



# CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

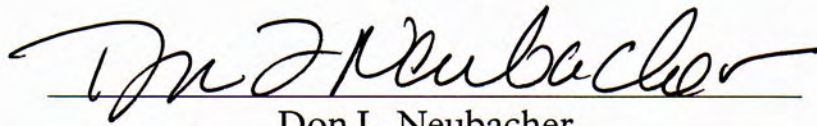
## CAMP CURRY HISTORIC DISTRICT





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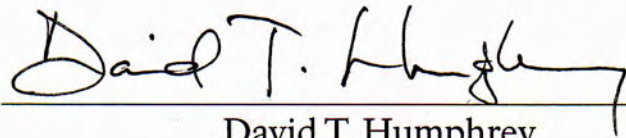
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## CAMP CURRY HISTORIC DISTRICT

National Park Service  
Yosemite National Park  
2010

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# MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This Cultural Landscape Report provides historical background and treatment recommendations for the Camp Curry Historic District; a concessioner operated commercial camping facility within Yosemite National Park. This 55-acre district is perhaps the longest continuously operating facility of its kind in the National Park System. For 110 years, it has provided visitors with food, lodging, and entertainment.

Camp Curry, once very briefly known as Camp Sequoia and currently known as Curry Village, is a vast complex of guest and employee accommodations, residences, service structures, and landscape features situated in a narrow Yosemite Valley alcove at the base of the Glacier Point cliffs. During more than a century of continuous business operation, the camp has faced numerous challenges including managerial conflicts, challenging competition, uniquely complicated ownership issues, a shifting client base, and distant supply resources. But the most difficult and unpredictable constraint has always been the very thing that has made Camp Curry profitable: its physical location. The camp was established in 1899 among the talus boulders at the foot of the soaring Glacier Point rim to the south. The camp was bounded on the north side by the picturesque, half-mile wide Stoneman Meadow, itself encircled by the Merced River. Thus, from the very beginning, the operation has been literally bounded by two natural features and their associated disturbance regimes. River floods and rock falls have constantly threatened sections of Camp Curry from every side. The camp's historical status and the narrow confines of its situation between the cliffs, meadow, and river have complicated efforts to formulate a comprehensive plan for relocating threatened or potentially threatened facilities.

The complexity of resolving this quandary is evident in the long series of Curry Village management plans proposed by both the National Park Service and the concessioner dating back to 1960. Essentially no significant new facilities expansion has taken place within Curry Village since 1936. Several plans have attempted to address the rock fall hazard and ongoing challenges with congestion, particularly vehicle circulation, guest tents, and employee housing. Outside of the unplanned reduction of facilities after the rock fall of October 2008, perhaps the most significant achievement for relieving Curry Village congestion in the last forty years was the elimination

of the Firefall in 1968.

*1980 Yosemite General Management Plan (GMP)*

The GMP called for a substantial reduction of residential and service facility footprints in Valley areas north of Curry Road while also eliminating tents and structures in the active rock fall zone on the south side of Curry Village.<sup>1</sup> Thirty years later little progress has been made in achieving these two objectives. In fact, after 1980 a significant new service building (the main bathhouse) was constructed within the rock fall zone and numerous “temporary” buildings have been added north of Curry Road. The GMP also recommended that the camp’s guest tent density be somehow reduced while still retaining 335 tents in a greatly diminished available area.<sup>2</sup> Although the GMP specified that “facilities and services [should be] consistent with the historical setting of Curry Village,” it also approved demolition of the Foster Bungalow and Peterson Residence, two of the most historically significant buildings in the District.

Subsequent to the GMP’s approval, a series of plans were proposed to unravel its complexity: the *Concessions Service Plan* (1992), the *Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan/SEIS* (1992 and 1996 addendum), the 1997 *Merced River Plan*, the *Yosemite Lodge Development Concept Plan/EA/FONSI* (1997, modified 1997), and the Yosemite Falls Project. Litigation and public pressure led to the consolidation of these proposals into the *Yosemite Valley Plan (YVP)* of November 2000 and a subsequent *Curry Village and East Yosemite Valley EA* in 2004. The YVP called for Curry Village tents to be reduced to 174 with “some lodging facilities relocated outside of the rockfall zone.” However, in September of 2009, nearly 10 years of litigation between the Friends of Yosemite Valley, Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government and Yosemite National Park over user-capacity on the Merced Wild and Scenic River was concluded with a Settlement Agreement.<sup>3</sup> The Settlement Agreement not only initiated a new process for the development of a new *Merced River Plan*, but it also nullified and rescinded other park planning documents, including the *Yosemite Lodge Development Concept Plan EA* and the *Curry Village and East Yosemite Valley EA*.

The need to decisively address rock fall hazards in Curry Village occurred on October 7 and 8, 2008, when consecutive rock falls occurred that caused significant property damage and minor injuries. An interim emergency plan was quickly formulated for immediately closing down nearly half of the camp’s visitor accommodations as well as several residences, service

<sup>1</sup> *Yosemite General Management Plan*, September 1980, <http://www.nps.gov/archives/yose/planning/gmp/curry.html> (March 23, 2009).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> *Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement*, September 2009. <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/litigation.htm> (November 18, 2009)

facilities, and employee housing units. The closure affected a number of historically significant permanent and impermanent structures. A team of Yosemite historical landscape architects, historical architects and a historian was assembled to complete an expedited Cultural Landscape Report for Camp Curry. The CLR is needed to help inform the subsequent environmental planning and compliance documents (an Environmental Assessment) that will be prepared to provide a long-term design solution for Camp Curry.

As a result of the October rock falls and the judgement against the *Draft Merced River Plan*, parts of both the GMP and YVP that affect Curry Village are now inapplicable. The process for formulating a practical long-term solution for these unforeseen planning dilemmas requires that the status of every historical feature in Curry Village be carefully assessed in a Cultural Landscape Report. The CLR provides:

- a) an annotated physical history and chronology of Camp Curry;
- b) a comprehensive inventory of Camp Curry's historic and non-historic features;
- c) treatment recommendations for its historic and non-historic landscape features, both inside and outside the rock fall zone.

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Camp Curry/Curry Village is a commercial camping operation established in 1899 at the east end of Yosemite Valley. The venture was the brainchild of David A. Curry and his wife Jennie. To augment their meager incomes as teachers, the pair had been organizing commercial camping trips to Yellowstone National Park during the summers. Life on the road in the horse-and-buggy era was hard on their young family and the Currys decided to change the business to something less itinerant and closer to their California home.

Initially, their camp was intended to provide inexpensive accommodations so that a "lower class" of visitors would have the opportunity to commune with nature. However, other camping operations soon appeared in Yosemite and the Currys found they could not compete if they simply provided meals and lodging. David Curry was an obstreperous showman and his personality shaped the camp's new direction. Under his guidance, supplemented artificial diversions became a hallmark of the operation. The Firefall, a nightly spectacle where a bonfire was pushed off of a cliff at Glacier Point before plummeting thousands of feet to the talus slope below, was perhaps the most spectacular example of the Camp Curry concept of augmenting lodging with leisure activities.

At first, the camp's amusements focused on David Curry, but by the time he died in 1917, several other attractions had been added: a swimming pool, a dance hall, an "ash can" toboggan slide, a back-country equipment rental service, a barber shop, and vaudeville type evening programs. Within a year after his death a bowling alley, pool hall, and film-developing studio were also opened for business.<sup>4</sup> By 1923 movies were being shown at the evening programs and a soda fountain with a "spotless candy kitchen" was selling fizz and sweets at the central complex. A shoe-shine stand, laundry services, a two-pump service station, and a Kiddie Kamp complete with miniature train, had also all been added to the camp.

During this period, the hostelry end of the business also changed considerably. The Currys experimented with different lodging options, adding bungalows (cabins with toilets and running water) and bungalettes (cabins without bathrooms) to their fleet of camping tents. A section of tents was also set aside as "European style" lodging (without a meal plan) and, across the road near the parking garage, the Currys established Yosemite's first lower-cost Housekeeping Camp (unfurnished lodging without meals). By 1930, the camp could offer guests a variety of accommodation packages that included nearly 500 guest tents, 48 bungalows, and 35 bungalettes.<sup>5</sup>

Eventually, the Curry dynasty dominated the concessioner business in Yosemite. After the Curry Camping Company's 1924 merger with its lodging competitor, National Park Service management focused on other developments outside the camp. Upgrading Yosemite Lodge, constructing The Ahwahnee Hotel, developing a winter sports program, and establishing the High Sierra camps consumed the new company's attention. Although Camp Curry ceased to be the leader of concessioner growth and services innovation in the park after 1936, it remained the Yosemite Park and Curry Company's (YP&CCo) most profitable operation as well as the entertainment capital of the Valley.

YP&CCo's choice to spread its operations elsewhere was only logical. The improbability of expanding or even sustaining Camp Curry in its "rock and wet spot" location manifested itself fairly early. During the late 1920s the toboggan slide on the west end of the camp was destroyed twice, once by rock fall and once by an avalanche. By 1930 the Park Service had also made it clear that the camp's leasehold boundaries would not be extended any further north towards the Merced River. The tents "Curry Company" had erected in Boys Town west of the orchard would only be tolerated as a "temporary" measure.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 118.

<sup>5</sup> Occupancy varied from four to eight people per unit.

<sup>6</sup> Correspondence, R. L. McKown to Supt., February 26, 1937; see also Memorandum, Assistant Supt. Wosky to Supt., February 25, 1937 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 427).

Between 1930 and 1955, the pace of landscape modification in Camp Curry slowed noticeably. Expanded development ceased and the operation slipped into a maintenance mode. Most changes that did occur involved replacing or modifying existing structures (relocating the ice rink, remodeling the grill, and expanding the stage), adding a few overdue sanitation facilities (two comfort stations and the Boys Town shower), improving circulation (adding new bike paths and parking lots), adding a few overdue sanitation facilities (two comfort stations and the Boys Town shower), improving service infrastructure (hydrants, underground utilities, and restrooms) or curtailing services (removing the toboggan slide and eliminating the film booth). The basic layout of Camp Curry lodging remained unchanged.

Beginning in 1955, the NPS focused its long-term planning on upgrading Camp Curry's development. Automobile visitation had grown beyond what anyone could have imagined in 1930 when the camp's lodging and services capacity were stabilized. Circulation and visitor facilities in Yosemite Valley were woefully inadequate and the quality of visitor experience and the park's resources both suffered as a consequence. Several Camp Curry "Redevelopment" plans were proposed from as early as 1956. In 1980 these efforts were consolidated into the General Management Plan. These early plans were mostly concerned with improving parking and circulation. They did not directly address the problem of increased visitor demand on Camp Curry's limited facilities with no room for expansion. Consequently, most of the early attempts at official planning for improvement of the camp's facilities were trial and error. Numerous proposals were put forward by the concessioners but most were rejected.

Disasters, both natural and unnatural, have added an unexpected dimension to park planning since 1950. During the 1970s, Camp Curry was the target of several arson fires. The dining room, historic swimming pool bath house, and parking garage were lost as well as service buildings for the ice rink. Another arson fire gutted the Mountain House store and damaged other units of the central complex.<sup>7</sup> Rebuilding these facilities in the midst of working through a planning process proved to be slow and frustrating. Although the Merced River floods of 1950, 1956, and 1997 did not physically damage Camp Curry, the subsequent "temporary" relocation of services and facilities from other flooded areas did alter the Historic District's landscape. Some of the temporary remedial measures implemented after the floods are still in place.

But it was the cliffs above Curry Village that produced the disaster that has most profoundly changed its operations and historical landscape. In 1980, park management was served a reminder of the hazards of rock

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<sup>7</sup> Correspondence, Edward Hardy to Supt., April 20, 1976 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1975)

fall when three people were killed near Yosemite Falls. This event had important consequences for Curry Village. The General Management Plan released that year recognized the need to phase out operations within the active rock fall zone and reduce the overall tent density in Curry Village.<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless, the Park Service did not consider significantly downsizing the camping operation to achieve this objective. In spite of other serious rock fall incidents during the 1990s, no common ground could be found to resolve the need to remove accommodations at Curry Village while still meeting the increased demand in Yosemite Valley for visitor amenities.

In many respects the camp's operation has been problematic for park administrators. Historic hazards and adverse environmental side-effects, including sanitation problems, structural fire, rock fall, noise, congestion, and poor circulation, have continually challenged management. However, thanks in large part to the charisma of its founders, Camp Curry has also been the park's perennial crowd-pleaser and was historically quite profitable. These two attributes have essentially preserved, relatively intact, the landscape of this nationally significant historic resource for eighty years. It has been difficult, sometimes impossible, for park planners to strike a balance between profitability, enjoyment, visitor safety, and resource integrity (both natural and historic). Finding common ground has been particularly elusive for Camp Curry.

## SCOPE OF WORK AND METHODOLOGY

The goal of this project's historical research is to discover how different personalities and events have shaped the various stages of Curry Village's physical development. First, a thorough inventory of the historical background of each structure and landscape feature was compiled in a timeline database. This information was then cumulatively analyzed to determine patterns of development and attempted patterns of development.

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<sup>8</sup> By comparison, camping facilities at Yosemite Valley NPS campgrounds were significantly less congested than camping type lodging at Curry Village. According to the GMP (1980), the valley campgrounds contained 800 sites, or 30% more than Curry Village's 418 tent cabins, 90 bungalow [without bath] "units" (rooms, usually two per structure) and 118 bungalow (with bath) units. However, the area of the public campgrounds, as depicted in the GMP, was roughly 250% larger than Curry Village. The density of public campgrounds was therefore about half that of Curry Village. If areas consumed by non-lodging service structures and parking are factored in, the density disparity becomes even greater. In 1980, Housekeeping Camp appeared to contain about the same lodging density as Curry Village, but, again, the area dedicated to service facilities and parking at Housekeeping was significantly less. Although a final density analysis has yet to be completed, it appears Curry Village may have contained one of the highest (if not the highest) ratios of detached visitor lodging units and/or sites per area in the National Park System.



Several thematic periods subsequently emerged: the David Curry era from 1899 to 1917, the period of rapid expansion between his death and the onset of the Great Depression in 1930; the operational maintenance period between 1930 and 1954; the Mission 66 development era; and finally, disaster management from 1975 to the present. Defining the periods of development subsequently led to a decision to redefine the period of historical significance in Camp Curry's National Register nomination.

Simultaneous to the historical research, an on-site physical assessment was completed for each of Curry Village's landscape elements. Structural integrity was examined and appearance, dimensions, materials, and location were recorded. During the course of the physical assessments, maintenance staffs from both the Park Service and the concessioner were interviewed. Data on physical attributes were compared to the annotated chronology, site history, maps, and photos to determine historical significance for each structure/feature. This information was then used to formulate treatment recommendations.

During its past century of continuous operation, Curry Village has undergone countless physical changes to hundreds of structures, roads, trails, and other features. A few secondary sources have attempted to chronicle Camp Curry's development. The park's *Historic Resource Study* (1987) provided some general background but the document's broad scope did not allow for much detail. The *Yosemite Valley Cultural Landscape Report* published later (1994) did not provide much detailed information. *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, published by local historian Shirley Sargent in 1975, provides a fairly thorough account of the Curry dynasty and its Yosemite operations. Unfortunately, it included no citations. In most cases, there is no way to verify or cite the original sources because the author's notes and research materials burned in a fire a few years before her death in 2004.

Accessing the dispersed collections of primary resource material was challenging. Concessioner business records, especially for the early years, are scattered and incomplete. Several years ago the Curry Company collection was transferred to the Yosemite Archives and currently it is in the process of being catalogued. Before 1924, the National Park Service kept poor records of its own facilities improvements and almost no record of changes the concessioners made to structures and landscapes. Although several gaps exist, most of the Superintendent's correspondence files have survived and they do contain information about building projects planned or underway. The Superintendent's monthly reports to the Park Service Director (1924-1963) usually contain summaries of improvements made by both the concessioner and NPS. Unfortunately, the thoroughness of the reports varies considerably.<sup>9</sup> Some of the project drawings that were

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<sup>9</sup> For example, the old Curry swimming tank was upgraded sometime between 1928 and 1940, but there was no record of this significant improvement in the

attached to archived correspondence have been transferred to the Denver Service Center, some remain in the park's facilities maintenance files, and more than a few have apparently disappeared. Project completion reports have also been similarly dispersed. Historic photo collections in the Yosemite Archives and Research Library were surprisingly modest considering Camp Curry's longevity and popularity. A small collection of annual brochures found in the Research Library yielded critical images and information on structural development. Fortunately, because the gaps in one primary resource collection were often filled with pieces from another, a relatively complete picture of Camp Curry's development has emerged.

An annotated chronological spreadsheet compiled while researching this project has proven to be a valuable tool. Full citations for each entry simplified double checking primary sources when conflicting information turned up later. While doing the research and writing the report, the authors were able to simultaneously view and edit the chronology. Citing sources later as the report was being written was often simply a matter of cutting and pasting citations from the chronology. The authors recognize that the chronology will be useful for future researchers and site managers. Consequently, they have elected to attach it to this CLR as an appendix.

## DESCRIPTION OF STUDY BOUNDARIES

The Camp Curry Historic District is located at the eastern end of Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park, Mariposa County, California. The only access to Yosemite Valley is via the El Portal Road, Wawona Road and indirectly the Big Oak Flat Road which intersects El Portal Road at the west end of the valley. El Portal and Wawona Roads eventually end in Yosemite Valley and split into Northside and Southside Drives. Curry Village Drive, an offshoot of Southside Drive, bisects the Camp Curry Historic District.

The Historic District's physical boundaries were poorly defined when it was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, as it does not encompass all of the District's contributing features.<sup>10</sup> (See Figure 2 for a map of the amended and existing Camp Curry historic District boundaries.) This study has determined that important contributing Superintendent's monthly reports or his correspondence with the concessioner.

