small Scale Feature and Buildings and Structures.

General

- All work should be done in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, (1996) including new construction, building updates, structural cyclic maintenance and environment management.
- Always treat the landscape as a whole and not only a sum of its individual parts. Protection efforts need to constantly examine the site at a landscape scale as well as addressing each separate site scale zone or feature within the landscape. The relationship of structures to their contextual natural features is a particular concern.
- Whenever alteration or addition is completed within these Study Areas, careful documentation should accompany the effort, so that it is always possible to determine what the historic condition was and what work is not contemporary.

Land Use

- Maintain historic land uses wherever possible, including visitor lodging, scenic recreation, administrative support and residential land uses. Avoid expanding land use to include uses not already supported within the Study Areas.
- Protect existing open spaces and natural systems, including forests and meadows, particularly those areas that provide buffers or shield conflicting functions from one another and maintain scenic quality including specific vistas for visitors’ appreciation, experience, and interpretation.

Circulation

- Avoid further alterations of the roadway patterns in historic areas, particularly narrow travel lanes.
- Whenever possible, use permeable or natural surfaces for paving in pedestrian areas. Stabilized soil treatments can be accessible and is in keeping with Rustic style park development. This material offers a more natural appearance and alternative to concrete or asphalt; thus its use would reinforce the rustic character of the historic landscape.

Where natural materials are deemed inappropriate, concrete is the preferred pedestrian paving material with asphalt typically limited to vehicular areas.

Natural Systems

- Overall management of the vegetation within the two Study Areas and the developed area as a whole should focus upon the ecological health of the forest and meadows and prevention of undesired fires, rather than upon restoration of the forest to a particular time period or historic character. Expert advice should be secured before action is taken to ensure that the most up-to-date theories on landscape ecology and forest management are followed.
- Areas which have experienced substantial degradation of vegetation and unwanted erosion due to human traffic should receive an appropriate revegetation treatment based upon the results of the vegetation study recommended above.
- Efforts should be continued to prevent further degradation of natural areas, including prevention of new or undesired pedestrian social trails, control of non-native or potentially invasive plant and animal species, and maintenance of appropriate native vegetation cover where erosion is apparent and a potential hazard.
- Revegetation efforts should exclusively use plants that are native to the immediate area and exclude ornamental, near-native, and non-native species. While it is possible that during the period of significance ornamental, near-native, and non-native plants might have been used for selective purposes, contemporary theories in landscape ecology support the use of native plant materials for ecological health. Additionally, maintenance of revegetated areas should be performed to ensure that the area maintains a similar density and composition to surrounding areas deemed as healthy by an ecological expert. Revegetation should be implemented as quickly after disturbance as possible to prevent exotic and non-native species from establishing a foothold on the site.
- Encourage the growth of native forest species in the areas between and around structures to enhance the feeling of a village nestled in an established forest. Any new construction should seek to disturb as small a footprint as possible, and reestablishment of the native forest around construction sites should include plants of a variety of sizes and ages, with a density that matches the healthy, undisturbed area.
- Fire management (fuels reduction) through selective thinning of trees and undergrowth is an acceptable practice throughout the historic areas. However, the overall pattern of tree massing, open wooded areas and meadows should not be altered. A detailed pattern of vegetation mass and void should be established by the previously recommended vegetation study.

- Any new project or construction should attempt to disturb, as little as possible, the existing topography. When necessary, retaining walls should be limited in height and length and faced with native stone in keeping with the construction materials and techniques indicative of Rustic style park architecture. Slopes related to new development should be a consistent grade with the existing topography so that they blend with the existing landforms and are not in contrast with them; regraded slopes should be revegetated according to the guidelines mentioned previously, and should be monitored for erosion.
- When new buildings or features are necessary, use existing topography and vegetation as screening, and consider additional vegetation screening to protect historic viewsheds or shielding. This revegetation should follow the guidelines given as a result of the vegetation study recommended above.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid removal of any contributing structure.
- New construction and features should be limited to those necessary for visitor access, interpretation, and management. Every effort should be made to ensure that these facilities are non-intrusive to the historic landscape context (both in terms of built elements and natural systems). All new construction should follow current theories and practices of landscape/ecological sustainability and reduce their impact upon the landscape of the Park as a whole.
- All new construction or uses should be evaluated by a landscape architect or architect (as appropriate) with a specialty in cultural and historical landscapes, or other appropriate cultural resource and preservation professionals. All new construction should consider the site on a landscape scale and should respond to these considerations appropriately.
- Avoid any changes that create a false sense of history or a mimicking of the Rustic architectural style that might be confused with actual historic structures. The Rustic style can be interpreted in its scale and, to some degree, form and materials but if representative historical features are used as inspiration for new construction it should be clear that they are contemporary additions; consider interpretive materials that explain them as new, address their use, form, and context. Seek expert architectural and landscape architectural consultation for new structures.
- Limit the use of chemical or physical treatments which may cause damage to cultural or natural resources.

- Thoroughly document any features, built or natural, that are removed from or added to the landscape. Maintain this documentation to be accessible to future projects, studies or inquiries.
- Routine maintenance should be performed in such a way that materials are replaced or recovered with a compatible, comparable material. Repairs to surfaces such as concrete or wood should be treated to match the existing material as closely as possible.
- New sidewalks or ground surfaces should match the color and scale of existing features, unless contrast with historic components is deemed necessary or desirable for safety or accessibility. Color treatments may be necessary to insure that new materials blend with the existing.
- In all cases of new construction it is advisable to examine design in a case by case basis using appropriate judgment that ultimately maintains or surpasses the existing level of historical integrity. Future planning efforts should rely on the expertise of historic designers to evaluate all the design considerations and guide design processes with success.

Small Scale Features

- Minimize the introduction of new site furnishings and other small scale features to only what is needed to meet the needs of visitors and staff.
- Evaluate existing small scale features as a whole for consistency and compatibility with the historic character. For example, select trash cans and cigarette disposal canisters which use materials and design motifs that are compatible with the character of the buildings and maintain that design language of features throughout the use area (*Photographs R/1 and R/2*).
- Any new small scale features added, such as directional signage, site furnishings, screening fences or utility features, should be carefully chosen so that they do not distract or detract from the historic features or landscape. This includes their overall design and material selection, as well as their siting or choice of placement. New small scale additions to the Study Areas should have consistency and be compatible within the existing Rustic style. In some cases, examples of historic details such as the wood directional signs may be reproduced for new projects; in other cases new materials can be introduced but these must be understated and not in visual competition with historic elements. Should new materials be added to the expanded Historic Districts, care should be taken to create a uniform design approach. The introduction of new materials must be done in conjunction with design consultation and an overarching concern for the notion set forth during the period of significance, that the built environment blend with the natural systems. Unity of design and overall consistency is paramount.

- The status of Bryce Canyon as a Designated Night Sky Park attaches a number of separate concerns for lighting and light fixtures throughout the Park. Many of the goals of Dark Sky management and historic design are similar, particularly regarding the use of small scale light fixtures—in manufactured lighting. The overall goal is to secure and maintain low light levels and preserve existing instances of darkness. The principles of Dark Sky management should be respected in new construction throughout the Study Areas; new fixtures should be selected that are in keeping with the character of the historic context and also meet stringent Dark Sky recommendations (such as full cut-off fixtures and pedestrian level lighting). Lighting fixtures not developed within the period of significance as well as historically contributing fixtures which contribute to light pollution should be removed, including non-cutoff fixtures such as globe lights. (See the [NPS Management Policies 2006 The Guide to Managing the National Park System](#) section 4.10 *Lightscape Management* for further guidance on lighting design).

Because lighting and safety is a concern in these areas, the Park should seek design expertise for replacement of these fixtures with luminaries that provide a minimal impact to the night sky while offering an acceptable measure of visitor security. Exploration of fixture style and standard height is warranted and must not distract from the Lodge and its historical context. Consistency among the fixtures is critical within both study areas (*Photographs R/3 and R/4*).



Photographs R/1 and R/2. Two trash receptacles at use within the park. The plastic one on the left does not convey the sense of Rustic style or careful design desired within the Study Areas. The one on the right mimics some of the materials and design characteristics that would have been followed during the period of significance.



Photographs R/3 and R/4. Light fixtures should be consistent throughout the park, including the Study Areas. These photos illustrate that though some similarities exist between fixtures, that there is also a great deal of inconsistency throughout the developed area. Photo R/3 is found near the Lodge and R/4 is near the Sunset Motel unit. Fixtures should be carefully chosen to fit in with the Rustic style character and to convey a unified design aesthetic.

SPECIFIC TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Old NPS Housing Study Area

Screening the Seasonal Cabins in the Old NPS Housing District (Figure 5-3)

Long term planning efforts should consider the eventual removal of the Concessionaire Dormitories Whispering Pines and Ponderosa adjacent to the historic housing. The scale and style of these structures prevent them from ever properly integrating with the surrounding Historic Districts. In the event of their deliberate removal or unplanned demise, the site upon which the structures lay should be returned to as natural a condition as possible based upon the topography and vegetation of the surrounding areas. In such a case, housing options could include new structures located outside of the historic areas or new structures built in the same vicinity designed to exist in harmony with the small scale, historic, Rustic Style of the Study Area. Guidance on new construction can be found in the General Recommendations section of this Chapter.

Immediate short-term recommendations, however, call for the establishment of a stronger visual and spatial barrier between the historic cabins and the larger “out-of-scale” dormitory structures.

- Reduce the size of the northern parking area adjacent to the dormitory buildings. The reshaped parking surface should create a narrower entry into the area with a narrow travel lane leading beyond the corner of the Ponderosa unit. Parking could begin approximately 60’ to the south with a single row of spaces adjacent to the building. This would remove between twelve and fifteen spaces from the lot.
- Speed control devices such as speed humps should be installed in the new, narrower parking lot entry. These devices should not be installed in the road approaching or adjacent to the historic cabins.
- That portion of the parking area being removed should be revegetated as recommended in the General Recommendations discussed previously. Seeding should be augmented with the installation of established trees of various ages and sizes in order to speed up the transformation of the area into a natural visual screen.
- The propane tank in the northwest corner of the existing lot should be relocated and screened from view. In its current condition, it is unscreened and highly visible from both the historic and modern living quarters. Screening fences used in other historic areas in the Park could serve as a model for this area. These screening fences should allow access to the tank as needed but offer visual screening of this utility to facilitate its blending with the natural surroundings.

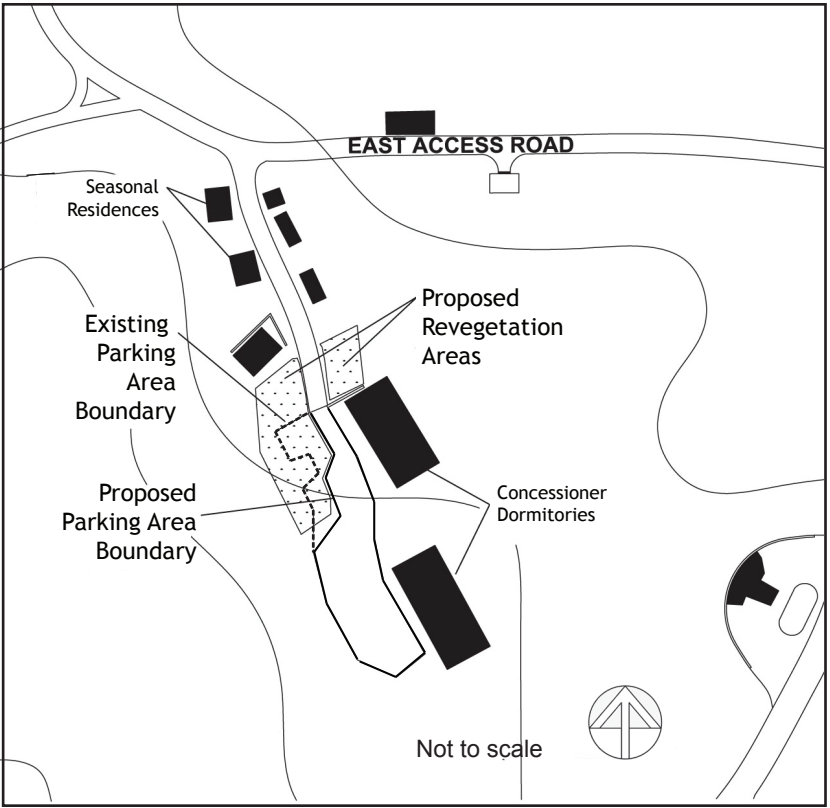


Figure 5-3.

Reducing Parking Area to Screen Seasonal Cabins in Old NPS Housing Study Area

The Site of the Historic Ranger Cabin (Figure 5-4)

A new residence could be constructed on the site of the former Rangers Cabin (HS01). This use is compatible with the historic condition in the Study Area and could help address the housing shortage that is frequently mentioned in management documents.

- An architect specializing in historic structures should be hired to design the structure to be compatible with the Simplified Rustic style of the Study Area. If adequate documentation and architectural drawings of the historic structure exists, reconstruction of the historic cabin could be warranted as determined by Park administration. In this case, the interior features of the cabin could accommodate current housing needs and even reflect a more contemporary design approach while the exterior would follow prescribed NPS guidelines so as to recreate the historic log cabin. If adequate documentation does not exist to reconstruct the cabin, a new design should be created which will strive to combine contemporary interpretation with the flavor and feeling of the Rustic style architecture of the existing historical structures. Consideration for small scale massing, simple utilitarian lines, and attention to proportions and materials that use the historic architecture as inspiration will serve as a critical guide for this endeavor.

- New construction must not interfere with the existing historic structures’ ability to convey a feeling of integration with nature and Simplified Rustic ambiance. The design of this new building should strive add to this overall feeling.
- The footprint of any new structure would have some latitude to extend beyond the dimensions of the original layout provided the scale of the building is appropriate. While the new building need not match the original historic structure layout, care should be taken to minimize the new building’s impact upon the land. Design considerations include the footprint of the building itself and the area affected by construction, storage or parking. As land might be disturbed in the construction process, revegetation is warranted as described previously.