<sup>10</sup> The 1979 National Register Nomination form for Camp Curry District defines the area as: "Beginning at the SW corner of the main Camp Curry parking lot, follow the south edge of the shuttle bus access road to Happy Isles, heading east for 1325 feet. Turn SW (223°) for 400 [ft]; NW (308°) 450 [ft]; SW (215°) 330 [ft]; SW (245°) 475 [ft]; NW (276°) 500 [ft]; NW (284°) 600 [ft]; NW (294°) 260 [ft]; NW (341°) 450 [ft]; from the last point follow the west edge of the service road north 30 feet to the southern edge of main road; follow this southern road edge in NE direction to the intersection. At intersection stay on the Camp Curry side of the road, following the southwestern edge to starting point."

features and structures overlooked in 1979 need to be included in the Camp Curry Historic District. For the purposes of this report the District boundaries have been redefined to include the Curry Orchard parking lot.

<sup>11</sup> In order to graphically display the spatial data within the very densely built and large Camp Curry, the redefined Historic District has been divided into five site plan maps: the central service complex; the bungalows; the historic lodging/residential area (tents, residences, and bungalows); Boys Town and Curry Orchard; and the Huff Area (see Figure 2).

All of the buildings within Curry Village are owned by the National Park Service with the exception of the tent cabins, which are considered private property of the concessioner (at the time of this documents preparation - Delaware North Company).

With the exception of Boys Town and the Huff Area, the proposed amended boundaries for the Camp Curry Historic District boundary will encompass the entire developed area at Curry Village, including the central service complex, the bungalows, the lodging/residential area, the South Lamon Orchard, as well as the primary circulation routes into Curry Village. The site plan excludes the recently constructed Curry Village dorms and South Side Drive [See Figure 2 for the exact boundary location].

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Research for this CLR has revealed several reasons for redefining Curry Village's historic district boundaries and its period of significance. The period of significance defined by the 1979 Register Nomination as 1899 to 1924, should be amended to 1899 to 1936. The camp was established in 1899 and that date logically marks the beginning of the period of significance. Ending it at the date of the Yosemite concessioner's merger in 1924 does not coincide with anything of significance to the historical development of Camp Curry.<sup>12</sup> Management of the new company continued to be guided by the Curry family until the 1970s. Other more relevant historical events justify extending the period of significance beyond 1924. The camp's physical development continued more or less unabated from the camp's inception in 1899 until the end of 1936 when it achieved approximately its present dimensions and composition. Although 1929 marks the beginning of Curry Company's transition away from Curry rustic architecture (construction of the Spencer dining room and the concrete kitchen), the Curry rustic design was incorporated into three comfort facilities built on the east side of the Camp during 1936-37.

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<sup>11</sup> Consideration should be given to an amendment to the Camp Curry Historic District nomination to adjust the Historic District's boundaries.

<sup>12</sup> It is possible that the end-date used for the original period of significance (1924) may represent 50 years from the date that the nomination was drafted.

The District's physical boundaries should also be amended to include Curry Orchard. The orchard was converted into a parking lot for the camp in 1929.<sup>13</sup>

Curry Village's landscape has not changed significantly since 1936. Some features have been replaced, relocated, or modified but, for the most part, the general layout of the camp has remained the same. The bulk of the tent cabins, Curry Village's trademark feature, are today located generally on the same footprint of the camp in 1925 when it was first mapped.<sup>14</sup> For a site that has seen considerable activity over a long period of time, the Curry Village landscape has remained remarkably unaffected. However, as a result of the 2008 rock slide, the occupation of approximately half of what historically comprised Camp Curry will cease operations permanently. It is the recommendation of this report that the non-contributing tent cabins in Boys Town and the Huff area and all guest tent cabins in the rock fall zone be removed and not relocated.

As might be expected, treatment recommendations vary considerably for the scores of other landscape elements in the district. It is therefore difficult, if not impossible, to generalize the recommended treatment for all of Curry Village. Some structures require some degree of restoration (Camp Curry entrance sign; original bungalows; historic residences). Several structures require preservation (Curry Registration Building; Post Office; various restrooms; bicycle rental building; Linen Hut; Visitor Service Complex; Pool; Transit Shelter; Stoneman House). Some need to be rehabilitated (Mother Curry Bungalow; Peterson Residence; Greene Bungalow; post-1925 bungalows; amphitheater). Many structures inside the rock fall zone should be relocated (all of the post-1918 bungalows; the post-1925 bungalows; the bungalow area comfort station), while other threatened structures may warrant demolition or relocation (tent cabins; Women's Club; Residence 101). Relocation and demolition will have an adverse effect on historic resources and mitigation in accordance with Director's Order 28 must be carried out prior to these actions. A few structures outside the rock fall zone may also need to be considered for relocation (ice rink buildings) or removed/demolished (Huff and Boys Town temporary structures; campground registration kiosk; historic orchard; Nob Hill Shower House). In a few instances, new construction is recommended (ice rink; permanent bicycle rental facility; Men's Dorm maintenance housekeeping facility).

<sup>13</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, May 1929, YPRL collection.

<sup>14</sup> "Today" or "currently" shall be construed to mean immediately after the October 8, 2008 rock fall incident. Subsequent to that event, several temporary measures have been initiated to remove and/or relocate some of the affected guest lodging and employee housing units.

One building possesses unique characteristics that have complicated development of a treatment recommendation. Foster Curry Bungalow is architecturally and historically one of the most significant structures at Camp Curry. It was the residence of three Curry Camping Company's presidents: Foster Curry, Donald Tresidder, and Mary Curry Tresidder. These individuals played extremely important roles in the evolution of National Park concessioner business. The building is also an early example of rustic architectural design in the National Park System. It is, however, situated well up in the rock fall talus slope and as such it has been rendered unsuitable for overnight accommodation. The building's layout and soon-to-be remote location make it a difficult prospect for other uses. Unfortunately, its unusual construction may make Foster Bungalow an unlikely candidate for relocation. Any attempt to define a treatment recommendation for this structure will have to await the evaluation by a Historical Architect, perhaps as part of a Historic Structures Report or some other assessment document.

Because treatment recommendations include relocation and structural alterations to historic buildings, it is essential that a Historic Structures Report or some other assessment document be completed for all contributing structures in the Curry Village Historic District before implementation of any permanent plans for altering the landscape.

Following this CLR, the park will develop a Site Development Plan for Curry Village in the form of an EA. This CLR will be used to help inform the development of alternatives for the Curry Village Site Development Plan.





# GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND SITE PLANS

## Inventory Unit Boundary Justification:

The proposed amended boundary for the Camp Curry Historic District enlarges the area used in the 1979 Camp Curry proposal for the National Register of Historic Places. It differs primarily in the proposed inclusion of the Curry Orchard parking area. This area is included based on its relevance to the history and development of Camp Curry. The inclusion of the Curry Orchard parking area is justified because the orchard has historically been utilized by the camp. This orchard predates Camp Curry, but it was retrofitted for automobile parking in 1929 to accommodate Camp Curry

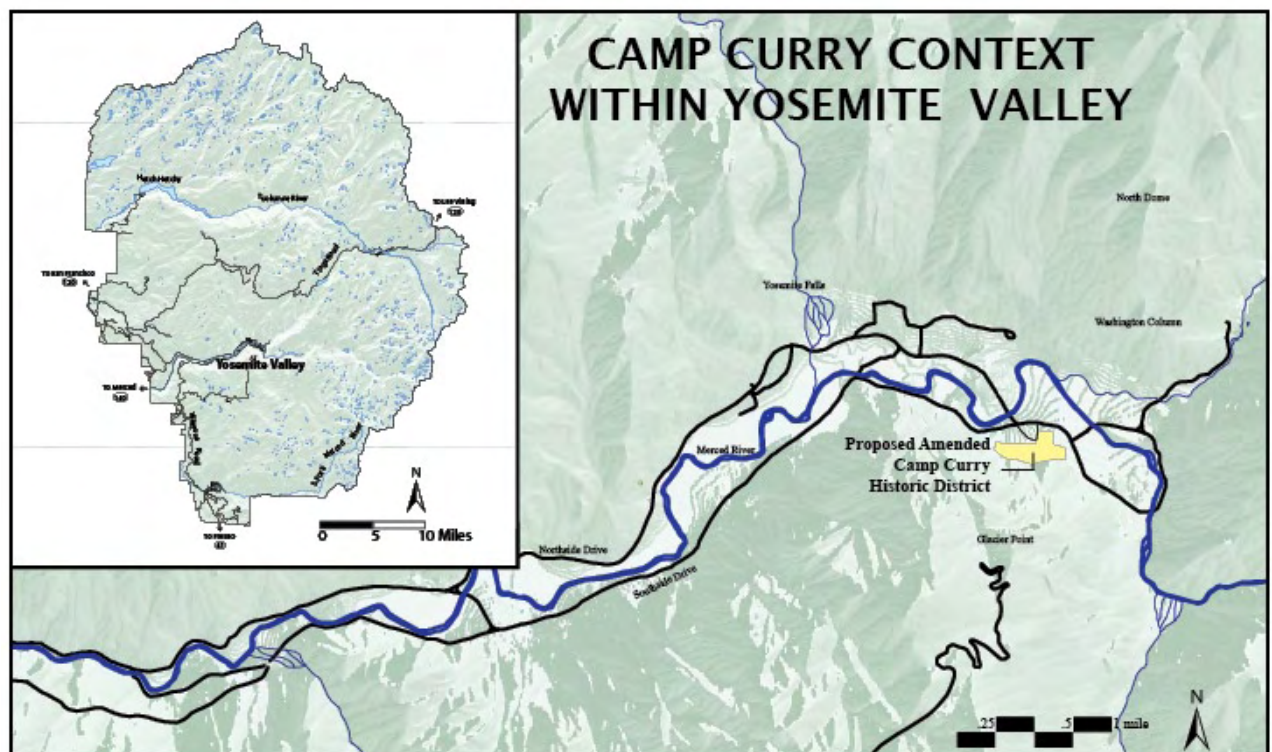


Figure 1. Location and context map showing park boundaries and Yosemite Valley. A larger print of this map is available in Appendix E.

guests, effectively it became part of the Camp Curry cultural landscape.

The proposed amended historic district boundary attempts to follow established landscape elements, to be relatively simple, and to capture every feature that is clearly associated with the Camp Curry cultural landscape. A UTM table of coordinates is included to provide an exact location of the boundary.

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

At **Point A**, the historic district boundary is at the south of the Bungalow Parking Area but north of the Happy Isles Trail. It follows from **Point A** east along the Happy Isles Trail, before arriving at the southwest corner of the Central Parking Area and **Point B**. It then follows north along the western edge of the Central Parking Area and Curry Village Drive until reaching **Point C**. From **Point C**, the district boundary turns east to include the Orchard Parking Area until reaching **Point D**. It then turns to the south and follows the eastern periphery of the Orchard Parking Area before arriving at **Point E** at the southeast corner of the Central Parking Area. It then follows along the northern edge of Happy Isles Road until it reaches

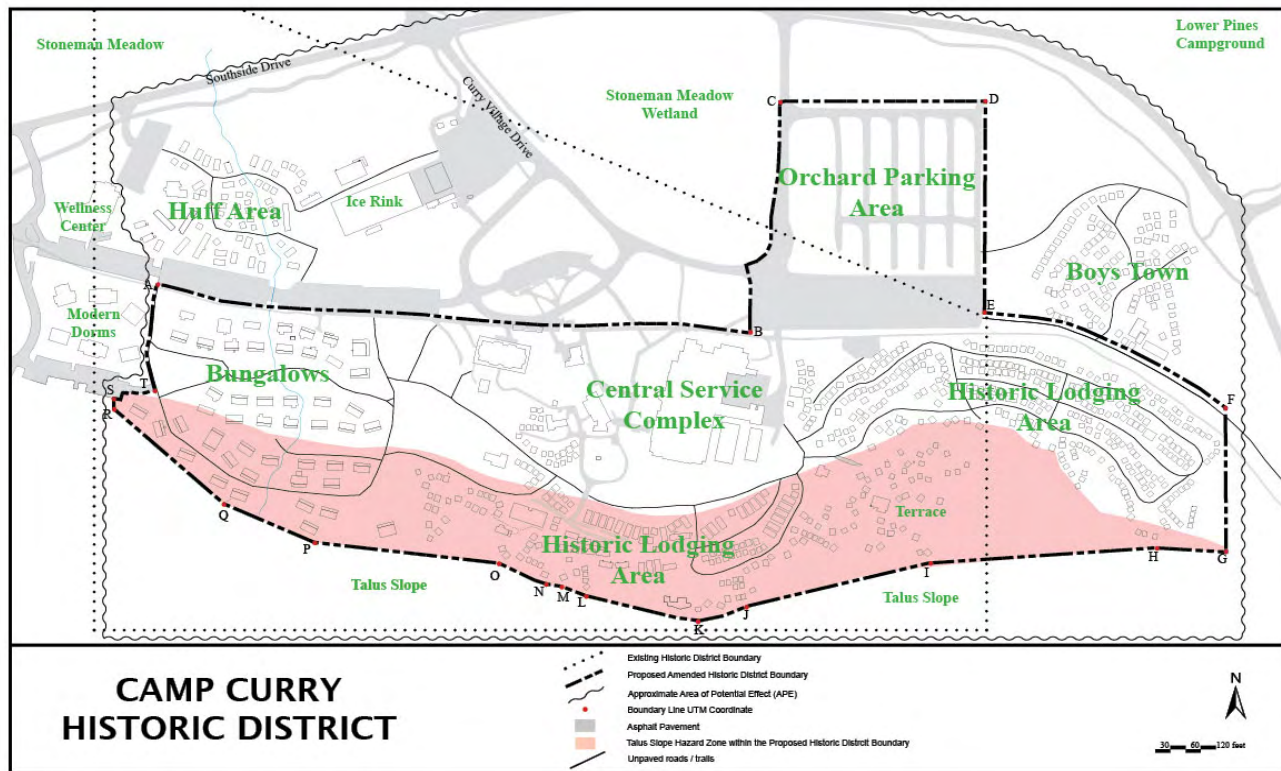


Figure 2. Map showing proposed Historic District Boundary for Camp Curry. A larger print of this map is available in Appendix E.

**Point F.** From this point, the boundary moves due south to include all of the historic tent cabins before arriving at **Point G.** From this point, the boundary makes several angular turns as it moves roughly west across the talus slope. The coordinates of these points are listed in the following table of UTM coordinates; however they do not relate to any clearly identifiable features. Rather, this section of the boundary along the south edge of the district captures the southernmost structures maintaining a minimum distance of approximately 25 feet from the very southernmost and western most structures.

At **Point R** the boundary turns counterclockwise to encompass the western most bungalow and then moves due north to **Point S**, where it intersects the dormitory parking lot. The boundary line then follows east along the southern curb line of this parking area until **Point T**, where it intersects the western most north-south bungalow trail, which divides the historic bungalow area from the modern dormitories and its point or origin at **Point A.**

Serious consideration was given to including the Boys Town and Huff areas within the amended Historic District Boundary but was ultimately dismissed due to the poor historic integrity and numerous contemporary modifications to these areas.

Table 1. UTM table of coordinates for the proposed Historic District Boundary.

Point	Source	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273029	4179896
B	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273477	4179835
C	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273497	4179983
D	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273633	4179983
E	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273633	4179839
F	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273784	4179761
G	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273784	4179686
H	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273738	4179688
I	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273598	4179679
J	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273485	4179650
K	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273453	4179641
L	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273380	4179657
M	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273368	4179665
N	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273355	4179667
O	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273330	4179679

P	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273210	4179694
Q	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273157	4179718
R	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273088	4179781
S	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273092	4179785
T	GPS-Diff. Corrected	NAD 83	11N	273114	4179792



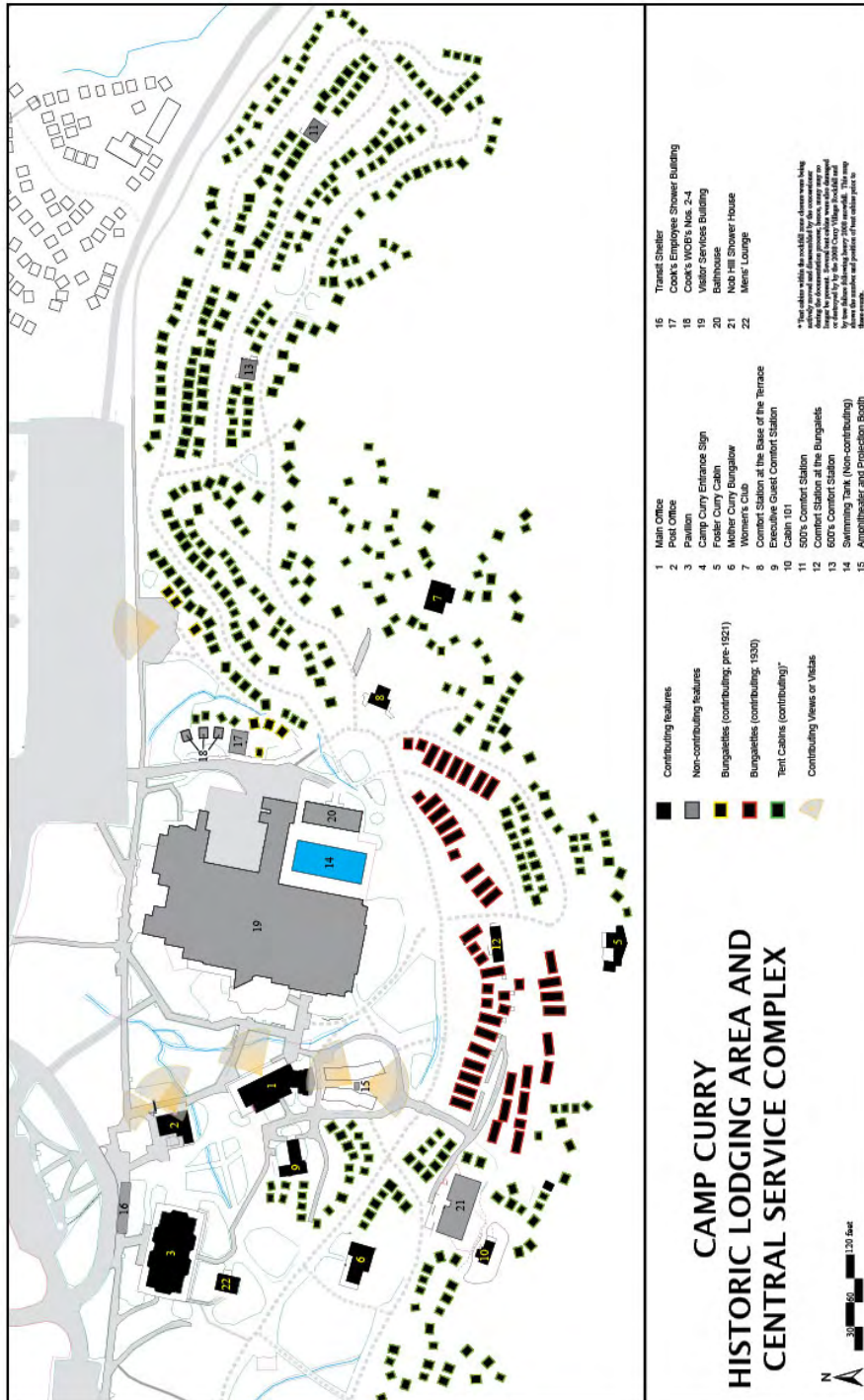


Figure 3. Site plan of the Camp Curry Historic Lodging Area and Central Service Complex. A larger print of this map is available in Appendix E.