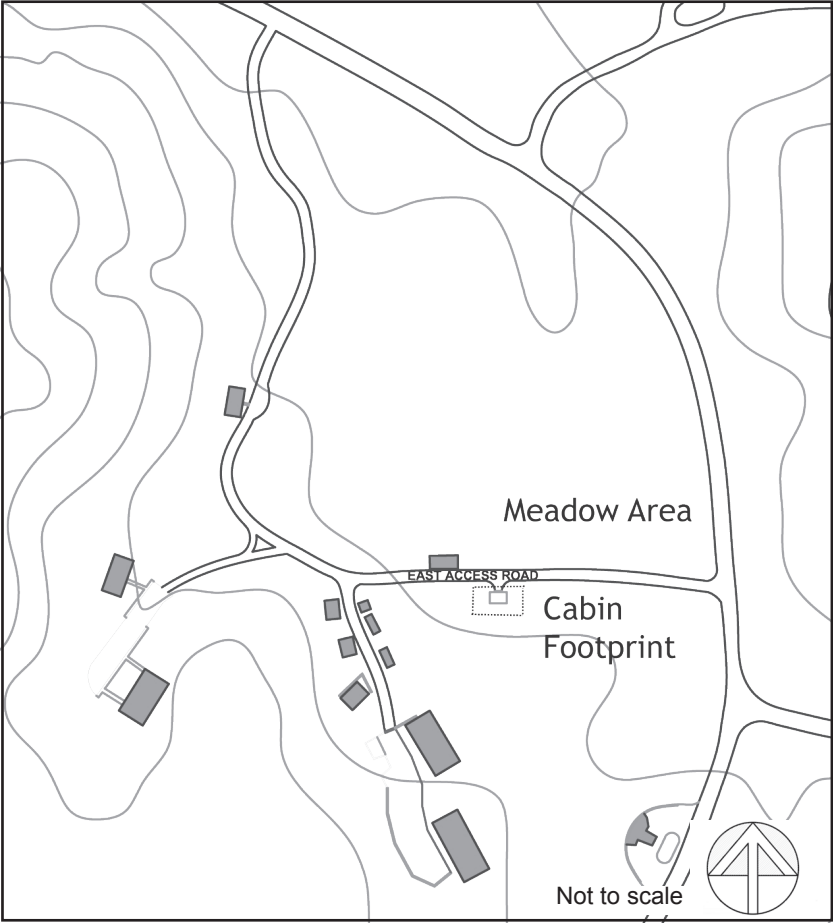


Figure 5-4.
Site of Historic Ranger Cabin

The Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area

There are a number of recommended treatments which are focused around the main Lodge building of the Bryce Canyon Lodge. The building’s significance as the historic heart of not only the Study Area but the Park as a whole overshadows the significance of the architectural style of the structure itself. Treatments in the past, however, were more focused upon preservation of architectural elements, rather than upon the user experience of the Lodge as a whole. After creating a number of closely related recommendations for the areas immediately impacting the Lodge experience, it became clear that what was truly needed was a **Master Plan** for the area which addressed vehicular and pedestrian circulation, architecture, viewsheds and small scale issues. This Master Plan should be the result of a team effort between Park administration and a landscape architect specializing in cultural and historic landscapes, that examines the following recommendations holistically, identifying how they are interrelated and how phasing might be planned to ensure that a rewarding experience is had by visitors throughout the lifetime of the plan.

The recommendations here that would be a part of this master planning effort would include changes to the arrival sequence to the Lodge, the realignment of the Lodge Access Road to the north of the Lodge building, the treatment of the Lodge’s façade and the removal of the Administration parking area on the knoll behind the Lodge. Other recommendations found here may also be deemed to be a necessary part of the master planning process – however, it is these first four which intricately weave together to begin to reform the visitor experience to match more closely that which would have occurred during the period of significance. Within each recommendation, the involvement of an experienced landscape architect is called for – however, the master planning process should not be overlooked, as it will ensure that the changes are congruent and work together to achieve the desired goal.

Bryce Canyon Lodge Arrival Sequence (Figure 5-5)

The re-routing of the Rim Road in 1958 and the closure of the Lodge Access Road in front of the main Lodge building in the 1990s significantly changed the sequence with which visitors first experienced the historic building. Restoring this sequence to a more historic pattern will help to bring more visitors through the front of the Lodge and thus provide a more historically accurate experience, emphasizing the Lodge “front” played to the relationship of the rim as a node of intense visitor activity.

- Alter signage on the Rim Road north of the Lodge to encourage Lodge visitors to approach the building from the north rather than the south. This more closely matches the alignment of the Rim Road during the period of significance.
- Consider increasing the size of the existing “registration” parking area at the north end of the Lodge Access Road. This parking area

should visually and spatially draw visitors in and encourage them to park at the short term parking area and to enter the front of the Lodge for registration, information or even dining experiences. To minimize visual and ecological impact, the parking area redesign should be completed by a landscape architect with cultural and historic expertise. The parking area should be modified for ease in vehicular and pedestrian circulation and efficiency in automobile to pavement ratio. Other considerations include porous parking surface materials, screening, directional signage, and strategic placement of vegetation for shade or directing views.

- Eliminate the western entry/exit from the Lodge’s rear parking area. This will force traffic to approach the building from a more historically accurate angle. This sequence will bring Park visitors to the short-term registration parking area first, further encouraging them to use this parking lot (rather than the rear lot). Closing the existing driveway that connects the rear Lodge parking to the Lodge Loop Road would also provide an opportunity to restore vegetation along the roadway and further screen the undesirable view of the back of the Lodge from the Lodge Loop Road. Signage on the entrance to the Lodge and short-term parking as well as the long-term rear parking areas should also be installed to encourage proper circulation and parking patterns.
- Create a new shuttle bus stop near the southern corner of the front of the lodge to replace the existing stop near the Registration Parking area (*Photograph R/5*). Moving this shuttle stop and returning bus traffic to the front of the lodge will bring more visitors past the front façade of the Lodge (even if they do not exit the shuttle) and will also more closely match the historic pattern of bus travel within the Park. Visitors waiting for the shuttle in this area will also help to bring activity to the front of the Lodge, bringing the main building more to the center of activity within the Study Area. The road in front of the Lodge would be open to shuttle traffic and Park service vehicles only. Techniques such as signage and radio-controlled gates could be used to allow shuttle access and prevent visitor vehicles from entering the area. A Shuttle Stop with signage and perhaps even seating should be created, providing interpretive opportunities. This stop would be similar in concept – though not necessarily in design – to stops found at Sunrise Point and the Visitor Center. Additional historic interest could be introduced by using a historic bus to creating a “moving museum” with interpretive materials about the significance of buses in the history of visitation at Bryce Canyon and other Utah National Parks.
- Wayfinding to the Bryce Canyon Lodge itself as well as throughout the Park in general would be improved by reversing the direction of the Sunrise Point Access Road to travel one-way counter-clockwise

(rather than clockwise as is currently in place). This direction would further reinforce the historic north-to-south circulation pattern and would prevent back-tracking as visitors travel between the logical destinations along the rim. The reversal would also reduce some traffic on the Lodge Access Road in front of the residential area



Photograph R/5. Proposed location for the new Bryce Canyon Shuttle stop - near the large tree on the left side of the photo. This would give visitors and excellent view of the Lodge as they rode the shuttle and as they waited at the stop.