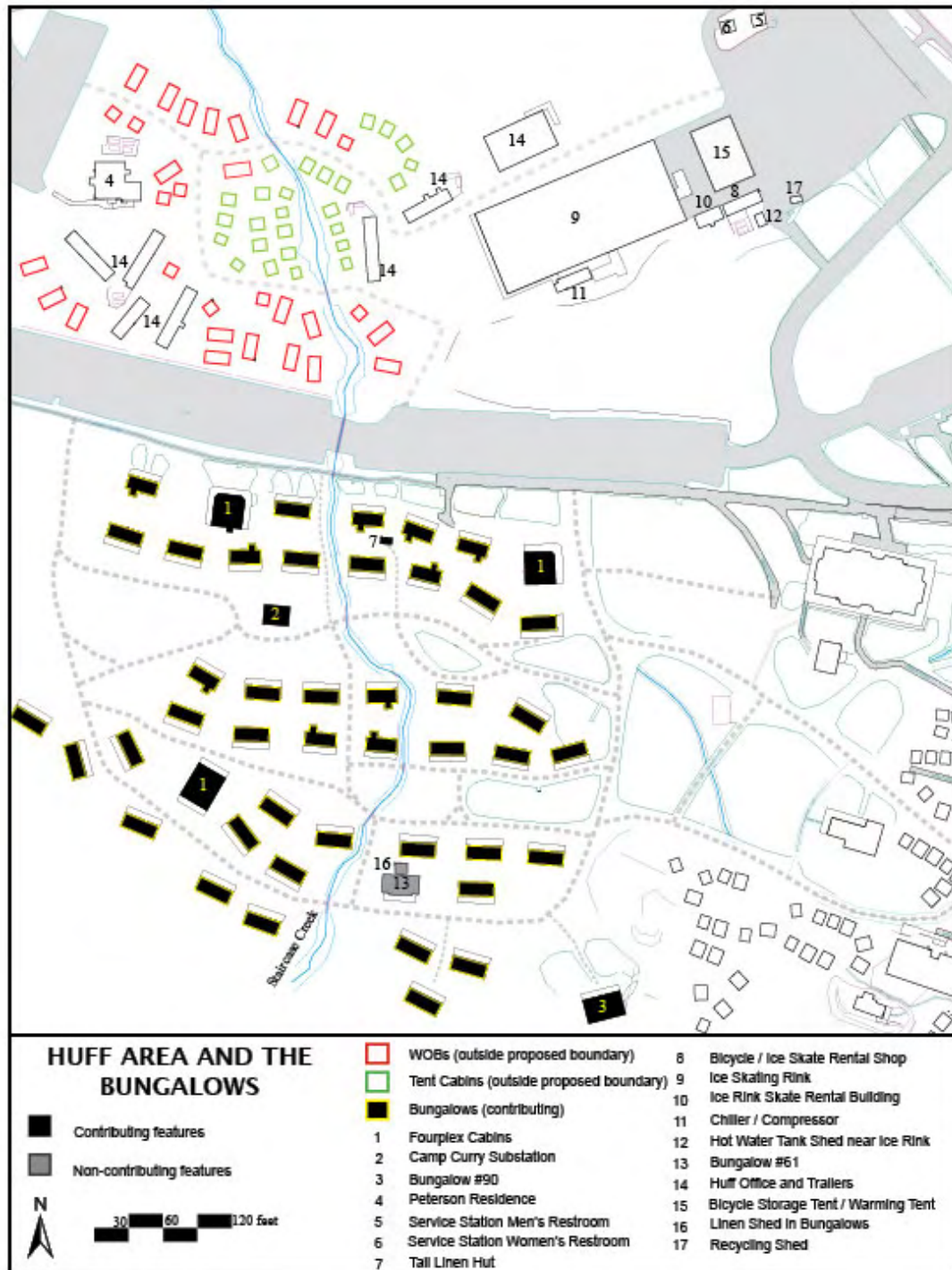


Figure 4. Site plan of the Huff Area and the Bungalows. A larger print of this map is available in Appendix E.



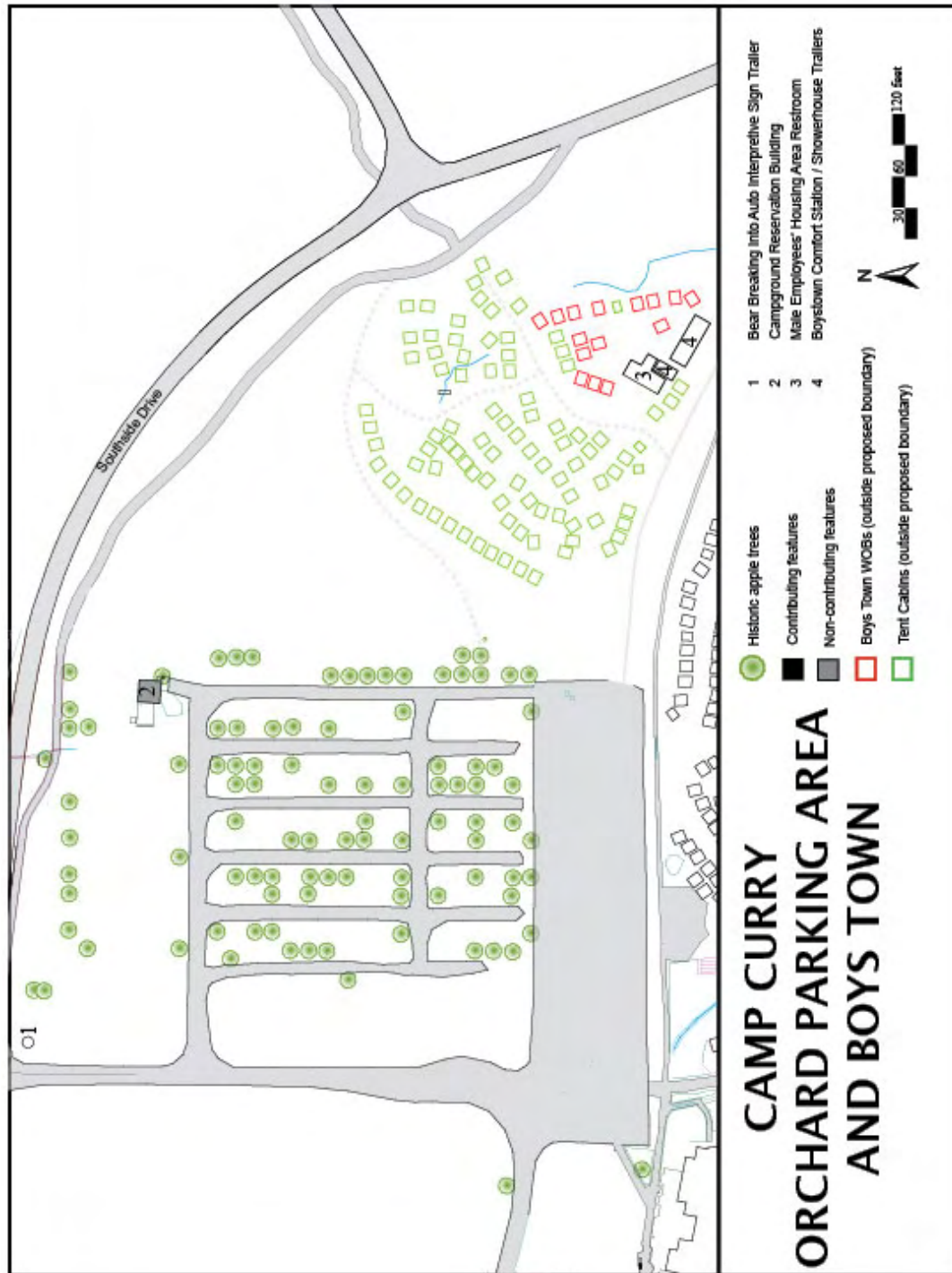


Figure 5. Site plan of the Orchard Parking Area and Boys Town. A larger print of this map is available in Appendix E.



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The National Register lists the landscape associated with Camp Curry Historic District as locally significant in the areas of commerce, and exploration/settlement. Additionally, only four structures in the District – the Registration Office (present Lounge), Foster Curry Bungalow, Mother Curry’s Bungalow, and the Camp Entrance Sign – were recognized as “important survivors of early Camp Curry and of local architectural, as well as historical, significance.”<sup>15</sup> The 1979 National Register Nomination states that Camp Curry was “illustrative of the foundation and early development of the Curry family enterprise and their unique contribution of a character of accommodation still available in Yosemite and other national parks today.”

The period of significance fixed in the Nomination was 1899 to 1924. The Nomination set the end of the period of significance at 1924 because that was the year Curry Camping Company merged with Yosemite Park Company. Yet, the merger had no appreciable effect on how Camp Curry was managed or developed.<sup>16</sup> The Curry family continued to dominate the merged enterprise into the 1960s.

The 1979 Nomination also failed to recognize the larger context of Camp Curry’s historic significance. The bungalows and bungalettes are the earliest accommodations of their type in the park (i.e. hard-sided, detached cabins designed to be rentals). They are also likely the oldest detached cabin rentals original to the National Park System.<sup>17</sup> As prototypes for

<sup>15</sup> The 1979 National Register Nomination also provided descriptions for the Bungalows, “Canvas Cabins” (tent cabins), “Cabins Without Bath” (bungalettes), and Stoneman House (former Pavilion), but the authors felt “their significance was minimal and exists only in a collective sense.” “Several bathhouses,” the skating rink, the central complex, and “some cabins without baths behind the central maintenance area used for employee housing” were listed as being included in the District. However, no mention was made of any historical significance being attached to these structures.

<sup>16</sup> The only change to Camp Curry operations after the merger was the relocation of the camp’s laundry service to Yosemite Lodge. Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 104.

<sup>17</sup> No formal comparative analysis was undertaken at the time of this documents preparation to prove that Camp Curry housed the oldest detached cabin rentals original to the National Park Service. A comparative analysis is beyond the scope of this CLR and should be considered when the 1979 NR nomination for Camp Curry is amended. However, original research conducted as a part of this project

what would become a highly popular trend in recreational motor vehicle overnight accommodations both inside and outside the national parks, these structures have national historical significance in the areas of commerce and transportation. It is possible that the significance of these structures, particularly the bungalows, may merit designation as a National Historic Landmark under Criterion 1, because they are "...identified with ... the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained."

The tent cabins represent the longest continuously operating commercial tent accommodations in the NPS and, possibly, the United States.<sup>18</sup> What is most significant about the Camp Curry tent cabins is that most of them are on the same footprint as 1925, and it is probable that some of the tents in the area of the present cook's bathhouse are on the same footprint as when the camp was established in 1898. Because guest tents were the prototype for the tourist cabin facilities that spread throughout the American West during the first half of the nineteenth century, Camp Curry, with both tents and cabins, is doubly significant. It encapsulates the transition from the wagon-and-tent to the automobile-and-cabin eras of rustic recreational lodging.

In December 2006, the Yosemite Valley Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Nomination encompassed a number of Valley structures and historic districts already on the Register, including Camp Curry. The period of significance for the Valley Nomination spanned from 1855 to 1942, well before and after the period of significance

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supports this conclusion. In 1916, D.J. Desmond salvaged pre-fabricated labor huts abandoned at the end of the Owens Valley aqueduct project near Los Angeles and reassembled them at Yosemite Lodge for use as rental units. These "temporary" structures were, however, not originally designed to be tourist cabins. Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 50. As of this writing, it is not known for certain if any of the Hazel Green or Owens Valley cabins have survived. The Phantom Ranch cabins at Grand Canyon designed by Mary Jane Coulter were not opened for business until 1922. "Phantom Ranch: A Walking Tour," NPS brochure (Grand Canyon Association: Grand Canyon, AZ, 2009). The Belton Chalet cottages date to 1911 but they are located just outside Glacier National Park. "The Historic Belton Chalet," Belton Chalet website [http://www.beltonchalet.com/railroad\\_history\\_belton\\_station.php](http://www.beltonchalet.com/railroad_history_belton_station.php) (April 23, 2009). The cabins at Glacier Park's Lake MacDonald Lodge were built in 1907 (before the present rustic MacDonald Lodge building) but the facility was at that time outside the National Park and not run by a concessioner. Lake MacDonald Lodge Historic District Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 1976 [amended 1996].

<sup>18</sup> At the time of the preparation of this document no formal comparative analysis was undertaken to prove that Camp Curry housed the oldest detached cabin rentals original to the National Park Service. A comparative analysis is beyond the scope of this CLR and it is suggested that one be conducted when the 1979 NR nomination for Camp Curry is amended. However, original research conducted as a part of this project supports this conclusion.

for Camp Curry Historic District as defined by its 1979 Nomination (1899-1924) or by the new parameters proposed in this study (1899-1936). Consequently, most structures and features listed as contributing to the Yosemite Valley Historic District are also contributing to the period of significance for this study.

The Yosemite Valley Historic District qualified for listing on the Register because it had national significance under criteria A and C. These criteria would also be applicable for amending Camp Curry Historic District under a redefined period of significance. Criterion A requires that “the property must make a contribution to the broad patterns of American history.” At the beginning of the twentieth century automobile tourism changed the face of America’s wild places in the space of a few decades. Visiting remote wonders became accessible to the general working-class public rather than a select few local residents or wealthy individuals with lots of leisure time on their hands. As the working-class crowds and resort competition grew, early auto-tourism operators worked every angle to anticipate the unprecedented demands of an industry with seemingly limitless growth potential. These early auto-tourism operators not only shaped their industry they also shaped the American public’s perceptions of what outdoor recreation should be. Camp Curry is a prime example of how this molding and re-molding unfolded. Its features and its history exemplify several of these transitions or attempted transitions: seasonal camping with basic amenities (tent lodging and food service), to seasonal camping with automobile era amenities (garage, gas pumps, tire shop), to seasonal camping with entertainment attractions (Firefall, swimming pool, dance hall, bowling alley, etc.), to year-round lodging and entertainment (bungalows and winter sports program). These transitions reflect general trends in auto-tourism across the nation during the first half of the twentieth century. What makes Camp Curry remarkable is that these transitions are all still clearly visible today in the camp’s largely intact cultural landscape.

National Register qualifying criterion C, “Design/Construction,” requires that structures within the district possess “distinctive characteristics ... through [their] construction and architecture, including having high artistic value or being the work of a master.” Several structures at Camp Curry have been identified as precedents for the early twentieth century architectural style that became known as “National Park Service Rustic.” Camp Curry buildings were among the first structures in a designated park to be deliberately designed to harmonize with their natural surroundings. The first Curry Dining Hall (built in 1901 but now non-extant) predated all other U.S. park-located rustic designed structures. The Curry Registration Building, completed in 1904, was built the same year as the first two officially recognized rustic-style structures built in park settings: Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone and Grand Canyon’s El Tovar Hotel.<sup>19</sup> The Rangers’ Club,

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<sup>19</sup> Yellowstone Park’s Old Faithful Inn was built during 1903-1904. The El Tovar

which was donated to the NPS by Stephen Mather in 1920, was the first rustic designed structure constructed for Park Service use. Perhaps the most distinctive design element incorporated in the Rangers' Club were the "heavy log pilasters" that "defined every edge of the building ... strengthening the connection between the building and surrounding forest edges."<sup>20</sup> Architect Charles Sumner was clearly influenced by the same vertical log design element already incorporated as a dominant theme in Camp Curry buildings.

In 1921, at the NPS landscape program's first headquarters at Yosemite National Park, Daniel P. Hull and Paul P. Kiessig drafted plans for the first two rustic-designed structures in the National Park System to be built by the National Park Service. The first of these, the Giant Trees Administration Building at Sequoia, showed remarkable design similarities to structures constructed at Camp Curry nearly twenty years earlier.

The exposed frame of the low, gable-roofed structure consisted of hand-split redwood posts; the space between the posts was filled with sequoia bark paneling. Shakes covered the pole-raftered roof. Both in coloring and in exterior textures the building harmonized well with its arboreal setting.<sup>21</sup>

The unique structural support components of the Sequoia Administration Building (posts with panel infill) more or less duplicated that of the Curry Registration Building (1906), Foster Curry Bungalow (1916), Mother Curry Bungalow (1917), and the Curry guest bungalows (1918).<sup>22</sup> The Administration building also shares other similarities with these structures: bark slab accents and a roof overhang built around adjacent trees. This unique combination of rustic features shared by both the Sequoia Administration Building and Curry Registration Building is difficult to write off as merely coincidental. It is, therefore, extremely unlikely that Hull and Keissig, when they designed the *first* National Park Service Rustic building built by the NPS in their office almost within sight of Camp Curry, were *not* influenced greatly by the style of its buildings. Curry Village is,

Hotel at Grand Canyon was completed in 1904 and opened for business in January 1905 (Grand Canyon did not become a National Monument until 1908). William C. Tweed, et al., *National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916-1942* (Oakland, CA: National Park Service Western Regional Office, 1977) website: [http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/rusticarch/part3.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/rusticarch/part3.htm). (March 27, 2009).

<sup>20</sup> "Rangers' Club," Yosemite National Park website <http://www.nps.gov/yose/historyculture/rangers-club.htm> (March 27, 2009).

<sup>21</sup> William Tweed, *NPS Rustic Architecture, 1916-1942* (website [http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/rusticarch/part3.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/rusticarch/part3.htm)).

<sup>22</sup> The Sequoia buildings employed a variation of the Curry design: "hand-split" (squared) rather than unpeeled log posts.

therefore, significant for its contributing role in the development of one of this nation's most important indigenous architectural designs, National Park Service Rustic.<sup>23</sup>

As Camp Curry evolved, the rustic design of buildings evolved as well. By 1929, more simplified rustic structures were being constructed. While it could be argued that these later rustic structures represent a significant enough change in design to warrant ending the period of significance in 1929, the structures, which include all of the “Bungalettes”, or Cabins without Baths and four 1930s comfort stations, represent an important part of Camp Curry History. While they lack the log detailing of earlier Curry buildings, they continue other rustic design principles including the use of native materials, notably wood shake roofing and siding. The last structure built in the rustic style in Camp Curry was built circa 1936, justifying extending the end of the period of significance to that date.

Camp Curry Historic District likely retains national historical significance in at least two Register criteria. This assertion will be decided upon when the Nomination for the Camp Curry Historic Districts has been amended.

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<sup>23</sup> While there is a strong argument to be made that the early rustic architecture built by concessioners at locations within National Parks (including Camp Curry) influenced the NPS to formally adopt National Park Service Rustic as the official architectural style for National Parks, there were undoubtedly other influences as well. Primary among these other influences was the “Great Camp” architectural style that was popularized in the Adirondack region of New York beginning in the 1870s. Signature elements of the Great Camp style are log construction, native stone work, decorative rustic work using twigs and branches, and self-sufficient, multi-building complexes.





## SITE HISTORY

### FOUNDATIONS: PRE-HISTORY TO 1899

The unique geologic forces that formed Yosemite Valley laid the foundations for a pattern of development that has continued to this day. Millions of years ago tectonic activity formed a chain of volcanoes fed by super-heated molten rock deep within the earth's crust. When this tectonic activity changed, the molten rock cooled and crystallized into plutons of solidified granite. The ancient mountain range was gradually worn down by erosion, eventually exposing the granitic rocks on the surface. Glaciers, some several thousand feet deep, gouged deep U-shaped valleys into the granitic rocks, steepening the valley walls. When the glaciers disappeared, the granitic walls loomed near vertically on both sides of the valley, often thousands of feet high. Rocks spalled from these walls built up large piles of debris, called talus, beneath the cliffs; rock falls continue today. Receding glaciers were replaced by the meandering Merced River, its headwaters percolated from the snow-capped High Sierras. The Merced gradually deposited a layer of fertile sediment hundreds of feet deep that flattened the valley floor. With adequate water, fertile soil, and almost impenetrable physical barriers on all sides, Yosemite Valley became a rich and well-fortified natural oasis.<sup>24</sup>

Yosemite Valley was occupied at least as early as 8,000 years ago, and the lower elevations may have been used as early as 9,500 years ago. The human history of the Yosemite region is complex, and shows evidence of likely culture and/or population change, extreme climatic change and varying levels of use. At the time of contact with non-Indians, Yosemite Valley was most likely seasonally inhabited by a mixed group of Miwok and Paiute peoples, possibly with other cultures from both west and north of the region represented.<sup>25</sup> Circa 1790, the community was severely impacted by illness, probably smallpox contracted from other infected American Indians from the coast.<sup>26</sup> Survivors fled in fear and the Valley remained unoccupied for several decades. Sometime between 1805 and 1820,

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<sup>24</sup> N. King Huber, "The Geologic Story of Yosemite Valley," *U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin No. 1595* (1987).

<sup>25</sup> Hicks, Morganstein and Hamilton. *Archeological Test and Data Recovery Excavations of Seven Sites in East Yosemite Valley*.

<sup>26</sup> Kathleen L. Hull. *Pestilence and Persistence: Yosemite Indian Demography and Culture in Colonial California*. 64

Tenaya, a descendant of an Ahwahneechee chief and Mono Lake Paiute woman, gathered remnants of the Ahwahneechee tribe and members of other tribes who were disaffected or dislocated and returned to Yosemite Valley. This new community was called the Yosemite. Under Tenaya's leadership, the tribe prospered.<sup>27</sup>

That prosperity was shattered in 1850. Hostilities between Mariposa area American Indians and local prospectors, traders, and gold miners erupted in repeated incidents of violence. In February 1851, the state governor authorized the formation of a volunteer Mariposa Battalion to put an end to the troubles. In search of the Yosemite Indians, the Mariposa Battalion were the first recorded non-Indians to ever enter Yosemite Valley. The federal government (and U.S. Army) intervened long enough to convince many of the area tribes to accept a treaty and move to a reservation (although none of these treaties were ever ratified by Congress). Many Yosemite Indians were relocated to federal reservations on the Fresno and Kings River, although most of the relocated Indians soon escaped and returned to their ancestral lands. The reservations were disbanded by 1861.<sup>28</sup> In late 1851, Tenaya was allowed to return to Yosemite Valley, and along with other Ahwahneechees, reestablished a presence of Yosemite Indians.

Stories circulated by members of the Mariposa Battalion soon brought curiosity seekers to Yosemite. One of these, James Mason Hutchings, published an account of his Valley exploration in the August 3, 1855 edition of the *Mariposa Gazette*. The story was quickly picked up by newspapers across the country. Within months Hutchings was eagerly marketing posters illustrating Yosemite Falls. By 1857, three routes were blazed into the Valley and tourism speculators were already staking out preemption claims on its floor. Two crude hotels opened, one of which was eventually acquired by Hutchings. During the early 1860s Yosemite received increased attention as artists, photographers, and journalists publicized its attractions nationally. It also received increased concern as speculative land-grabbers continued to gobble up the landscape and clutter it with shacks and rickety service structures. In 1864, a rapid chain of events led to Congressional passage of the Yosemite Grant Act. The Act turned Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees over to the State of California on condition that they be reserved and preserved for public enjoyment in perpetuity. This event marked the first time in world history that a federal government set aside land to be used as a public wilderness park.

The immediate problem facing the first Grant administrators was what to do with the preemption era tourist operators in Yosemite Valley. One of

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<sup>27</sup> Hank Johnston, *The Yosemite Grant, 1864-1906: A Pictorial History* (Yosemite Association: Yosemite California, 1995), 1-2.

<sup>28</sup> Bibby, *An Ethnographic Evolution of Yosemite Valley: The Native American Cultural Landscape*.

the earliest Euro-American pioneers to Yosemite Valley was James Lamon, who petitioned for a preemptive homestead claim there (although he was ultimately unsuccessful). In 1859-1860, Lamon had planted two large orchards in support of his homestead, one of which includes the trees in today's Curry parking area.<sup>29</sup> Following the passage of the Yosemite Grant Act in 1864, James Lamon was offered, and initially accepted, a ten year lease on his orchard properties. A similar lease was offered to James Mason Hutchings but he refused. Acceptance would have meant conceding he did not have rightful claim to his property. After a long battle in the press, courts, Congress, and state legislature, the preemptors, including Hutchings and Lamon, were bought out in 1874 for the all-inclusive and rather generous sum of \$50,000. In the meantime, Hutchings had built up a respectable business at his Hutchings House hotel. He also added a pair of "cottages" for additional lodging. Alexander Black, a Coulterville Trail hostelry operator, had acquired the old preempted Lower Hotel and built it up into a larger, two-story structure with a long wing of attached rooms. George Leidig, who had earlier operated Black's Lower Hotel, received the first uncontested concessioner lease in 1869. Leidig's Hotel was constructed near the entrance to Four-Mile Trail and opened for business the following year. Also in 1870, the Yosemite Grant Commissioners gave Albert Snow a concession lease to build a rest stop, "La Casa Nevada," below Nevada Fall. By 1875, he had added twelve rooms to the original small structure plus a detached gingerbread chalet with ten more bedrooms and a parlor.

During the first ten years of the Grant several other entrepreneurs built visitor lodging facilities along the routes into the Valley.<sup>30</sup> One aspiring hotel owner, James McCauley, constructed the Four-Mile toll trail from the Valley floor to Glacier Point and in 1874, obtained a lease to build the first functional hostelry at the overlook. Other tourism entrepreneurs were also experimenting with providing services beyond just lodging, transportation, or meals. A half mile from Black's Hotel, John C. Smith built the famed (or infamous) Cosmopolitan Saloon and Bathhouse in 1870, initially without the Commissioners' approval. The facility was furnished with a well-supplied, luxuriously-appointed bar, two billiard tables (packed in on mules), and enameled bathtubs supplied with Turkish towels.<sup>31</sup> As early as 1858, Stephen Cunningham, the second owner of the Lower Hotel, had installed a set of ladders for paying visitors to ascend the cliffs alongside Vernal Fall. In addition, the Yosemite Valley Indians proved to be a tourist attraction unto themselves. In particular, their handmade baskets became highly sought after souvenirs for early visitors to the park. The first recorded sale of a basket to a non-Indian in Yosemite occurred in 1869 and by 1904, according to Galen Clark, that "during the past few years a rapidly growing interest in the native Indian has been manifested

<sup>29</sup> *Draft Orchard Management Guidelines*, 35.

<sup>30</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 89-98.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, 100.

by a large majority of visitors to the Yosemite Valley. They have evinced a great desire...to purchase some articles of their artistic basketry and bead work.”<sup>32</sup>

Two other visitor service facilities during the Yosemite Grant’s early period are worth noting. Sometime around 1875, William J. Howard was given a lease on a small ramshackle saloon on the western shore of Mirror Lake. He built a mile-long toll road connecting his pub to the Valley and then extended a forty-by-sixty foot dance platform out over the lake. Howard’s Mirror Lake House was the liveliest location in the Valley until the Commissioners shut him down in 1879.<sup>33</sup> In 1876, the Commissioners granted Aaron Harris a lease to operate a campground on some of Lamon’s property near the present Ahwahnee Hotel. For \$450 per year Harris was allowed to run the homestead as a business, furnishing visitors with food, fodder, and a place to erect tents. Harris’ Royal Arch Farm campground was fairly successful and remained in operation from April 1878 until the fall of 1887 when the Lamon structures burned to the ground. The Commissioners refused to replace the buildings so Harris declined to return in 1888.<sup>34</sup>

By June of 1875, three separate wagon routes were completed into Yosemite and connected to a network of roadways, bridges, and service structures already on the Valley floor. Finally, after only a little more than a decade, the stage was set for rapid escalation of Yosemite Grant’s tourism. Unfortunately, the curtain came down on this optimistic second act rather abruptly. Visitation had climbed to 2,711 tourists in 1874, but collapsed the following year due to a severe world-wide depression.<sup>35</sup> The new proprietors of Hutchings House (James Hutchings was evicted in 1875) built a two-story thirteen-bedroom hotel on the site in 1876 only to lose it the same season to debts. The structure was then leased to John Barnard and he renamed it Yosemite Falls Hotel. By tempering thrift (paper partitions separating the bedrooms) with luxury (gourmet meals and the defunct Cosmopolitan’s fancy bathhouse fixtures), Barnard was able to stay in business until 1892. But it was a struggle. Eventually a disagreement with the Commissioners over rent and repairs led to litigation and his expulsion the following year. Alexander Black reacquired the lease on his old hotel from Charles Peregoy, who was also trying unsuccessfully to keep his Mountain View House stage stop outside the Valley afloat. Black invested little in maintenance and finally unloaded his cut-rate, run-down facility in 1880. John Jay Cook, and a partner who dropped out within a year, acquired Black’s Hotel and renamed it the Yosemite Valley Hotel.

<sup>32</sup> Bates and Lee, *Tradition and Innovation: A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area*, 73.

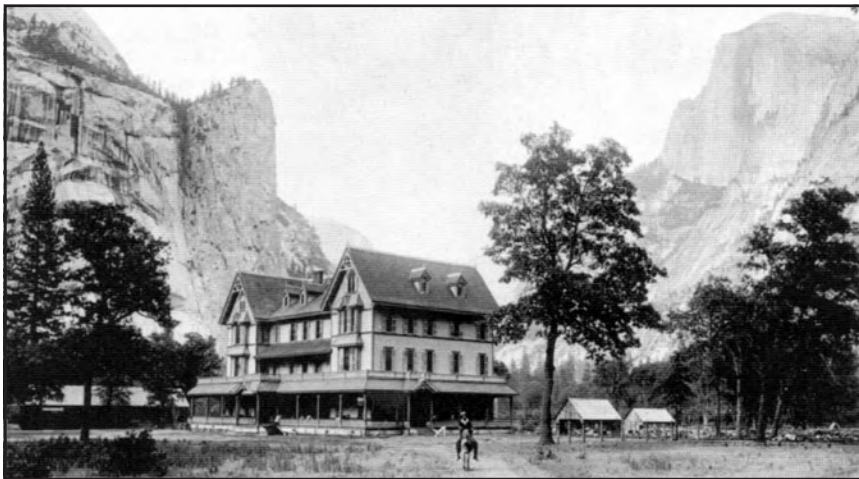
<sup>33</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 163-164.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, 177.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, 133.

Cook was a successful businessman with important financial and family connections to the Washburns. In spite of flagging visitation, Cook was able to keep the decrepit hostelry running until 1888 when the Commissioners gave him the concession for their newly built, four-story Stoneman House hotel. The Yosemite Valley Hotel was torn down the following year.<sup>36</sup>

With the building of the Stoneman House, the Yosemite Grant Commissioners attempted to take concession management in an entirely new direction. The State planned to invest in a facility designed on a much grander scale than anything private, seasonally-operating entrepreneurs could possibly afford to build, especially within the federally prescribed ten-year lease limits. To ensure a high rate of occupancy, and a reasonably quick return on the State's investment, the Commissioners proposed to build a luxury hotel and then simply eliminate the competition in the Valley by not renewing concession leases. Undoubtedly, for reasons of efficiency, the Commissioners were also desirous of seeing the lodging concession business within the Grant consolidated. This was, after all, the era of American industrial combinations. Leidig's Hotel was an early casualty of the Commissioner's plan. His lease was not renewed in 1888 and the Commissioners quickly ordered the building razed to avoid having to reject a renewed offer to reopen it.<sup>37</sup> Albert Snow, whose offer on Leidig's was rejected, could see the writing on the wall (he and his wife were also in poor health). Snow relinquished the lease on the La Casa Nevada hotel the following year and it was allowed to gradually fall apart until being accidentally burned to the ground in 1900.<sup>38</sup>



**Figure 6.** The Stoneman House (1888-1896) is believed to have been located west of the South Lamon Orchard in Stoneman Meadow, in part of the area that is known as Curry Village today. (L. Radanovich collection).

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 142-146.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 149.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 149-150.

The Stoneman House was a different kind of concession than anything attempted in the Valley up till then. An imposing four-story L-shaped building, it contained ninety-two rooms for lodging/service (excluding storage, toilets, etc.). Its design was described as “of slightly modern gothic suspicion.”<sup>39</sup> No other domicile or commercial structure in Yosemite had exceeded two levels and all had been either log or framed and clapboard-sided with little or no decoration. The concessioner arrangement with J.J. Cook was also innovative. Cook was given a ten year lease (the maximum allowed) at \$100 per month year round. He also paid \$350 per year for “other privileges” that included running a store and saloon in the hotel. The Stoneman House was an instant hit, lodging more than 2,200 guests between its grand opening in April 1888 and winter closure in November. However, several structural problems surfaced immediately. The chimneys were dangerously deficient, some having half inch cracks right through to the flue. A heavy snowfall during the hotel’s second winter crushed porches and displaced ceilings. Some repairs were made before another storm in 1890 damaged more of the structural foundation and frame. On August 24, 1896, a chimney fire completely destroyed the hotel.<sup>40</sup>

While other lodging facilities in the Valley floundered during the 1880s and 1890s, the Mountain House hotel at the Glacier Point overlook endured decades of exceptional stability. James McCauley acquired a ten year lease on Peregoy’s shack in 1874 and spent two years rebuilding it into a much larger hotel. He then sublet the Mountain House for three years until he found a bride to help with operations. James and wife Barbara ran the hotel until 1897. Visitation was never very good, but the resourceful McCauleys found various ways to make ends meet, including initiating the famous Firefall. Each day after school the McCauley twins collected a \$1.50 fee from Valley tourists desiring the spectacle. The boys then rode their burros up the Four Mile Trail to home and placed the orders with their father. If they had found paying customers, James would build a bonfire at the edge of the cliff and, after it was dark, push the embers over the edge for the viewing pleasure of all in the Valley.<sup>41</sup>

The Commissioners, feeling public pressure for trying to force out Valley lodging competition in favor of their Stoneman House, gave the lease on Barnard’s cheaply-built Yosemite Falls Hotel to A.B. Glasscock, another associate of the Washburn brothers. Considerable renovations during 1893-1894 put the renamed Sentinel House in first-class condition and looking very much like the Washburns’ Wawona Hotel just south of the newly created Yosemite National Park. The loss of the Stoneman House two years later sent the Commissioners scrambling. With an abrupt end to the depression that year, visitation to the Valley was already soaring. The

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 155.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 159-160.