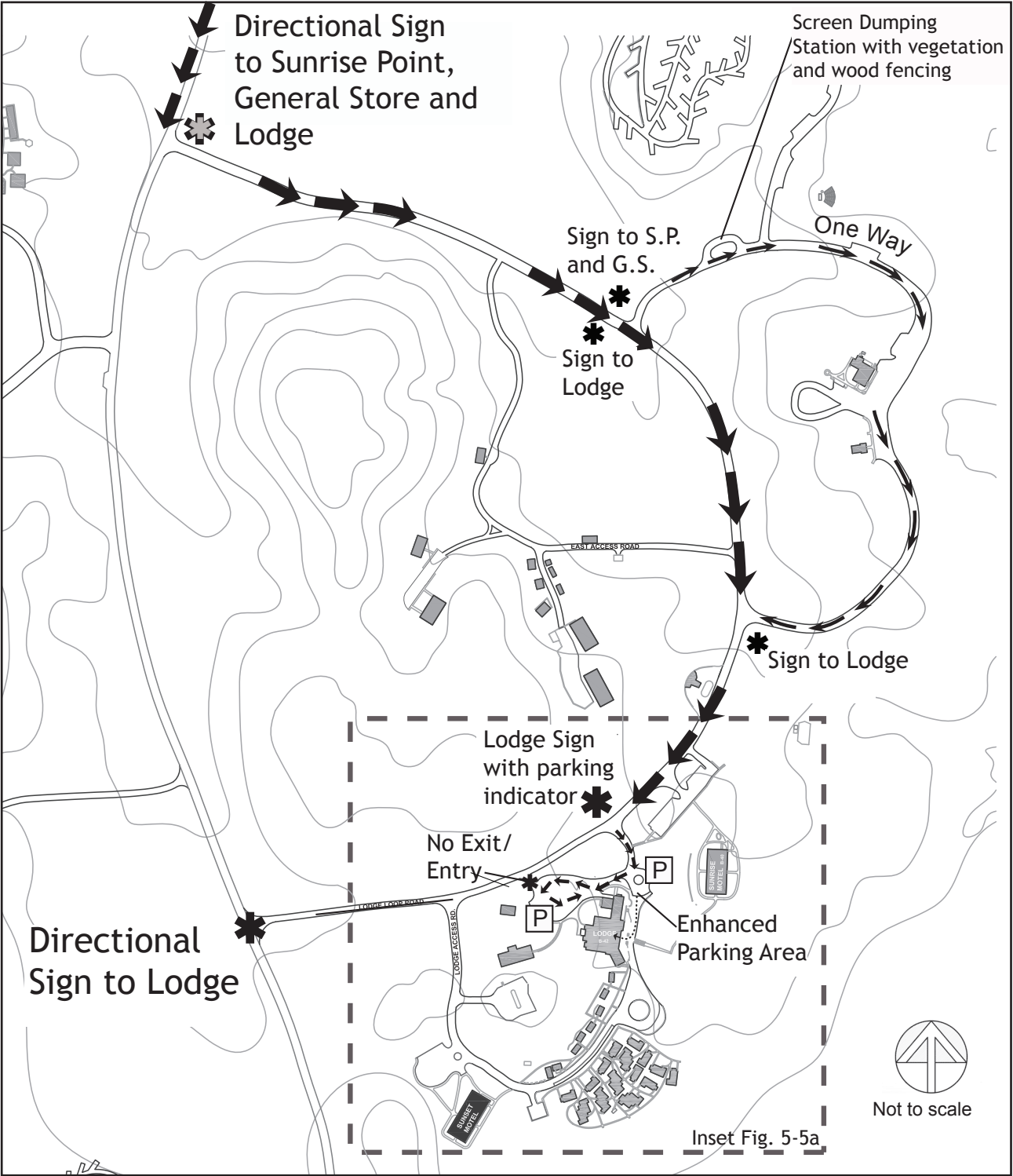


Figure 5-5.
Proposed Circulation Pattern to Bryce Canyon Lodge

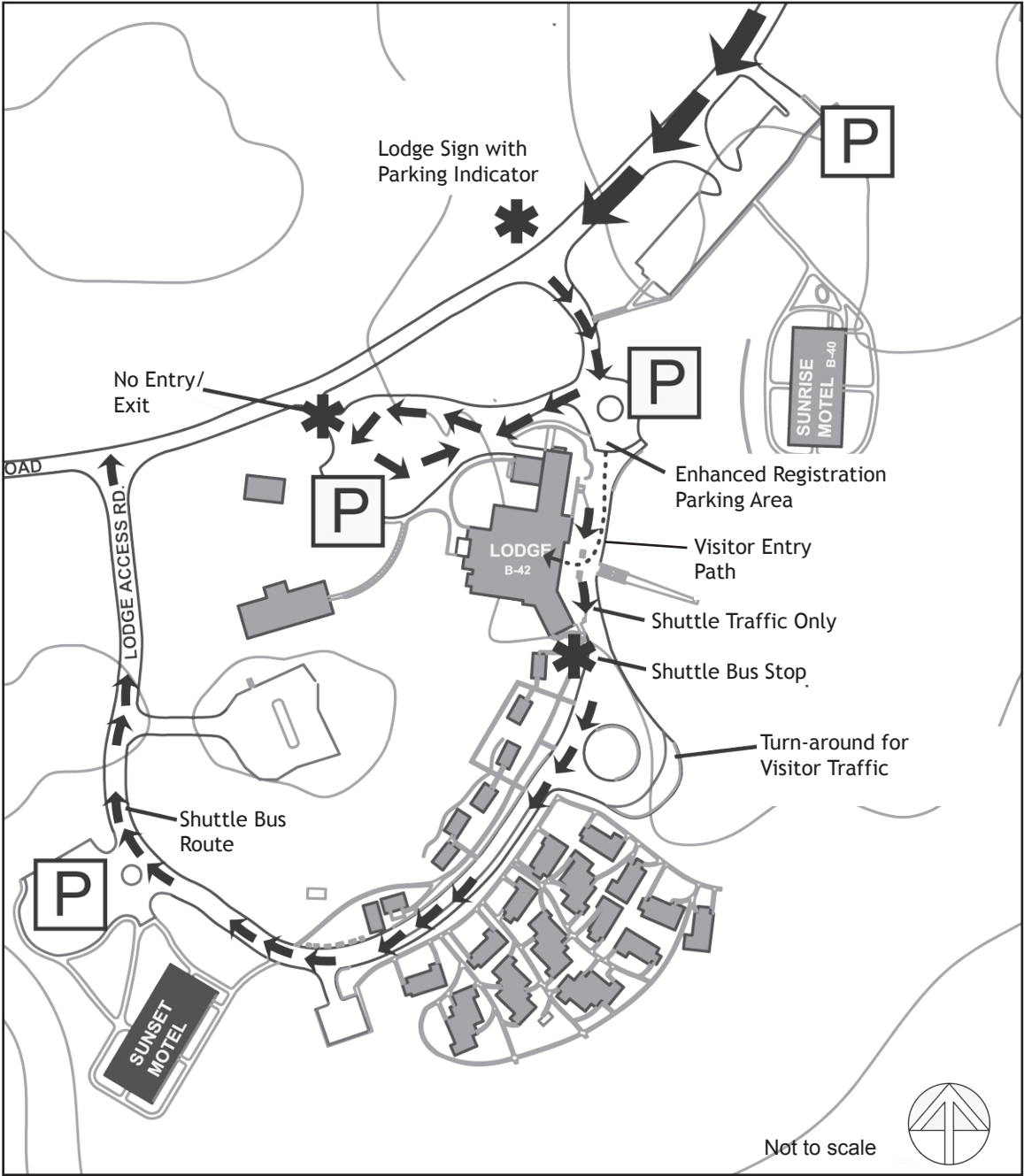


Figure 5-5a. Inset

Realignment of the Lodge Access Road (Figure 5-6)

The current alignment of the Lodge Access Road which connects the Bryce Canyon Lodge and its parking areas to the Lodge Loop Road is not the historic alignment. Although insufficient documentation exists to determine the precise original alignment, it is possible to create a new alignment which brings visitors into a sightline which permits a stronger view of the front of the Bryce Canyon Lodge. This realignment not only restores some of the importance of the front of the Lodge itself, but will also introduce opportunities to redesign the entire area for better visitor experience and historic interpretation.