Sentinel, now under J.B. Cook's management after Glasscock's death in 1897, was remodeled to add eight more rooms. The old Cosmopolitan saloon was refitted with fourteen bedrooms, and a new twenty-four-room structure, the Oak Cottage, was also added to the complex. Even with these improvements, the Sentinel Hotel and its cottages could still only handle about two-hundred guests.<sup>42</sup>

In 1899, visitation continued to increase but lodging accommodations were still lagging behind where they had been ten years earlier at the peak of the depression. What was available was also considered pricey, even for improved economic times. The Stoneman House formerly offered rooms at \$3.00 to \$4.00 per day. After the Stoneman House fire in 1896, its American plan rates (rooms with meals) were adopted by the Sentinel which had formerly only offered European plan (rooms without meals) at \$1.00 to \$2.00.<sup>43</sup> After being considerably remodeled and reopened under the Cooks' management in 1899, even the formerly thrifty rooms at Glacier Point were no longer available to the cost-conscious.

To further complicate matters, administration of the Yosemite Grant seemed to be in a perpetual state of uncertainty. Between 1880 and 1889, the guardian position was vacated five times. Galen Clark, the first guardian, was reinstated in 1889 and retained the position for a decade, finally retiring at age eighty-three. The California legislature and the Commissioners were engaged in annual standoffs over funding and management. Heavy-handed treatment of concessioners and the Commissioners' apparent favoritism for the Washburn interests led to embarrassing investigations and litigation. After Yosemite National Park was created in 1890, the Commissioners felt pressure from the U.S. Army to better administer the park. The Yosemite Grant had always somehow managed to survive in a sea of controversy, but it was now surrounded by a new, better-administered, and unsullied national park. The Yosemite Grant's days were numbered.

Into this golden opportunity of escalating demand, inadequate visitor services, and administrative limbo stepped an enterprising and charismatic California teaching couple. David and Jennie Curry arrived in the Valley during the summer of 1899. They would eventually spend the rest of their lives setting the standard for innovative concessioner management in Yosemite National Park.

## THE DAVID CURRY YEARS, 1899-1918

David and Jennie Curry were both born around 1860 and raised on Indiana

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 209.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 207.



Figure 7. A picture of the Camp Curry taken during its inaugural year of 1899. (YOSE Research Library).

farms. They shared a love for learning, Christian morality, industriousness, and, after meeting at Indiana University, each other. Both were trained educators and, in spite of the difficult times, found jobs in their fields after their marriage in 1886. Five years later their church persuaded them to move west and take positions at the Congregationalists' new Ogden Academy in Utah. Trained in geology, they were naturally attracted to nearby Yellowstone National Park's natural wonders. By coincidence, they became involved in organizing annual faculty trips to the park. In 1895, with three very young children in tow, they relocated to California and, on recommendation from David Starr Jordan, their former mentor from Indiana and the newly-elected president of Stanford University, David accepted a position as principal of San Mateo County's new Sequoia High School. Jennie was also hired as a teacher but the two of them together grossed only \$125 per month.<sup>44</sup> To supplement their meager income, David continued to operate the summer tours to Yellowstone. However, the Currys were both brought up with a strong respect for close family ties. Their fractured lifestyle in Redwood City could only have been viewed as temporary. In 1898, they toyed with the idea of dropping out of teaching and starting a permanently situated camping operation in Yosemite. After receiving encouragement (and some financial support) from Jordan and Rufus Green, a cousin of Jennie Curry's who was also on staff at Stanford, the plan took shape. On the first of June the following summer, Green and another cousin, Will Thomson, arrived in Yosemite with a wagon load of equipment to select a site and erect the new camp (the Currys were still under contract at Sequoia High). Green and Thomson decided to set up

<sup>44</sup> Shirley Sargent, *Yosemite and Its Innkeepers: The Story of a Great Park and Its Chief Concessionaires* (Flying Spur Press: Yosemite, CA, 1975), 22.



operations between the former site of the Stoneman House and the foot of Glacier Point. Their choice was at least partly influenced by a desire to acquire the remnants of a large family camp erected by a prominent San Francisco lawyer the year before.<sup>45</sup>

By mid-June, David and Jennie had arrived. Before the summer was over their new Camp Sequoia was renamed Camp Curry (the Currys wished to sever all possible connection to the name of their former employer). Seven tents blossomed into twenty-five and by the end of the season 290 guests had been served with lodging and meals at a mere \$12.00 per week.<sup>46</sup> The first season was a huge success and David spent the following winter reinvesting profits and scheming on improvements. The Curry's knew they were onto something big and David was already planning to open other operations at Lake Tahoe and Mount Shasta. Their Yosemite camp was still relatively primitive and that concerned Jennie more than aspirations for expansion. Meals were cooked and served in a large tent and sewage treatment was limited to the bottom of the camp's outhouses. The only structure to speak of was the landing platform for incoming horse-drawn stages.<sup>47</sup> Fortunately, the camp had something going for it besides low cost and beautiful scenery. Burly, boisterous, gregarious, and thoroughly down-to-earth, David Curry was the epitome of a perfect camp host.

Thanks to Jennie Curry's tempering of David's exuberance, plans for expansion outside Yosemite were put on hold and Camp Curry was allowed to expand cautiously.<sup>48</sup> By season opening in 1901, the camp contained 40-50 guest tents and two larger 28 by 48 foot dining tents. During the previous season, 410 lodgers registered, and that number nearly doubled in 1901 to 715.<sup>49</sup> With the arrival of the first automobile in the Valley in 1900 and another one at Camp Curry the following year, the Currys could envision an exponentially increasing demand for their service that would continue well into the foreseeable future.<sup>50</sup>

The other big event for 1901 was the construction of the camp's first permanent building, a "tall, bleak" dining hall.<sup>51</sup> Its rustic design included long shake siding accented with vertical unfinished slabs.<sup>52</sup> The bark slab

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 17.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., 23-24; "The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You," 1922 brochure, Yosemite Research Library Collection.

<sup>47</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 22

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., 35.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>50</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 217; Hank Johnston, *Ho! For Yo-Semite* (Yosemite Association: Yosemite, CA, 2000), 120.

<sup>51</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 28.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., 31.



Figure 8. A picture of the LeConte Memorial Lodge (ca. 1910) prior to its relocation. (YOSE Research Library).

motif became, and remains, a trademark of Camp Curry structures. The dining room's rustic design was a marked departure from the imposing, whitewashed, clapboard sided, Wawona-type lodging buildings that had up till then exclusively dominated Yosemite's structural landscape. Curry was clearly trying to maintain an appealing structural design theme of natural unobtrusiveness that would compliment the facility's camping character. The Curry dining hall was one of the earliest rustic designed visitor service structures in Yosemite. This building was a forerunner for the National Park Service Rustic architectural style developed by the NPS Design Office that was originally based in Yosemite. By 1901, running water had been piped into the camp, no doubt using the same pipe and "inexhaustible" Glacier Point spring abandoned in 1897 when the Stoneman House burned.<sup>53</sup> With running water in place, a sewer, flush toilets, and a bathhouse were added in 1902.<sup>54</sup>

The Curry's were deeply moved when Sierra Club founding member Professor Joseph LeConte died of a heart attack at Camp Curry on July 5, 1901. Like LeConte, David Curry was a devoted naturalist educator and an ardent supporter of Yosemite interpretation. Shortly after his death, Curry erected a rock cairn memorial at the site of LeConte's tent.<sup>55</sup> Two years later, the Sierra Club commissioned and constructed the first LeConte Memorial Lodge in the talus boulders about a thousand feet from the boundary of Camp Curry.<sup>56</sup>

It is not known exactly when David Curry reestablished the Firefall attraction that had been discontinued in 1897 when the McCauleys' were ejected from Glacier Point. Curry may have resumed the tradition as early as the 1900 or 1901 seasons, but with a few added embellishments. Instead of sending children up the Ledge Trail on a burro with the message, the self-styled entertainer bellowed the command from the Curry campfire circle, "Let'er go, Gallagher." In fact, David Curry's reputation for a loud voice was so great that he was often referred to by his nickname, "The Stentor", who was a captain in ancient Greece who had a mythologically loud voice. By inserting his own unique and irreplaceable personality into the Firefall program, David Curry ensured that visitors would be attracted to Camp Curry if they wanted to experience the complete spectacle.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>53</sup> "Camp Curry Yosemite," 1901 brochure, YPRL collection; Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 155.

<sup>54</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 29. The 1901 Camp Curry brochure indicates baths were provided for fifty cents, although bathing in the Merced was free. At that time baths may have been provided in a tent.

<sup>55</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 28.

<sup>56</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-79.

<sup>57</sup> In later years, after Curry died, another attraction replaced the Stentor's bellowing. During the Firefall, a select female staff member would sing Rudolf Friml's vibrato-ous "Indian Love Call." Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 29.

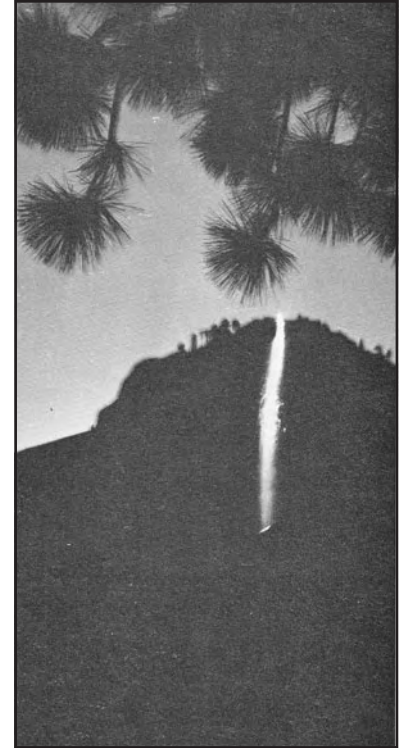
The Currys' camping operation proved profitable, but they had difficulty trying to expand to meet the growing demand for their service. Even in the flush times after the turn of the century, obtaining loans for working capital with only a yearly lease and chattels for collateral was almost impossible. Fortunately, George Parkinson of the Bank of Palo Alto was a close friend of Stanford President David Starr Jordan, who was a close friend to the Currys. In spite of high risks, the bank provided crucial funds to finance expansion and keep the operation running and growing, especially during its early years. In 1904, thanks to Parkinson, Curry finally had enough working capital to fulfill his early ambition of expanding the camping operation beyond Yosemite Valley. Property at Hazel Green, a stage stop near the present day Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park, was acquired, and a new camp, with the Curry's trademark dining room and tents, was quickly erected. At Hazel Green, David Curry first experimented with a new recreational lodging innovation: cabin accommodations.<sup>58</sup> Improvements at Camp Curry that year included a Registration Office and new stage loading platform. The Registration Office, designed in the same style as the dining hall, is one of the oldest extant rustic architecture buildings in the National Park System.<sup>59</sup>

Operating on a yearly lease had its disadvantages, but lax regulatory enforcement during the final years of Yosemite Grant administration made it at least tolerable for David Curry. All that changed in 1906 when the Valley was ceded back to the federal government and incorporated into Yosemite National Park. Curry undoubtedly expected that he might have to trade some of his former operational liberties for a longer lease. He was disappointed on both counts. In 1907 the U.S. Army's park administrator informed the Currys that he had every intention of terminating the camp's lease unless the operation was brought into line with sanitary sewage requirements. Rather than increasing the camp's capacity to five hundred visitors as he had planned, David Curry was compelled to reduce it to two hundred.<sup>60</sup> He was also informed that his operation could not expect more than a year-by-year lease arrangement. The Army also banned automobiles from the park and dashed Curry's expectations of increased business from car traffic.

<sup>58</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 32. By comparison, the Belton Chalet cabins at the entrance to present day Glacier Park were not constructed until 1910. The cabins at Lake MacDonald Lodge, also now in Glacier Park, were built in 1907. These appear to be the oldest extant tourist cabins in the present National Park System, although the Lake MacDonald Lodge property was not incorporated into Glacier Park until 1930.

<sup>59</sup> The Camp Curry Registration Office shares this honor with Yellowstone's Old Faithful Inn and Grand Canyon's El Tovar Hotel, both also constructed in 1904. (Based on original research conducted by Yosemite Historian and Camp Curry CLR author Patrick Chapin).

<sup>60</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 33.



**Figure 9.** The Firefall was a popular attraction at Camp Curry from the early 1900s until it was discontinued in 1968. (YOSE Research Library).

As it turned out, the Yosemite Valley Railroad opened that same year, providing a connection between El Portal at the west end of the park and Merced approximately 70 miles away where there were rail connections to the Southern Pacific Railroad. Although David Curry was still having problems with the Washburns' stage transportation monopoly, the new rail service would prove to be particularly beneficial for Camp Curry. As visitation patterns changed to predominantly short-term rather than weeks at a time, time became less of a factor and more working-class visitors with tighter budgets were able to visit Yosemite.<sup>61</sup> Camp Curry fit the bill for the demands of this sudden transition in visitation.

Others were quick to grasp the changing trend in business. The Washburns had established their tent camp at the foot of Yosemite Falls in 1900. Although initially somewhat successful, Camp Lost Arrow lost its competitive edge after its celebrity host, Galen Clark, died in 1910.<sup>62</sup> In 1908, William Sell, Jr., son of one of the principle investors in the new Del Portal Hotel, opened a tent camp operation at the site of the old Leidig's Hotel. Sell's Camp Ahwahnee was more competitive than Lost Arrow, taking full advantage of its much more pleasant location and, of course, his father's ability to redirect visitors arriving at the El Portal railway terminus.

Apparently, David Curry continued to expand the camp, ignoring the Army's warnings about sewage sanitation problems. Overflow from the septic system became a common and unpleasant occurrence, especially during peak visitation in mid-summer.<sup>63</sup> A crisis erupted in 1910, with the Army again threatening to shut down or relocate the operation. This time, Curry went on the offensive, launching a massive publicity campaign and enlisting the aid of newspapers and congressmen. In spite of the health hazard, the Army backed down.

In 1911, the same year David Curry was diagnosed with diabetes, the Yosemite operation was incorporated as Curry Camping Company. It is likely that the move to incorporate was at least partly due to David Curry's health. Initially, the family held all the stock, but the company at least now had a few more options for raising capital. And extra cash was needed. The Currys were once again trying to expand beyond Yosemite, this time opening a tent camp at Lynden Glen south of Los Gatos, California. David put his young son, Foster, in charge, hoping he would learn the business by standing on his own. Thinking they could capitalize on winter visitation, the Currys tried to keep the camp open during the winter. Unfortunately, the Los Gatos camp folded in a year.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> By 1912 only 954 guests checked in at Camp Lost Arrow as opposed to 3,516 at Camp Curry. Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 42.

<sup>63</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 40.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., 37.



**Figure 10.** The distinctive swimming tank and bath house, photographed shortly after their construction in 1913. Both features were constructed primarily of mortared river cobbles. (L. Radanovich collection).

The Currys suffered a much more severe financial setback the following year. At the peak of the 1912 season a fire broke out in the laundry and quickly engulfed the dining room, bakery, kitchen, and ice house before spreading to the tents. Damage was estimated at \$12,000 and nothing was insured. For David Curry, things only went from bad to worse in 1913. During the summer, while the camp's central complex was being rebuilt, David Curry traveled to Washington, D.C. to insist that the Department of Interior give him a long-term lease as well as "certain new privileges." The new Assistant Secretary of Interior, Adolph Miller, was not receptive to Curry's demanding demeanor and sent him away with much less than he had when he arrived. As a punitive measure, Miller ordered that the Firefall cease.<sup>65</sup> Fortunately, completion of Camp Curry's new swimming pool and auditorium/dance pavilion that same year helped offset the loss of this crucial attraction. Camp Curry's central complex also now included a cafeteria and a river cobble masonry bathhouse next to the pool. Perhaps as a result of his humiliation at the hands of the Assistant Director, Curry finally upgraded the sewer system in 1913.<sup>66</sup> The following year a back-country equipment rental service was opened in the "porters' porch" of the Registration Office.<sup>67</sup>

Automotive access to the Valley was finally restored in 1913, although the restrictions were so onerous and complicated many car owners simply gave up and avoided the park. One regulation required that all vehicles be parked inside a garage when not in use either coming into or leaving the

<sup>65</sup> Ibid., 42.

<sup>66</sup> *Yosemite Valley Cultural Landscape Report, October 1994*, Vol. 1 (Yosemite National Park: US National Park Service, 1994), 2-81.

<sup>67</sup> "The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You," 1922 brochure, YPRL collection.



park.<sup>68</sup> The new parking garage business was lucrative and David Curry wanted to open a similar facility to attract lodgers. A garage at Camp Curry was likely one of the “certain new privileges” he tried unsuccessfully to obtain in Washington earlier that year. Camp Curry would not get its parking garage until 1920.

In 1917, Stephen Tyng Mather became the first director of the National Park Service, the new government agency assigned to replace the Army as park administrators and to fulfill purposes outlined in the Organic Act of 1916. Mather made it clear from the beginning that he wanted to see all Yosemite concessions consolidated, but not under the leadership of the Curry family. A consortium headed by D.J. Desmond of San Francisco emerged as the favorite. Before the lease was signed on June 1, 1915, Desmond’s new company was already in the process of refitting the Army’s old Camp Yosemite into a “temporary” lodging facility. Although snubbed, David Curry was too busy with expanding the camp to pay much attention to developments at the new Yosemite Lodge. In anticipation of spill-over crowds from the upcoming Pan-Pacific International Exposition, the Park Service had authorized Curry to build 300 more tent frames, increasing overnight capacity to 1,000 guests.<sup>69</sup> As a result of the Exposition and the National Park Service opening the park to motor vehicles, annual visitation doubled in 1915.<sup>70</sup> Camp Curry lodged an astonishing 11,715 guests in 540 tents. Automobile visitation to Yosemite increased to 4,043 from 2,270 in 1915 and only 739 in 1914.<sup>71</sup>

The camp was doing a booming business but David Curry was still not happy. He became increasingly agitated with the favors shown Desmond & Company. In particular, Curry was angry about an illegal bar that the Park Service was allowing Desmond to operate at Yosemite Lodge. Then, in September 1915, the Secretary of the Interior proposed a plan for monopolizing the park’s concessioners under the hegemony of Desmond. A few days later tempers flared, and Curry received a black eye in Desmond’s office. The Secretary summoned all parties to Washington and, as a result of David Curry’s bad behavior during the meeting, Desmond received a twenty-year lease for every other lodging concession in the park. The Currys were kept in suspense for several weeks but finally given permission to continue on the usual year-by-year basis. They were also only allowed to provide American plan service.<sup>72</sup>

With the Firefall still banned, and all the competition lined up under the

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<sup>68</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 219.

<sup>69</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 51.

<sup>70</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 219.

<sup>71</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 219.

<sup>72</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 57, 58.



**Figure 11.** The Mother Curry bungalow was built in 1917 following the construction of the Foster Curry cabin. Prior to this time, the Curry family had lived in tent cabins. (YOSE Research Library).

same management against him, David Curry was desperate for a crowd-pleaser to help sustain an edge on Desmond. In 1915, he converted the south veranda of the Registration Building into a stage for nightly performances by a vaudeville talent, Mrs. Grace Jillson, whom Curry had scouted at a San Diego hotel during the Exposition. Jillson was an instant Yosemite celebrity and became an institution at Camp Curry.<sup>73</sup>

By 1916, Foster Curry was tiring of tent life. He had married in 1912 and by 1916 the young couple had a three year-old toddler to contain. Against his father's objections Foster erected the first hard-sided, or at least partly hard-sided, dwelling in the Camp Curry complex. The Foster Curry Bungalow, like its namesake, was an unusual structure. It was attached to a huge boulder high up in the talus slope on the southern fringe of the camp. To keep peace with his father, Foster's Bungalow utilized roll up canvas walls on three sides of the living room. The building's exterior incorporated the traditional Curry rustic motif: unpeeled slabs, unpainted shakes, etc., but the interior was substantially more extravagant, especially the bathroom. Foster was convinced that cabin rentals similar to his bungalow would phase out tents in the coming automobile age, but his father was hesitant. Perhaps memories of the Hazel Green failure were still too fresh. Or possibly David wanted to wait and see how well the pre-fabricated twelve-by-fourteen-

<sup>73</sup> "Camp Curry" brochures from 1921, 1923 and 1928. Yosemite Research Library brochures collection.



Figure 12. The Camp Curry sawmill, built by Foster Curry primarily to replace tent cabins with hard-sided cabins that could be rented out year-round. (YOSE Research Library).

foot cabins salvaged from Desmond's labor camps at the Owens Valley Canal project worked out as "temporary" Yosemite Lodge rentals.<sup>74</sup>

As it turned out, David Curry need not have been so anxious about Desmond's Yosemite Park Company. It was self-destructing more or less unassisted. Four newly constructed mountain lodges consumed valuable scarce capital while yielding little prospect of showing any return on the investment. Both the new Glacier Point Hotel and the unsuccessful Grizzly Hotel in the Valley were losing money. By early 1916, Desmond's extravagant mismanagement was also becoming difficult for Mather to ignore. The Park Service finally had to accept the fact that, although David Curry was a challenge to work with, he was nevertheless running the park's only solid concession operation. A frightening specter loomed ominous: if the NPS managed to put Curry out of business, as it intended, and if Desmond folded, which was a distinct possibility, then the park might be left with no Yosemite Valley lodging facilities whatsoever. This sudden burst of clarity caused the Department of the Interior to reverse its attitude towards Camp Curry. On March 8, 1917, the Currys were given a five-year lease. They were also allowed to increase rates and start selling postcards. The Park Service promised to repair the Camp Curry based Ledge Trail, and the Firefall was restored.<sup>75</sup>

David Curry did not live long enough to take advantage of this unexpected victory. By the time the Currys received the news, David had already injured his foot slightly in a trivial accident. Complications from his diabetes led to an amputation and blood poisoning. On April 30, 1917, he died at German

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., 50.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid., 63.



Hospital in San Francisco.

### **GROWTH AND DISCORD: CURRY AND THE ROARING TWENTIES, 1917-1929**

There was no question that Foster Curry would step into his father's place as head of Curry Camping Company. The real question was whether he was ready for the responsibility. Foster was clever and affable but he was also known to be temperamental.

Shortly before David Curry died, Stephen Mather had a nervous breakdown and Horace Albright assumed the Director's duties. Once Mather was out of control, Albright, who had always had a soft spot for Mother Curry, orchestrated the Park Service's sudden change of heart towards Camp Curry. He really had little option since Desmond's operation was going down fast. The Grizzly Hotel construction ran out of money and the Glacier Point Hotel was a white elephant from the day its doors opened in 1917. Coincidentally, both the brand new El Capitan Camp and the Del Portal Hotel burned to the ground. Foster eagerly explored the possibility of a takeover with Desmond's successor A.B.C. Dorhman. The National Park Service was not supportive and the discussions ended.<sup>76</sup>

Young Foster had no shortage of ideas or ambition. Immediately after his father died, he seized upon the favorable climate during Albright's temporary ascension. Curry Camping Company somehow managed to find enough scarce wartime loans to finance a massive face-lift for Camp



**Figure 13.** Rows of rustic bungalows that were constructed at Camp Curry between 1918-1922. (YOSE Research Library).

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<sup>76</sup> Ibid., 64.



Figure 14. The interior of the bowling alley, constructed in 1918. (L Radanovich collection).

Curry.<sup>77</sup> First, a sawmill was erected east of the 600 block of guest tents to produce lumber for Foster's new building projects.<sup>78</sup> He had always disliked the tents and was anxious to see them replaced with rental cabins. In 1918, fifteen duplex bungalows were constructed west of the central complex. As Foster's cottage was being rebuilt (after being nearly destroyed by a fallen tree the year before),<sup>79</sup> construction also commenced on a bungalow residence for Mother Curry located between the new rental bungalows and the central complex. Each of the new guest bungalows and the two Curry residences were furnished with electricity, hot and cold running water, and a shared bath. Sometime before 1925, seven "bungalettes" (guest cabins without bath) were also constructed on the north edge of the 400 block of guest tents. Considering that they bore a very strong resemblance to Foster's bungalow (half-walls with drop down canvas curtains), it is likely that these first seven bungalettes were constructed at the same time as Foster's residence.

Camp Curry's lease boundaries were extended in 1918 to include the guest bungalow addition to the west. The Sierra Club was, however, not happy with the prospect of a sub-development of rental units engulfing their recently constructed LeConte Memorial Lodge. In 1919, as a friendly gesture to the influential Sierra Club, Jennie Curry agreed to contribute

<sup>77</sup> Various entries, Curry Camping Company Corporate *Minute Book*, Yosemite Archives, Curry Company Collection.

<sup>78</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-82; "Camp Curry Automobile Road Guide," 1921 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>79</sup> Mother Curry correspondence quoted in Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 63.



Figure 15. The Camp Curry garage was constructed in 1923. (YOSE Research Library).

\$3,500 towards the cost of moving the Lodge to its present less secluded location.<sup>80</sup>

Young Foster Curry was anxious to prove himself by expanding on his father's tradition of supplying novel entertainment and cutting-edge amenities. In 1918 a new "Studio" attached to the central complex provided guests with photographic dark room developing and a small variety of sundries. Behind the dance pavilion, Foster erected a bowling alley and men's lounge/billiard room. Service structure facilities constructed in 1918 included a storehouse, a repair shop, and an addition to the registration office.<sup>81</sup> Other structures completed by 1920 included two more bungalows, an addition to the sawmill, a movie booth on the back of the Registration Building (the screen was hung from trees), a new bathhouse, a refrigeration plant, a concrete electrical transformer bunker, and a 240-vehicle parking garage.<sup>82</sup> By then a barber shop and beauty shop had also been installed in the swimming pool bathhouse.<sup>83</sup>

Mather was back to work by 1920 and providing his own significant cash infusion (\$200,000) to keep Dorhman's floundering Yosemite Park Company afloat. At this time, Mather also gave Curry Company its first twenty-year lease.<sup>84</sup> Long-term security, a proven track record of

<sup>80</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 70.

<sup>81</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 69.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*, 72.

<sup>83</sup> "Camp Curry Automobile Road Guide," 1921 brochure; "The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You," 1922 brochure, both from YPRL collection.

<sup>84</sup> The lease was actually only nineteen years so that its term would coincide with Yosemite Park Company's existing lease. *Ibid.*, 71.

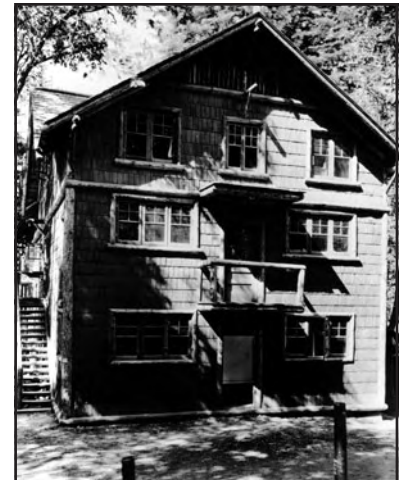


Figure 16. A three-story log frame build at Camp Curry believed to be the men's dormitory. The mens dormitory was razed in 1961. demolished. (L. Radanovich collection).

profitability, easy credit, and National Park Service indifference opened the door for further expansion of Camp Curry. In 1921, a Kiddie Kamp, complete with miniature train, was built between Mother Curry's cottage and the bungalows.<sup>85</sup> To accommodate day-use auto tourists, a "fully equipped electric grill" was added to the Studio to provide "European plan" fast food service. The Studio also contained a soda fountain with a "spotless candy kitchen."<sup>86</sup> A central boiler had been installed to heat the dining room, Studio, and, presumably, the pool. The guest tents were gradually being electrified and the first seven canvas-sided bungalows were converted to hard-sided.<sup>87</sup>

Sometime during the middle of the 1921 summer season, something happened that led to Foster Curry's abrupt departure from Camp Curry management. According to one account, the Park Service finally lost patience with Foster's bad behavior and evicted him from Yosemite. Whereas David had carefully reserved his vituperation for competitors or Park Service officials, Foster became increasingly abusive towards visitors. After he reportedly roughed up a driver who froze at the wheel on the road to Glacier Point, Superintendent Lewis informed the family that Foster would have to go at the end of the year.<sup>88</sup> This account does not, however, explain the subsequent acrimony between the Curry family siblings. Foster's shares were acquired, but not without great difficulty. He apparently received the price he demanded and it was not modest. The company's resources and credit were strained to the limit. Foster left and vowed never to return, and he never did. Apparently, he never again spoke to his sister, Mary. By this time Mary had married young Dr. Don Tresidder, a former summer employee. Marjorie, the other Curry sibling, had married Bob Williams, a successful businessman. Both men were named as assistant managers to "Mother" Jennie Curry.

In spite of this difficult corporate transition, the camp continued to expand operations. In 1922, \$32,000 was raised to construct thirty-one more bungalows, including one built as a residence for the Rufus Green family.<sup>89</sup> The Women's Club for female employees was built on the Terrace and a Men's Dormitory was erected just east of the central complex. A dog-leg-shaped warehouse structure was also built just south of the new Men's Dorm.<sup>90</sup> The central complex was expanded to include a new store and a service building that housed the ice-plant, bakery, storehouse, and

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<sup>85</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 76.

<sup>86</sup> "Camp Curry Automobile Road Guide," 1921 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*; *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-83.

<sup>88</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 74.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*, 76.

<sup>90</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-83.



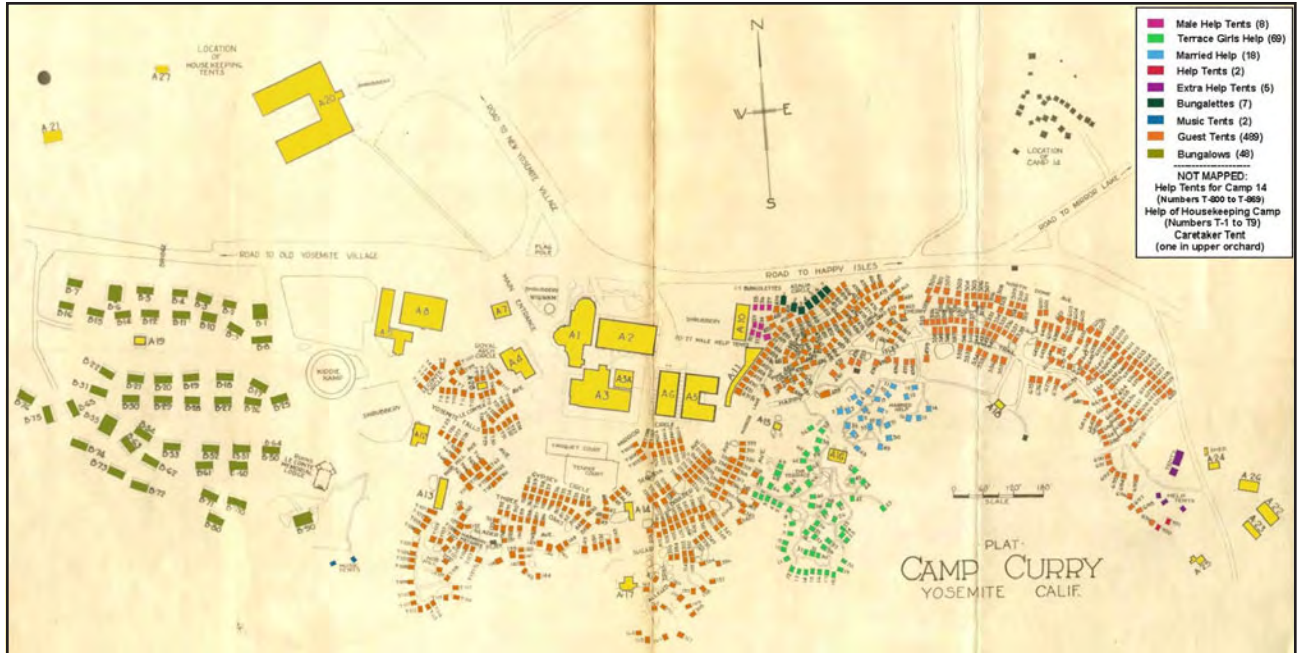


Figure 17. 1925 map of Camp Curry, with colors coding added for additional clarity. A larger print of this map is available in Appendix E.

employees' cafeteria.<sup>91</sup> Visitors arriving on buses hourly at Camp Curry to one of 600 guest tents or 90 bungalow rooms might be met by the shoe shine man at his new stand in the Registration Office's "porters' porch."<sup>92</sup>

The following year, at the annual concessioner meeting with Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall, Camp Curry was awarded several new concessions. After years of being denied, a full service automobile garage was authorized and quickly added to the northeast end of the old Curry parking garage. The Currys were also given permission to build a new "Housekeeping Camp" (tents provided and guests furnish their own linen and food). By season opening, ten housekeeping units were in place west of the garage.<sup>93</sup> And finally, Camp Curry could start selling "family groceries" out of their new store to any park visitor rather than only to their registered guests.<sup>94</sup> Also in 1923, Camp Curry first experimented with European plan lodging, setting aside an entire block of tents for guests who wanted to buy their meals somewhere else.<sup>95</sup> Other 1923 expansions were unrelated to Secretary Fall's generosity. Charles Peterson, who had been keeping the books for Camp

<sup>91</sup> "The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You," 1922 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> "Camp Curry," 1923 brochure, YPRL collection; "Camp Curry Housekeeping Department," undated brochure but almost certainly 1923, YPRL collection.

<sup>94</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 81.

<sup>95</sup> "Camp Curry," 1923 brochure, YPRL collection.

Curry since 1918, passed his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam and was rewarded with his own residence built west of the housekeeping units.<sup>96</sup> The dance floor in the Pavilion was expanded outdoors, effectively doubling dancing capacity to four hundred couples.<sup>97</sup>

The Yosemite Park Company appealed the 1923 concessions contract given to Camp Curry. This futile attempt only served to accentuate the years of constant acrimonious bickering between Yosemite's two major concessioners. It was more than new Interior Secretary, Hubert Work, could stomach. In 1924, he ordered Mather and Albright to get the concessioners to merge or they would be replaced when their leases expired. Negotiations moved along rather quickly once Mather called in his \$200,000 loan to Dorhmann. A public announcement on February 21, 1925 confirmed the merger and revealed the terms.<sup>98</sup> The new concessioner, Yosemite Park & Curry Company, was headed by Don Tresidder. To complete the deal, an inventory of all Camp Curry assets was completed in 1925. For the first time a detailed and complete picture of the operation emerged, including a map and descriptions of every structure, road, path, and tent.<sup>99</sup>

Immediately after the concessioner consolidation, Don Tresidder focused on completing the work Foster Curry started in 1918: replacing the tents with hard-sided rentals. Apparently, during the merger negotiations, Secretary Work had expressed his approval for this transition. However, the plan was never to build more bungalow duplexes (they were expensive to build and utility/sewer hookups would have entailed a massive upgrade project). Rather, the tents were to be replaced with bungalettes (economically built cabins without bath).<sup>100</sup>

However, two events derailed the transition. First, the "All-Year Highway" linking Merced with Yosemite Valley via Mariposa, Midpines, and El

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<sup>96</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 76. Peterson played a crucial role in the prosperity and survival of Camp Curry during its early years. Neither David nor Jennie Curry had any experience running a business and the company books were essentially non-existent when Peterson came on board. *Ibid.*, 68.