- The Lodge Access Road realignment should remain within the area to the northeast of the Lodge already impacted by current non-contributing development such as retaining walls, steps, and the Sunrise Motel parking area. A landscape architect specializing in cultural and historic landscapes should be hired to determine this realignment which should take into account road sequencing, horizontal and vertical road alignment, views experienced while driving, and views of the road itself. Other site engineering considerations include balancing cut and fill, and the appropriate treatment of impacted natural areas such as slopes or built area such as parking areas, walls, and pedestrian walks. Paramount in this road design is provision for driving sequence; this sequence should follow landscape architectural doctrines set forth during the period of significance creating harmony and connection between the built and the natural environments. As such, the road might curve to better follow topographic form and views toward the Lodge would be framed with trees. The road itself should feel as if it was carved out of the forest and a post-construction revegetation program should seek to create this feel.

Designers of the realigned Lodge Access Road should consider starting the approach to the Lodge from the north end of the existing Sunrise parking area. This would allow the road to have a gentle sweeping curve as it approaches the north east corner of the Lodge (*Photographs R/6 and R/7*). While this does not provide a 90 degree sightline to the Lodge, views of the Lodge façade would appear from a clear angle – in keeping with Rustic style site planning that often used angled approaches to buildings. The historic architecture of the Lodge and the natural setting of the surrounding forest would become deliberately showcased thus not only aiding in getting visitors to the front of the Lodge but also allowing for greater historic interpretation. This realignment will likely necessitate the redesign of the Sunrise Parking area which could shift to the north of the Motel. Treatments in this design should follow the General Recommendations outlined previously.

- The existing road bed should revert to natural open space and be revegetated as described above. Attempts should be made to install plants of sufficient size to serve as a screen for the north side of the Lodge building.
- The new alignment of the Lodge Access Road should be properly integrated into the pedestrian circulation system and include accessible paths from the Lodge to the Sunrise Motel unit, the Old NPS housing area and the Utah Parks Company Service Station.
- A reconfiguration of the existing Sunrise Motel Unit parking area will most likely be necessary with the changes to the Lodge Access Road realignment. Some expansion of the parking into the forest to the southeast may be acceptable, as this area has been heavily impacted by historic uses and may even have served as lower-density parking in the past. Efforts should be made to reduce new impact, however, and to keep the footprint of the parking area to a minimum.

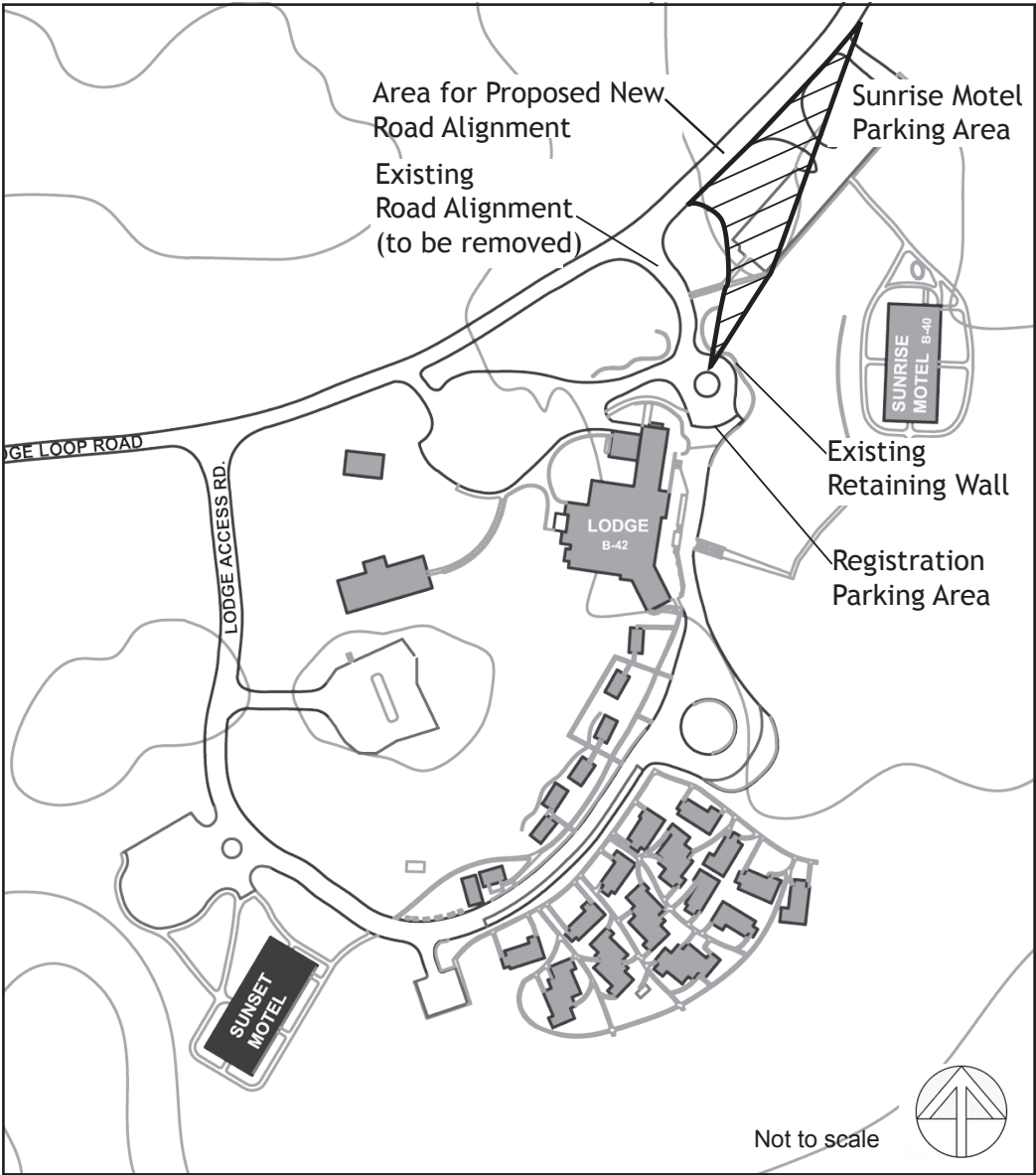


Figure 5-6.
Proposed Realignment of the Lodge Access Road North of the Lodge



Photograph R/6. View of the Lodge from the existing alignment of the Lodge Access Road. The temporary visitor parking begins immediately to the left of this photo.



Photograph R/7. View of the front of the Lodge from the approximate location of the realigned Lodge Access Road. Existing vegetation and retaining walls would be cleared, creating a clear view of the front façade of the structure.

Bryce Canyon Lodge Façade (Flgure 5-7)

The new stairs and patio at the front of the Bryce Canyon Lodge installed in the 1990's is non-contributing and compromises the integrity of the historic Lodge building. The current patio has regular maintenance issues which impact accessibility and force those with physical challenges to use the building's rear entrance (*Photograph R/8*). Removing all of this treatment (patio, planters, lighting fixtures and standards, and steps) and redesigning the entry to the Lodge is recommended. This is a challenging endeavor that necessitates the consultation of a landscape architect with expertise in historic and cultural landscapes. Historic photographs and other documents should provide design guidance (*Photogrpah R/9*).

- The design should consider including a replacement of the two large Ponderosa Pine trees (*Photograph A/15 in Chapter 4*) removed from the front of the Lodge in the 1990s. Although replanting large trees in their original location is not a practical solution since they are too close to the existing foundation, new trees could be installed at an appropriate distance from the structure to provide a similar visual effect of the Lodge "tucked in the pines"; precaution used in the placement of these trees would mitigate their future ability to compromise the Historic Structure's foundation. Replacement trees should be of the same species as the original (*Pinus ponderosa*) and should be installed at the largest size possible while still ensuring the viability of the individual plants.
- Small scale features should be considered in the patio redesign, particularly site furnishings (such as chairs, benches, tables, trash receptacles and ash containers) (*Photographs R/10 and R/11*) and paving materials and patterns. These elements should convey the same historical flavor as the architectural elements, should be consistent with each other, and should not interfere with accessibility or safety. Additional considerations for small scale features can be found in the General Recommendations section.