<sup>97</sup> "Curry Company," 1923 brochure, YPRL collection. By 1926, the dance floor was being used nightly. Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 105.

<sup>98</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 82.

<sup>99</sup> "Appraisal Summaries," Yosemite Archives, YP&CCo Collection, Acc. 5000, Series II, Subseries S. The arrangement of the Housekeeping Units was not shown on the map and the tents in present Boys Town seem to have been drawn in rather haphazardly.

<sup>100</sup> Correspondence, Don Tresidder to Supt. Lewis, February 24, 1927. (Yosemite Archives, Old Central Files Collection [hereinafter "YA, OCF"], Series 10, Box 52, File 426). The design was approved the following year and one hundred bungalettes were authorized to be built to replace tents. Correspondence, Supt. W.B. Lewis to Don Tresidder, March 31, 1927 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).



Portal was completed in 1926. The unprecedented 690 per cent increase in annual visitation caught the Park Service and the YP&CCo completely by surprise.<sup>101</sup> Existing facilities were not capable of handling the demand for more lodging and amenities and, for the time being at least, neither the Park Service nor the concessioner wanted to consider replacing Camp Curry's densely spaced tents with more spacious hard-sided cabins. Consequently, though the Company received authorization in 1927 to build one hundred new duplex bungalows, only thirty-four were eventually constructed (along with 12 single units) in 1929 with each being placed exactly over the footprint of an existing pair of tents.<sup>102</sup>

In the spring of 1926, construction started on the Ahwahnee Hotel at the site of old Kenneyville. Building this six story luxury hotel would consume the attention of the concessioner and the National Park Service until its opening in July 1927. Although expansion of Camp Curry lodging and housing was stalled temporarily,<sup>103</sup> remedying deficient services for the mass of automobile visitors could not wait. A pair of restrooms and four more fuel pumps were added to the Curry service station in 1927.<sup>104</sup> Some time between 1928 and 1930 a tire shop replaced part of the old parking garage.<sup>105</sup> Numerous improvements were also made to parking

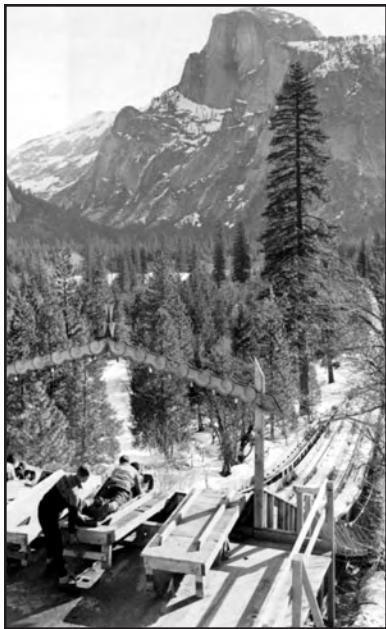
<sup>101</sup> The June 3, 1927 report from Don Tresidder to the YP&CCo directors provided a detailed description of the problems created by this overwhelming surge in automobile visitors. See excerpt quoted in Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 93.

<sup>102</sup> Although plans called for the bungalows to be duplex, twelve single unit cabins without bath were also built with each replacing a single tent cabin.

<sup>103</sup> Two minor exceptions to the housing/lodging construction moratorium should be noted. The small residence built onto the south end of the former Nob Hill bathhouse, labeled #101 because it replaced guest tent #101, undoubtedly housed bathhouse maintenance staff. It was missing from the plat for the 1925 Camp Curry inventory but evident in a map in 1928 "Camp Curry" brochure. Curiously, a plat completed in 1930 *does not* show the #101 structure. The second exception was an addition built onto the west end of Mother Curry's Bungalow circa 1929. A 1928 Camp Curry brochure shows the bungalow in its original configuration, but the 1930 plat shows the addition constructed. "Camp Curry," 1928 brochure, YPRL collection. National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center Electronic Archive [hereinafter "E-TIC"], "Plat No. 1, Camp Curry Area," Drawing no. WODC-YOS-9159. More employee tents may have been added in the Boys Town area at this time. The area was not in the concession lease but Yosemite's Park Service administrators were apparently satisfied to ignore the fact that the tents had been placed there as early as 1925.

<sup>104</sup> Correspondence, Supt. W.B. Lewis to Don Tresidder, November 3, 1927 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426). Photographs RL-10632 and RL-10,657 in the Yosemite Park Regional Library collection indicate that the number of pumps at the service station increased from two to six between 1926 and 1927.

<sup>105</sup> The 1928 Camp Curry brochure shows the parking garage intact but the 1930 plat shows the wing removed. "Camp Curry," 1928 brochure, YPRL collection; E-TIC, "Plat No. 1, Camp Curry Area," Drawing no. WODC-YOS-9159.



**Figure 18.** The four-track toboggan slide, constructed to capitalize on increased wintervisitation and interest in winter recreation. (YOSE Research Library).

and circulation between 1927 and 1929.<sup>106</sup> The central complex dining room, cafeteria, and kitchen were demolished in September 1928, and over the course of the winter a larger “entirely fireproof,” dining complex designed by Eldridge Spencer was constructed.<sup>107</sup> The new dining room seated nearly nine hundred people.<sup>108</sup> The lanes in the bowling alley were removed about the same time as the old dining hall, and the building was refitted as a bicycle rental facility.<sup>109</sup>

With the Valley now open to traffic year round, Park Service officials and the YP&CCo looked for ways to provide visitors with recreational opportunities during the winter. Winter sports actually predated the All-Year Highway. In 1917, Valley locals had opened up an eight hundred foot long “ash can lid” sledding run west of Camp Curry near where the present Housekeeping Camp is located. The Park Service eventually took over administering the site (rangers dispensed the ash can lids and made sure they were returned). In August, 1926, the slide was severely damaged by a rock fall, and its warming hut also burned down.<sup>110</sup> To cash in on the ash can run’s popularity, YP&CCo erected an elevated four-track toboggan slide next to the old run. It was built and operated on a “business-like basis” by the concessioner.<sup>111</sup> To compliment the toboggan/ash can facility, a dog sled concession also began operating on Stoneman Meadow sometime in the late 1920s.<sup>112</sup> Presumably, a horse-drawn sleigh concession was started in the meadow about the same time. In 1929, a new ice skating rink was opened on the large parking lot east of the central complex. Bleachers were built and portable buildings “of the northern European design” were brought in every winter and used as equipment rental and warming huts.<sup>113</sup>

<sup>106</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-47; Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Report, April 1928, YPRL collection; *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-82; E-TIC, “Final Report of Job #501.11, Camp Curry Section,” September 25, 1929; E-TIC, “Final Report on Camp Curry Parking Area, Job #501.24,” December 2, 1929; Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, May and June 1929, YPRL collection; E-TIC, “Final Report on Camp Curry Parking Area, Job #501.24,” December 2, 1929.

<sup>107</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Report, September 1928, YPRL collection; Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 105.

<sup>108</sup> Mother Curry quoted in Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 106.

<sup>109</sup> A map in the Camp Curry brochure for 1928 shows the bowling alley was still in use. “Camp Curry,” 1928 brochure, YPRL collection. The plat contracted by YP&CCo in 1925 and completed in 1930, shows the building converted to bicycle rental. E-TIC, “Plat No. 1, Camp Curry Area,” Drawing no. WODC-YOS-9159.

<sup>110</sup> Correspondence, Acting Supt. Leavitt to T.C. Vint, November 18, 1927, p. 2 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 425).

<sup>111</sup> Correspondence, Acting Supt. Leavitt to Chief Landscape Engineer Vint, November 18, 1927. (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 425).

<sup>112</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 120.

<sup>113</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, November 1929, YPRL collection. One of the rink’s Nordic designed (“boat roofed”) portable buildings is still



**Figure 19.** The ice skating rink shortly after its installation in 1929. The original ice skating rink was much larger and ornate than the current rink. (YOSE Research Library).

Camp Curry's ice rink eventually became the focal point for Yosemite's new Winter Sports program festivities.<sup>114</sup> During the winter of 1929-1930, the All-Year Highway and winter games program proved to be so successful that the Curry bungalows were for the first time used off-season to house visitors.<sup>115</sup> With the winter sports program doing so well, it is not surprising that the NPS and YP&CCo entertained ideas of creating other artificial attractions in Yosemite. Director Horace Albright arrived in September 1930 to discuss a "proposed aerial ropeway" (gondola) from near Camp Curry to Glacier Point.<sup>116</sup>

### **RETRENCHMENT AND MAINTENANCE: THE DEPRESSION, WARTIME AND THE POSTWAR YEARS, 1930-1955**

Although the Great Depression changed operations at Camp Curry, it did not stop them altogether. By the end of the 1930 season, both the National Park Service and YP&CCo were noticing a growing number of new complaints about the price of accommodations as well as an increasing demand for low cost lodging: "...the Housekeeping Department (at Camp Curry) showed an increase of 10% for August [over August 1929] while other hotel units recorded a loss of 28% for the same period."<sup>117</sup> By 1933, extant at the concessioner stable area.

<sup>114</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, January 1931, p. 13.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid., January 1930.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid., September 1930.

<sup>117</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, August 1930, YPRL collection.

winter visitation fell off dramatically (37 per cent below 1932). This seemed to have been due mostly to the expensive nature of winter activities and the lack of off-season accommodations.<sup>118</sup> Earlier that spring, The Ahwahnee and Yosemite Lodge together sometimes could not break double figures for daily guest registrations.<sup>119</sup> As the “pillow count” continued to fall, YP&CCo tried to introduce super-economy cabin rates to fit the tight budgets of Depression era visitors. Yosemite Lodge cabins were offered without any service or meals for \$1.50 per day per person plus \$0.50 for each additional person.<sup>120</sup> If the scheme worked out, it would be adopted for Curry bungalows and bungalettes.<sup>121</sup>

Not surprisingly, there was little further development of Camp Curry between 1930 and 1936. Instead, YP&CCo cautiously spent only what was absolutely necessary for service upgrades. Unspecified improvements were made to the toboggan slide in October 1930, perhaps as a result of numerous accidents.<sup>122</sup> In January 1932, significant modifications were completed to Camp Curry’s seriously deficient electrical grid, including upgrading the switchboard and oil switches, sectionalizing relays, and changing out switches.<sup>123</sup> The system was so outdated that the modifications simply could not wait any longer. Several overdue upgrades to the sanitation facilities also had to be completed. In 1935, half of the old Rock restroom was replaced and the old Building No. 20 restroom was demolished and rebuilt.<sup>124</sup> A duplicate of the 1935 replacement restroom for old Building No. 20 was approved and built during 1936 in the 600 block of guest tents.<sup>125</sup> Also in 1936, a small addition was built onto the corner of the Registration Office and considerable remodeling was completed to its interior.<sup>126</sup>

During the worst years of the Depression most of the YP&CCo’s dwindling profits and capital improvement funds were used to fulfill

<sup>118</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, February 1933.

<sup>119</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 114.

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

<sup>121</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, March 1933, p. 7.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid., 7; For description of operational features of the slide see Memorandum Ranger Reymann to Chief Townsley, February 4, 1930 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

<sup>123</sup> Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, January 1932.

<sup>124</sup> The Building #20 replacement is probably the restroom presently in the 500 block of tents. Correspondence, Asst. Director Wirth to Supt., April 25, 1935, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 54).

<sup>125</sup> Correspondence, Don Tresidder (YP&CCo) to NPS Director, September 19, 1935, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 54).

<sup>126</sup> E-TIC, “Camp Curry, Additions to Office Building, with notes on Maintenance work for 1936,” Drawing NP-YOS-3201; Correspondence, NPS Assistant Director to Yosemite Supt., November 20, 1936, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

building commitments attached to their 1925 contract. A three-story apartment building and two three-story dorms were constructed in the Tecoya area. Badger Pass Ski Lodge was finished and opened with much fanfare in December 1935. All plans for further new construction were postponed indefinitely after a disastrous flood in December 1937 left many YP&CCo concession buildings in shambles. Extensive repairs consumed all the profits from a modestly improved summer season. Several Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were established in Yosemite during the Depression but Camp Curry facilities received little benefit. CCC workers were apparently limited to improving Camp Curry landscape for a few months during 1940.<sup>127</sup>

By the mid-1930s, a dispute was heating up between the NPS and YP&CCo about where, or if, Camp Curry should expand. The preliminary round was launched in March 1935 when YP&CCo proposed to build an addition to the Peterson Residence (House 23) west of the Curry garage. Assistant Superintendent John B. Wosky took exception to this idea because it would require the removal of two small trees, “and the use of a portion of Camp Curry plat for residential purposes is not in keeping with the development plans.” He also was concerned because the building was “noticeable from the main road, and conflicts with the present housekeeping layout.”<sup>128</sup> A second proposal put forward the following month for an unspecified “development in vicinity of the present garage” was criticized by Wosky who strongly opposed any further “commercial and utility development in the very heart of the valley.”<sup>129</sup> Any plans to continue replacing Camp Curry tents with bungalows were dashed at the end of 1936 when Director Cammerer mandated that no more rental cabins would be erected in any unit of the National Park System without running water and sinks. He also indicated that concessioners would have to find the funds to put in the utilities to supply the water.<sup>130</sup>

The question of Curry expansion reached a boiling point in 1937 when Don Tresidder requested permission to build a permanent bathhouse/restroom in the area now known as Boys Town. Up to that point “temporary wooden shacks emptying into cesspools . . . served as toilets for this area.”<sup>131</sup> More importantly, Tresidder requested that the lease boundaries be extended:

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<sup>127</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, January 1940; *Ibid.*, May 1940.

<sup>128</sup> “Memorandum to the Superintendent” from J.B. Wosky, March 21, 1935 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

<sup>129</sup> “Memo for the Supt.” from JBW (John Wosky), April 5, 1935, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

<sup>130</sup> “Memorandum for all Superintendents and Custodians,” from Director Arno b. Cammerer, November 3, 1936 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 49, Folder 409).

<sup>131</sup> Correspondence, Don Tresidder to Supt. C.G. Thomson, February 19, 1937 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 427).



In submitting this plan, approval is also requested to re-establish that portion of the original plat containing this housing area as there is every indication that it will continue to serve throughout the years as a tent area for summer employees. It occupies approximately one-third of an acre and is the only place on our Camp Curry premises where we could house male employees without occupying areas now used for guest housing.<sup>132</sup>

Tresidder's request was filled with contradictions. Since the boundaries of the lease never included Boys Town, he had no grounds to ask that they be "re-established" to incorporate the area being used by the tents, which was, incidentally, far more than a third of an acre. Plenty of other places within Camp Curry were available for male housing, particularly the east end of Camp Curry near the sawmill. In fact, employee tents had been located in that area in 1925.<sup>133</sup> Of course, Tresidder failed to consider the obvious solution. If some of the guest tents were removed and replaced with staff tents, then the bed count would shrink, thereby reducing the number of male employees needed and eliminating the need to keep them in Boys Town.

Resident landscape architect R.L. McKown and Assistant Superintendent Wosky both strenuously objected to Tresidder's proposal. McKown pointed out that the extension of the lease plat would be at least 3.4 acres if it was to include *just* the proposed bathhouse. He also reiterated Director Albright's 1930 instructions that the tents squatting in Boys Town would only be tolerated because they were "temporary." The site for the facility was too close "to the road passing Camp 14 ... [and] it would prove objectionable to erect any permanent structures here, as that would establish the area quite definitively."<sup>134</sup> Wosky worried that if the extension of the lease boundaries was approved "one permanent structure will lead to another, and eventually the entire area may be covered by dormitories, cabins, etc., similar to Tecoya." He believed that because of its proximity to Camp 14 "we should strive to restore the area to its natural conditions," and suggested that this development be moved to the "ground now occupied by the Curry Mill. Since it is only a matter of time until the mill will be abandoned, perhaps the suggested use of this area will accelerate the abandonment of this undesirable activity."<sup>135</sup> McKown wondered

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<sup>132</sup> Ibid.

<sup>133</sup> "Appraisal Summaries," Yosemite Archives, YP&CCo Collection, Acc. 5000, Series II, Subseries S.

<sup>134</sup> Correspondence, R. L. McKown to Supt., February 26, 1937; see also Memorandum, Assistant Supt. Wosky to Supt., February 25, 1937 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 427).

<sup>135</sup> Ibid. Two years later the YP&CCo did serve notice that they intended to abandon the sawmill structures. Correspondence, Don Tresidder to Supt. Merriam,



if there was really any need to keep tents in Boys Town. “Now that the dormitory situation has been increased at Tecoya by two additional 32-room structures, ... [is it] not possible to find plenty of space there for summer male employees[?]”<sup>136</sup>

Wosky and McKown weren’t the only ones pushing to curb Camp Curry’s earlier reckless and poorly supervised expansion. A fire inspection report submitted by a Mr. Ahern to the Director in 1938 expressed grave concerns about the density of tent cabins and bungalows in Camp Curry. Ahern recommended that all tents be spaced at least twenty feet apart, not an unreasonable suggestion considering how quickly seventy-five tents went up in flames at Camp Curry in 1912. This no doubt alarmed YP&CCo managers and they prevailed upon Superintendent Merriam to intervene and ensure that “different points of view [were] carefully weighed.” Merriam explained to the Director that if the tents and cabins were spaced as suggested by Ahern

the total area occupied for tent accommodations [would be] more than doubled. As you know, it has been the endeavor here in Yosemite to limit that portion of the valley floor intensively used for camps and hotels to a minimum. ... It is quite difficult to harmonize these views [i.e. to reduce the density] with the expansion of the area needed to house those desiring tent and cabin accommodations. Of course, if it is the desire to space the tents and cabins 20 feet apart and to retain the same area at Camp Curry and the Yosemite Lodge, it would be possible to do so; but the accommodations available would be reduced in an amount approaching 50%.<sup>137</sup>

Merriam expressed a desire to “reduce all fire and accident hazards” but he also claimed Ahern’s suggestions could not be implemented without violating “our main objective ... to protect as far as possible the floor of Yosemite Valley against expansion of developments and, in particular, encroachment of both operator’s and Government accommodations on our meadows.”<sup>138</sup> Curiously, protection of the valley floor now became Merriam’s chief defense against a reduction of Camp Curry. Yet, only a few months earlier he had *approved* the Boys Town extension into the valley floor. And he did it over the objections of both Wosky and McKown,

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June 3, 1939 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 428). When the mill burned in 1943 it was still being used by the company for storage.