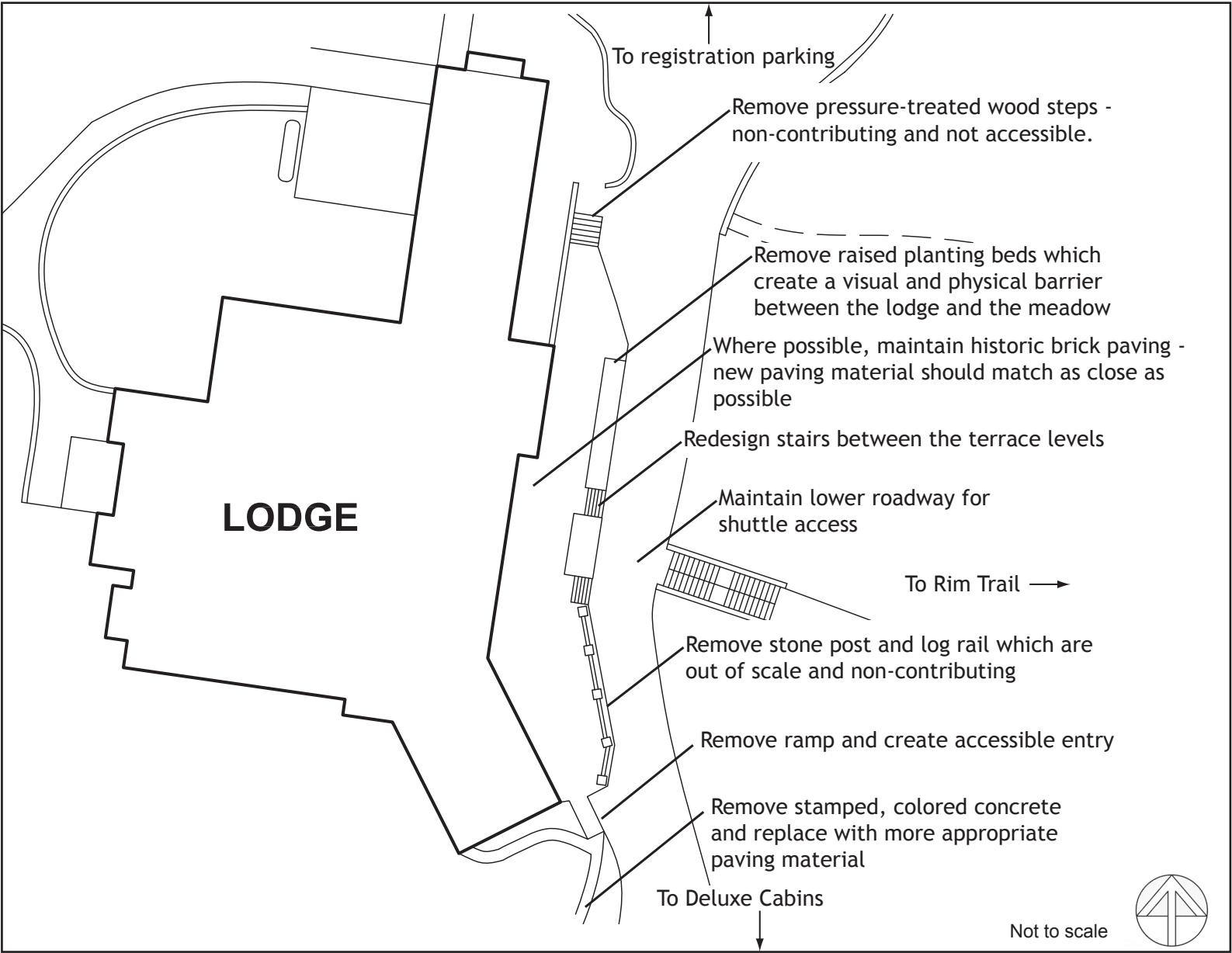


Figure 5-7.
Notes on Redesign of Bryce Canyon Lodge Façade



Photograph R/8. Steps up to Lodge patio area are not consistent either with historic aesthetics and materials or with the treatment installed in the 1980's.



Photograph R/10. Site furniture on the terrace in front of the Lodge which does not meet the materials or aesthetic character of the Rustic style.



Photograph R/9. Photos such as this one, taken of the lodge in the 1930s, should be utilized in the process of redesigning the front entry to the lodge (BCRA Archives: BCRA 3897)



Photograph R/11. Furniture such as these benches on the terrace, made of natural materials with a “hand hewn” look more closely match the Rustic style. All site furniture in this area should be coordinated and should match in terms of style, scale and materials.

Meadow Area and Forest between Bryce Canyon Lodge and Rim

The meadow to the east of the Lodge has always been a visual and spatial focal point of the Lodge. Preservation of this meadow and its forest boundary is important to the integrity of both the Lodge building and the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area as a whole.

- Reconstruction of the historic fire ring is not recommended. The issues that prompted its removal during the period of significance are still relevant, particularly the low night-time temperatures and the sensitivity of the meadow ecology. Recreating the amenity to be in compliance with current accessibility requirements would probably necessitate the construction of ramps that would be difficult to blend into the historic context. The footprint of the recreated fire ring and related circulation would more than likely create an even larger impact upon the ecology of the meadow than the historic fire ring. More importantly, reconstruction is not warranted as the fire ring was present for only a short portion of the period of significance, and is not representative of the period as a whole.
- Because the fire ring plays significantly into a number of historic photos of the Lodge, interpretive materials, including signage with historic photographs, along the pedestrian trail on the perimeter of the meadow or near the entrance to the Lodge could provide information about how and when the fire ring was used and where interpretive talks are hosted today.
- The forest between the edge of the meadow and the rim, similar to other areas of the Park, has become significantly thicker in the decades since the period of significance. This transformation of the forest has occurred throughout Park development and was also occurring during the four decades that span the period of significance. Any attempt to return the forest to a past density which may have been present at an arbitrary date during the period of significance will not present accurately the notion of forest evolution and the range of densities that occurred during the period of significance. The forest here should be maintained as described previously in the General Recommendations. Landscape architects, national park designers and administrative staff from the period of significance were concerned, as they are today, with forest ecological health. Though methods of forest health maintenance and related principles of landscape ecology have changed from what they were during the period of significance, it is not historic practices, that should be adhered to it or preserved in this instance; it is the health and thus the character of the forest. The forest was generally thinner, during the period of significance, but views from the Lodge to the rim were not planned or desired. While selective thinning to maintain health is appropriate, no attempt should be made to remove this forest screen or to create “windows” cut out of the forest between the Lodge and the rim.

- The meadow directly in front of the Lodge, however, should be treated differently. Because the meadow itself is character defining (the Lodge was given special prominence by its proximity to the open views of the meadow) and because its continued existence is critical to the integrity of the other elements of the district, it is recommended that it be treated in a manner which returns it to a state similar to what would have existed during the period of significance. There are signs that the meadow has been gradually decreasing in size. Young trees (particularly Ponderosa pines) growing within the “boundary” of the meadow and encroaching groups of trees are signs that the forest is beginning to reclaim the meadow (*Photographs R/12 and R/13*). This natural process should be halted, and in many areas reversed to reclaim the meadow as open space in front of the Lodge. Young trees which have obviously become established within the meadow in the last 40-50 years should be removed in order to re-establish sections of meadow already lost to forest expansion. Mechanical removal should continue to be used to maintain this boundary if forest encroachment continues. This includes removal of many of the ornamental shrubs which have escaped from their original planting areas and established themselves along the pathways in the meadow, such as the Woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*). Any treatment, however, should be performed in keeping with best practices of forest management.



Photograph R/12. A view of the Lodge from the meadow circa 1930. The increase in vegetation from this vantage point compromises the original intent of a feeling of openness in front of the building (BCRA Archives Cope BCRA 3).



Photograph R/13. Young trees encroaching upon the edges of the meadow in front of the lodge. The shrub in the foreground is a Woods Rose, which has naturalized in the meadow from plantings along the Lodge Access Road.

Administrative Parking Area

The Administrative parking area located to the northwest of the existing historic Standard Cabins is an adaptive re-use of land previously disturbed by the presence and removal of a number of Standard Cabins on the hill to the west of the Lodge (*Photograph R/14*). This unpaved parking area is sporadically used, and is highly visible to visitors throughout the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area. Removal of the parking and the revegetation of the hillside will not return the area to a more historic condition; however it will create a more natural environment and will better reflect landscape architectural design thinking and park service objectives held during the period of significance. Alternatively, the installation of an appropriately scaled, historically sensitive structure or structures upon the site would be consistent with the historic land use and the pattern of the forest village atmosphere. Possibilities for this site include providing needed additional employee lodging space (many of the standard cabins in this area were used as employee lodging), non-intrusive administrative functions related to lodging or additional visitor lodging facilities.

- If removal and revegetation is performed, the process should be completed as recommended in the General Recommendations provided previously. Ground surface seeding should be augmented with the installation of trees of various size and age to better reflect a natural, established condition.
- If small scale structures are erected, an architect specializing in historic structures should be hired to design the cabin-inspired structures and a landscape architect specializing in historic and cultural landscapes should be hired for site planning reflective of Rustic style site planning so that this new design is compatible with the expanded Historic District. Consideration for small scale massing, simple utilitarian lines and attention to proportions and materials that use the historic architecture as a guide is critical.
 - Construction of new small scale structures should seek to balance cut and fill, protect remaining natural features, and minimize the impact of new construction. Design efforts must consider revegetation efforts and mitigation of the disturbance created by the existing parking area as paramount in attaining the forested village atmosphere created by Park designers within the period of significance. Previous recommendations regarding new construction projects that are addressed in other sections of this document should be followed.
 - A landscape architect specializing in historic and cultural landscapes should be consulted to ensure that contributing circulation patterns, natural systems, and viewsheds are not negatively impacted by the new construction. Ideally new construction would eventually be recognized as supporting the period of significance.



Photograph R/14. The view of the Administrative Parking Area from the Lodge Access road near the Sunset Parking Area. This area should be revegetated or used to site additional employee lodging facilities.

Social Trails within the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area

As discussed in Chapter 4, it is impossible to determine which social trails date from the period of significance and which are more contemporary. However, it is clear that continued impact from existing trails and new trails is negatively affecting the ecology and the aesthetics of the forest and meadows in the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area. Although a certain number of unpaved, less formal trails between critical nodes are appropriate, it is also necessary to control pedestrian circulation in order to prevent continued damage. Duplicitous, unnecessary or confusing trails should be removed. Rather than utilize a single strategy for the reduction of unwanted circulation, a many-pronged approach is recommended, which combines trail design with informative and interpretative materials, revegetation and natural as well as man-made barriers.

- A design language should be developed for trails that are to be maintained, essentially establishing them as “official” rather than social, paths. This language should include elements that reflect the rustic character of the historic area. Suggestions for this language include the use of natural materials in signage, pathway surfacing, and pathway edge treatments. Clear intersections between unpaved and paved pathways should occur and in some cases native stone might be used along the edges of unpaved pathways to define their boundaries and make them clearly official. This edge treatment does not need to be a continuous outline along either side of the path but should be put in segments “here and there” in keeping with a more rustic design philosophy. This edging would provide a tactile and visual directional clue. This treatment would not only make the natural pathway clear it would serve to designate acceptable dimensions in path widths.
- Interpretive signage should be utilized to increase awareness about the impact pedestrian traffic has on natural systems that are “off trail” when of established trails. Not only does it present an opportunity to explain the design clues for established trails recommended above, but it is also a forum to discuss the ecology of the meadows and forests near the rim. Before and after photographs of highly impacted areas, simple trail maps and plant growth rate information can support this effort. This sort of prescriptive information can help to increase ecological sensitivity and help visitors to understand the importance of staying on designated trails.
- Wherever trails are to be eliminated, revegetation should be completed as described in the General Recommendations. These efforts can be augmented with physical barriers to keep visitors and other pedestrian traffic from disturbing the vegetation as it is being re-established. Natural elements such as rocks and tree limbs or trunks used as barriers provide a more natural feeling to barrier design that is in keeping with the Rustic style of the Park and these treatments may satisfy immediate

aesthetic goals. However, often these materials are not interpreted by users as intentional circulation limits and they are frequently bypassed. Elsewhere in the Park, small scale man-made barriers (stakes and string) in conjunction with signage have been used explain that revegetation efforts are underway (*Photograph R/15*). This strategy can be taken a step further, with more substantial and obviously manufactured temporary barriers installed for as many seasons as necessary for solid reestablishment of the natural condition (*Photograph R/16*). Materials should be simple and visually unobtrusive in order to prevent them from being interpreted as historic but they should not distract from the historic character of the Study Area as a whole. Barriers should be planned in conjunction with informative signage described above.

Eventually, as unwanted paths become revegetated, the worn treads of the trails will no longer be visible and vegetation will present a natural barrier to travel across the meadows. Once this process is complete and the trails have completely disappeared into natural areas, the temporary barriers can be removed. This will likely be an ongoing process, its ultimate success dependent upon the continued efforts toward the interpretive and educational programs.



Photograph R/15. An example of signage being used to deter pedestrian traffic on a recovering social trail near the Rim Trail.



Photograph R/16. A temporary barrier in use near the lodge in Zion National Park which provides an even more obvious barrier to pedestrians while vegetation is recovering.

Entry to the Dormitory (Figure 5-8)

The Male Dormitory building located to the west of the Lodge is accessed through a pathway with stairs that ascend from the Lodge rear parking area to the side of the dormitory. This asphalt walk and the pathway with stairs to the dormitory are not precisely dated and are not believed to date to the period of significance – though it is possible that some materials or portions of the alignment may be original. It is also possible that changes in vehicular and pedestrian circulation developed after the period of significance resulted in giving the pathway and stairs more prominence than it would have had historically. The path brings building residents and visitors through the side entrance --there is no path, paved or otherwise, to the front of the structure (*Photograph R/16*). The architectural language of the building front implies that it was intended to be the entrance to the structure (see photograph LD/35 in Chapter 3). Even though documentation is unclear and there is some evidence that the architect was fond of this sort of sweeping walk, the replaced path material (asphalt) and the inappropriate connection to the side of the building leads to the recommendation that it be removed. A new path should be created to lead pedestrian traffic into the front of the dormitory. Access to the side of the dormitory should be maintained, though the path would ideally be a smaller “spur” path off of the main walk. With design of this new circulation system, a connecting path between the dormitory building and the employee recreation hall (Valhalla) should also be considered. Creating physical connection between these buildings will establish a spatial relationship thus reinforcing the interconnected village atmosphere exhibited during the period of significance.

- The alignment of the new paths should be planned and designed through consultation with a landscape architect who specializes in historic and cultural landscapes. The goal includes harmony with historic scale and materials while also respecting the natural topography and vegetation present in this area.
- Areas impacted by the former trail alignment or construction of the new trail should receive a revegetation treatment consistent with the General Recommendations, with the inclusion of the signage and barrier recommendations for social trails above.
- Currently, neither the Male Dormitory nor the Recreation Hall meets universal accessibility standards. The redesign effort should explore options which would improve accessibility within a historically correct design aesthetic.
- The new path system should be accompanied with appropriate signage indicating that this is a residential area, discouraging visitors from approaching the residential buildings.

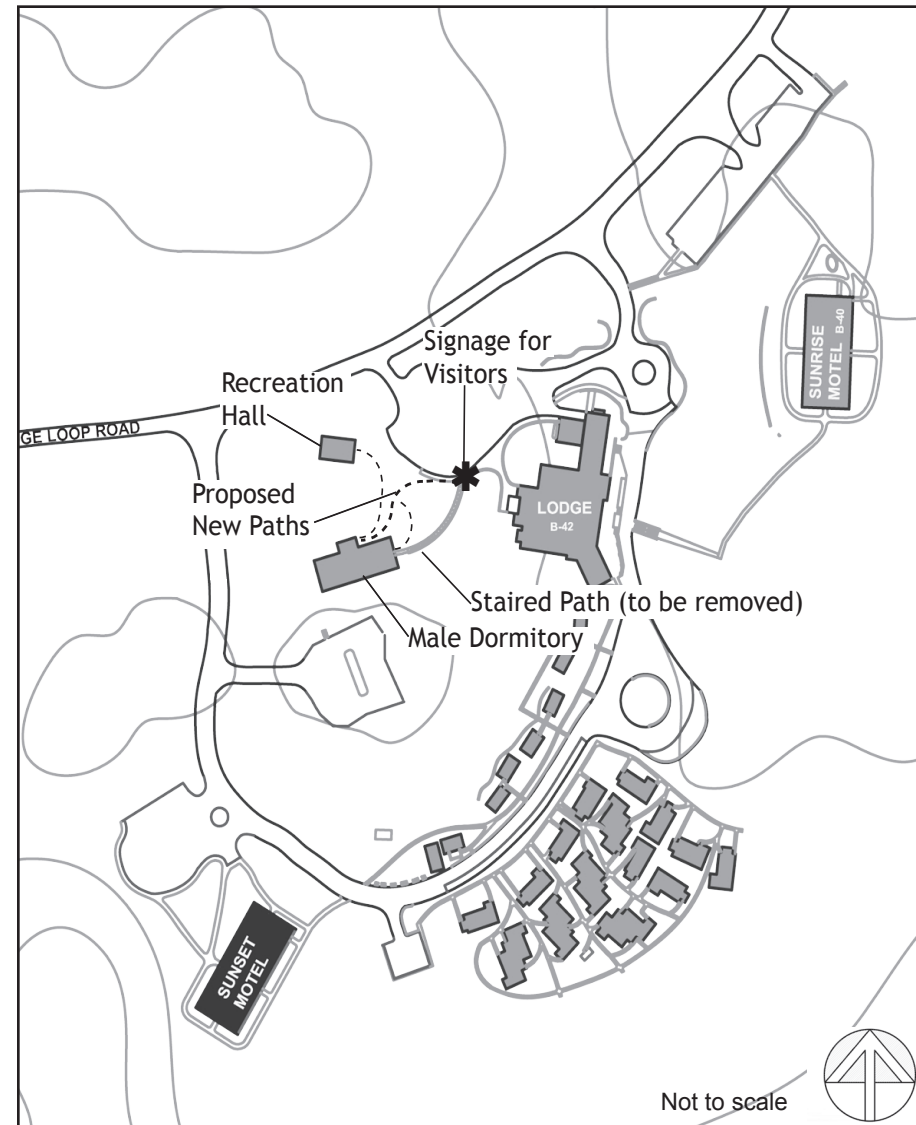


Figure 5-8.
Proposed Realignment of the Path to the Male Dormitory.



Photograph R/16. The current entry bypasses the main building entrance (to the right in the photo) and uses the side entrance as primary building access. The original entrance should be reclaimed through the installation of a new pathway.

SUMMARY AND BROAD SCALE RECOMMENDATIONS

The treatments recommended here address many of the current issues faced by Bryce Canyon National Park, and attempt to provide guidance on how to approach future planning efforts. While a degree of flexibility has been deliberately built in to the recommendations, the authors acknowledge that future conditions and situations may arise which may not be readily solved using the techniques prescribed in this document. In such cases, it is always best to consult with a landscape architect with an expertise in historical and cultural landscape treatments. The intent here is to preserve as much as possible the Rustic Style site planning, architectural and landscape architectural elements that make the Bryce Canyon Lodge Study Area and the Old NPS Housing Study Area unique and historically significant assets to the National Park System.

Many of the findings from the Chapter 4 Analysis demonstrated that past preservation approaches were focused on architectural preservation with little attention to the landscape. Simply maintaining structures and their exterior features did not adequately preserve the character of a historic Districts or represent well the periods of significance. Landscape features should be viewed as equal in importance to the built features, because it is the union and harmony of the built and the natural features that make the Bryce Canyon Lodge and Old NPS Housing Districts significant. Comprehensive planning approaches are critical to the success of preservation of existing features and future development. Toward this goal, broad contextual landscape scale examination should be considered as well as the health of the natural environment. Even site planning and small scale projects at the Park should be conducted within a larger context of master planning that examines broad scale human and environmental systems. Not only will this help to preserve historic built features (both buildings and site elements) that remain at the Park but will continue to integrate the natural amenities which the Park was established in honor of.

Although many of the recommendations in this chapter are given for those historic districts within the Park that are recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, it is the opinion of the authors that treating these areas in isolation from the rest of the Developed Area is not as effective as it would be in treating the Park as a whole. While visitor amenity areas such as the Rim Trail and its vistas, the Visitor Center, the Bryce Canyon Inn, and the camp and picnic grounds may not qualify as National Register districts, as a whole they still represent many of the aspects of park planning and design discussed in Chapter 4 and continue to work together to convey a rustic, nature-focused experience. This holistic approach should be considered whenever treatments are undertaken in the Developed Area, and the Overall Treatment Guidelines given here would provide strong guidance for maintaining the unique character of Bryce Canyon National Park. Particularly, those recommendations aimed at establishing a consistent and rustic design language in the Study Areas should be expanded to apply to all visitor areas to enforce a visual and physical unity for the Park.

Finally, the authors would like to recognize that, although the establishment of a period of significance is an important tool for landscape and architectural preservation, the years that precede and follow these dates have all contributed to what Bryce Canyon National Park is today. The millennia of geological development that created the unique natural features of the Park, the native peoples who first witnessed the plateau’s wonders, the area’s first settlers and pioneers of early tourism should not be forgotten or under-valued simply because their presence pre-dates extant architecture or built elements. Likewise, the continued efforts of Park management to maintain and improve the quality of visitor experience have made it possible for millions of people to encounter the awe and beauty of Bryce Canyon. We hope our efforts here support theirs, and that the ultimate result of this study is an even deeper understanding of how significant the Park is within the history of National Parks in the United States, and how this history can continue to be represented, even as we meet the future.