<sup>136</sup> Correspondence, R.L. McKown to Supt., February 26, 1937 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 427).

<sup>137</sup> Ibid., Supt. Merriam to NPS Director, July 6, 1938. (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 428).

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

two of the Park Service's most respected landscape architects. Merriam also maintained that expanding Camp Curry's boundaries east and west to thin the density would somehow make the camp "extremely difficult to operate."<sup>139</sup> Obviously, the Superintendent was not inclined to support *anything* that would in any way inconvenience Camp Curry, especially a reduction of its precious bed count. His sympathies clearly lay with concessioner profitability *not* visitor safety *or* preservation of the valley.

There were indications, however, that Camp Curry was becoming too much of a good thing. In 1939, Acting Director Demaray relayed his concern to the Secretary of the Interior that "the concentration of people around Camp Curry and the upper part of the Valley has attracted some unfavorable comment."<sup>140</sup> Nevertheless, reducing some of the lodging or the artificial entertainment that attracted the crowds was not an option. Instead, the Park Service proposed to create *more* entertainment facilities at other locations in the valley. Demaray thought that reopening the dance floor facilities at Yosemite Lodge would produce the desired effect by attracting some of Camp Curry's dance patrons. But by now, public vigilance was causing the Park Service to be more cautious about entertainment-building. Wary of a possible "barrage of complaints" from "a minority group of wilderness enthusiasts," Demaray referred the decision on the Lodge dance platform to the Secretary of the Interior.<sup>141</sup>

By 1940, visitation had rebounded to record levels. For the first time, the park received more than a half million visitors annually. The bungalows were again being used intermittently during the winter months to handle overflow.<sup>142</sup> More visitors meant more money, and the YP&CCo was able to again resume upgrading utilities and service facilities. The 1921 grill in the Studio was incapable of keeping up with the fast-food demand from the post-Depression explosion of drop-in automobile tourists. After fine-tuning the plans in 1940, the grill was finally remodeled inside and out during 1941.<sup>143</sup> A variety of restroom modifications were also completed during 1940-41. The Office Restroom west of the Registration Building received a small extension and extra baths were added to the duplex bungalows, giving each room a private facility.<sup>144</sup> Restrooms accessible to

<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

<sup>140</sup> Memorandum, Acting Director Demaray to Secretary of Interior, June 13, 1939 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 429).

<sup>141</sup> Ibid.

<sup>142</sup> Superintendent's Monthly Reports, September 1940; Ibid., October 1940; Ibid., January 1941.

<sup>143</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86; E-TIC, "Plan & Elevations, Camp Curry Grill, April 8, 1940," Eldridge T. Spencer, Architect, Drawing No. NP-YOS-8239.

<sup>144</sup> Correspondence, H. Oehlmann (YP&CCo) to Superintendent Merriam, December 9, 1940, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 53, Folder 430); *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86; E-TIC, Drawing No. NP-YOS-9429, P.R. Gage, "Bathroom Addition to 10

both patrons and visitors were constructed on the southeast corner of the Spencer dining room.<sup>145</sup> Possibly in response to the 1938 Ahern report, an extensive and complex fire suppression system for the entire camp was designed by Eldridge Spencer in 1941. Construction presumably started sometime afterwards although the project was still unfinished as late as October 1950.<sup>146</sup> Also as part of the camp's fire suppression upgrade, the photo lab was removed from the Studio and a sprinkler system was installed over the ranges in the kitchen.<sup>147</sup>

Six months before World War II started, Don Tresidder was temporarily relieved of duty as president of YP&CCo due to failing health. During his absence, Mary Curry Tresidder was brought on the board of directors, named executive vice-president, and assumed her husband's duties. Mary would continue to play a key role in the company's corporate management for the rest of her life.

During the war, Camp Curry again proved itself to be the reliable backbone of the YP&CCo's Yosemite concessions. In September 1942, after a disastrous summer beset by wartime travel regulations and fuel rationing, Don Tresidder elected to close down all operations. Converted rooms in the new Tecoya dorms would be used as lodging for the few visitors expected in 1943.<sup>148</sup> Visitation in 1943 did not totally evaporate as Tresidder expected, although the numbers were half what they were in 1942. Consequently, early in the year the company found it could not meet its contractual obligation with just the rooms in the dorms, so Camp Curry was reopened in May.<sup>149</sup> Hiring new staff on short notice was extremely difficult and management had to rely heavily on local high school students and itinerant labor.<sup>150</sup> Due to capital, manpower, and materials shortages, the only construction at Camp Curry to even make it to the planning stage during the war was a small restroom to service the Kiddie Kamp.<sup>151</sup>

Camp Curry benefited significantly after The Ahwahnee was leased out to Bungalows at Camp Curry," August 9, 1940; Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, April 1941.

<sup>145</sup> E-TIC, "Rest Rooms for Camp Curry Cafeteria, July 26, 1941," Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. NP-YOS-8261; Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, November 1941.

<sup>146</sup> E-TIC, "Fire Protection Plan, Water System – Floor of Valley, Camp Curry, Yosemite Park and Curry Co., March 1940 [Revised May 15, 1941]," prepared by Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. NP-YOS-5464.

<sup>147</sup> Fire Hazard Report, July 17, 1941 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 53, Folder 432).

<sup>148</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 132.

<sup>149</sup> Superintendent's Monthly Reports, May 1943.

<sup>150</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 133.

<sup>151</sup> E-TIC, "Restroom for Children's Playground, Camp Curry, August 11, 1946," Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. NP-YOS-8285.

the U.S. Navy for use as a convalescent hospital in 1943. Housing was in short supply in the Valley, causing an undue hardship on the large influx of patient and staff family members. Eventually, after some haggling and a bit of political arm-bending, YP&CCo agreed to rent housekeeping units at Camp Curry to the Navy for thirty dollars a month.<sup>152</sup> The regular dances at Camp Curry Pavilion during the summer months were a magnet for sailors and for visitors, including many young ladies from Merced and the San Joaquin Valley. The Curry Store was also a favorite gathering place for the young people. During the winter of 1943, YP&CCo turned the toboggan run over to the Navy on the agreement that they staff it. Sailors from the hospital also pitched in to help keep the ice rink operating. More importantly, the Navy provided the funding to keep the road plowed to Badger Pass.<sup>153</sup> As a result, winter sports in Yosemite stayed alive during the war, providing YP&CCo with desperately needed off-season tourist dollars.

Gas rationing ended on August 15, 1945, and over the next three weeks almost 40,000 visitors entered the park.<sup>154</sup> The Curry Company's facilities were pressed beyond their capacities, leaving many visitors sleeping in their cars. Camp Curry was back in business in a big way. Then, unexpectedly, Don Tresidder died of a heart attack in January 1948, while in New York on business. Mary Tresidder succeeded him as president of the company the following month. Nine months later Mother Curry died peacefully just two days short of her eighty-seventh birthday.

A persistent shortage of off-season lodging caused by the growing winter sports program led to the Camp Curry bungalows being kept open during the winter on a regular basis for the first time in 1948-49.<sup>155</sup> This event marked the only significant modification to Camp Curry facilities or their uses between the end of the war and 1952.<sup>156</sup> The lull in construction and maintenance was due in large part to another severe flood in mid-November 1950. Although this flood, and a more severe one five years later, did not touch Camp Curry, the damages and lost business suffered

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<sup>152</sup> Forty-five housekeeping units were set aside for the Navy in 1944 at \$10/week. In 1945 the number of units was doubled but the price dropped to \$30/month. *History of the U.S. Naval Hospital, Yosemite National Park*, (US Navy: Yosemite, CA, 1945), Yosemite National Park Research Library RL-979,447 y-27.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

<sup>154</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 139.

<sup>155</sup> Superintendent's Monthly Reports, October 1848.

<sup>156</sup> It is not known when YP&CCo dropped the toboggan run from its concession operations. The last known official mention was January 1951 when George Murphy, son of a government employee, was seriously injured while working on the toboggan run. Over the years the operation had been the site of numerous injuries and Murphy's accident may have provided the impetus to close it down. Superintendent's Monthly Reports, January 1951.

by other YP&CCo facilities, particularly the Old Village, drained capital improvement funds.<sup>157</sup>

Between 1952 and 1955, YP&CCo completed a minimal program of long overdue maintenance upgrades to Camp Curry's aging facilities. Fifty bungalows were remodeled and the Curry Garage also received a makeover.<sup>158</sup> At the end of the 1953 season, several structures were re-roofed or had their roofs fixed, and the following year repairs were made to "foundations, floors, and roofs of non-bath cabins."<sup>159</sup> Additions were built onto the Nob Hill and Office Area toilets in December 1954.<sup>160</sup> Yosemite's Acting Superintendent strongly encouraged YP&CCo to consider "providing one or two additional [toilet] structures of this type at convenient locations in the Camp Curry area" to relieve the pressure on existing overused restrooms.<sup>161</sup> As it turned out, no new restroom facilities would be constructed in Camp Curry until 1993.

The only significant change to the camp during this period was the construction of an amphitheater at the back of the Registration Building in 1953.<sup>162</sup> Apparently, Eldridge Spencer was subsequently less than satisfied with the structural arrangement. In 1955 he submitted a plan for "remodeling" the stage behind the lounge. In fact, he proposed to demolish the historic Registration Building altogether and build a new structure of roughly the same dimensions but aligned with the amphitheater.<sup>163</sup> Although the stage was rebuilt according to the plans, the Registration Building was preserved intact, possibly because funds were diverted to compensate for losses due to damages incurred by flooding in 1955.

In 1955, for the first time since the Army's curtailment of Yosemite auto traffic back in 1907, the Park Service began toying with the idea of cutting back some services to reduce visitor pressure on the valley: the "idea" being that limiting some amenities, rather than providing more of them,

<sup>157</sup> The December 1955 flood cost YP&CCo \$100,000 in damages and lost revenue. Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 158.

<sup>158</sup> Superintendent's Monthly Reports; Ibid., July 1952; Ibid., October 1952; Ibid., April 1953.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid., September 1953; Ibid., November 1954.

<sup>160</sup> Correspondence, Supt. to Regional Director, January 6, 1955 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1955).

<sup>161</sup> Correspondence, Acting Supt. Bill to H. Oehlmann, September 16, 1954 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1954).

<sup>162</sup> Eldridge Spencer submitted the final of three plans in September 1953. E-TIC, "Remodeling of Camp Curry Entertainment Platform, September 1953," Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. 104-70,132. The project was built during the winter. Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, November 1953.

<sup>163</sup> E-TIC, "Remodeling of Stage Entertainment Area, Camp Curry, January 14, 1955," Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. NP-YOS-8344 and 104-60,837.



Figure 20. This picture taken ca. late 1970s shows the Eldredge Spencer designed amphitheater. Although the design of the amphitheater has largely remained unchanged, the seating has been converted from informal log stumps to rows of benches that radiate out from the stage. (YOSE Research Library).

might help discourage visitation to manageable levels. The Regional Office anticipated that the new Yosemite Lodge should be designed so that its “capacity will be ample to ... handle all of the weekend peak loads for the nine heavy months of the year, and then following this procedure the company will be able to eliminate winter operations at Camp Curry ... [and] eliminate all non-bath units wherever this is possible.”<sup>164</sup> Phasing out the Curry tents and bungalows (and their economy minded clientele) was once again in the picture, although the picture was somewhat unclear. Superintendent Preston did act a little more decisively on limiting two other Camp Curry services. On his suggestion, YP&CCo agreed to reduce the number of rental bicycles to 350. Tandem bikes would be eliminated altogether. Preston expressed some concerns about increased traffic, both bicycle and vehicle.<sup>165</sup> The Superintendent was also concerned about Curry Village dancing. Again, following his suggestion, the concessioner agreed to “tighten up” on modern dancing at the Pavilion (jitterbug, Bunny Hop, and “fast” Latin dances).<sup>166</sup> Essentially, curtailing modern dances

<sup>164</sup> Ibid., Regional Programs and Plans Control Officer to Regional Director, February 23, 1955 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1955).

<sup>165</sup> Ibid., Supt. Preston to H. Oehlmann, May 16 and May 19, 1955 (YA, RMC, Box 89, Folder C6415).

<sup>166</sup> Ibid., Notation by Supt. Preston on “Office Memorandum,” Valley Dist. Ranger to Chief Ranger, July 18, 1955 (YA, RMC, Box 89, Folder C6415).



would almost certainly reduce the number of dancers (particularly young dancers) using the compacted floor space. Of course, the fact that most of the adults at the Pavilion allegedly viewed modern dancing as offensive to family values also no doubt influenced Preston's thinking.<sup>167</sup>

## MISSION 66: EARLY EXPERIMENTS IN PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT, 1956-1970

Mission 66, a massive period of capital expenditures within the National Park Service, that was timed to be completed in 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of the NPS, was a one hundred and eighty degree departure from any concept of possibly reducing visitor pressure by controlling services. Director Conrad Wirth felt the Park Service needed to improve services and facilities to meet the demands of the post-war visitation boom. To that end, he, formulated, promoted, and passed through Congress a ten-year, eleven billion dollar program of improvements he called Mission 66. Wirth planned to obtain a long-term funding commitment from Congress for the program, rather than the usual year-to-year appropriations. Although the long-term funding idea never materialized, the program's popularity ensured Congressional support. Planning was a crucial component of Mission 66. Once a consistent source of funding was in place, parks would have the luxury of setting and prioritizing realistic long-term goals rather than struggle along piecemeal year by year, shifting their focus here and there.

In February 1957, the Park Service received, and quickly approved, plans for YP&CCo's remodeling and expansion of the twenty-year-old washroom/shower facility in Boys Town.<sup>168</sup> But by the end of the year, planning bureaucracy had slowed other upgrades. The YP&CCo's proposal to remodel the men's dorm at Camp Curry was on hold until the new Master Plan was approved. In the meantime, the Superintendent suggested that the company consider demolishing the dilapidated dorm and "reconstruct[ing] this facility outside the area now being used for guest accommodations."<sup>169</sup>

Although an Eldridge Spencer designed plan for "Redevelopment of Operating Facilities" was submitted by YP&CCo in August 1959, eventually only minor interim improvements to the Post Office and Registration

<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

<sup>168</sup> E-TIC, "Preliminary Drawing, Restroom Remodel [unreadable], January 3, 1957," Eldridge Spencer, Architect, Drawing No. YOS-104-8400; Correspondence, Supt. Preston to H. Oehlmann, February 26, 1957, Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, File C-58-1957.

<sup>169</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Preston to H. Oehlmann, August 14, 1957 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, File C-58-1957).

Office were completed that year. Acting Superintendent Elmer Fladmark disagreed with most of Spencer's proposals. He did not see the need for relocating the post office, especially to the decrepit parking garage. As far as Fladmark was concerned, the garage was ready for the wrecking ball. Adding a parking lot "in the west end of the bungalow area" would have a negative impact on "one of the remaining charming features of Camp Curry." Moving the Curry grocery store to the present Huff area made little sense if the Stoneman housekeeping units were going to be relocated west of the bungalows as planned. Those units would then be better served by the existing store at Camp 16. Fladmark also felt the bicycle rental should not be similarly relocated near the garage. It could stay in the bowling alley area, possibly in a new building. Fladmark again unsuccessfully attempted to resurrect the idea of "moving all Camp Curry employees to a separate area, say in the present utility area near the dump [formerly where the sawmill was located]." The Acting Superintendent clearly did not want to see any expansion of Camp Curry facilities into the old garage area (present Huff). He wanted the area emptied. The only part of the 1959 redevelopment plan Fladmark approved was turning the Registration Building into a lounge. "While the building is not particularly attractive and requires quite a bit of renovation, [it retains] a positive sentimental appeal . . . which embodies the spirit of Camp Curry."<sup>170</sup>

While awaiting approval of the 1960 Master Plan, only a few minor "Curry operation interim plans" were allowed to proceed to construction during 1959.<sup>171</sup> The old 1941 grill was demolished, an outdoor terrace was added to the dining room, the Registration Building was remodeled (making it the Lounge), and an addition was built on the old Post Office (making it the new Registration Office).<sup>172</sup> In July 1960, an eight-inch spur water main "to back [north side] of main buildings" and four six-inch fire hydrants were installed at Camp Curry.<sup>173</sup> Presumably, this project was part of the 1941 Eldridge Spencer fire suppression plan.<sup>174</sup>

The final "Camp Curry, Part of Master Plan," approved in August 1960, focused on maintenance and restoration rather than expansion.<sup>175</sup> The Plan's main focus was on removing earlier expansions north of Curry

<sup>170</sup> Ibid., Memorandum from Acting Supt. Fladmark to Chief, WODC, September 1, 1959.

<sup>171</sup> Superintendent's Monthly Reports, September, 1959.

<sup>172</sup> Ibid., November 1959.

<sup>173</sup> E-TIC, "Project Completion Report No. 350, Fire Hydrants Camp Curry;" Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, June 1960.

<sup>174</sup> E-TIC, "Project Completion Report No. 350, Fire Hydrants Camp Curry;" Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, June 1960.

<sup>175</sup> E-TIC, "Camp Curry, Part of the Master Plan, Yosemite National Park, March 1960," NPS, Branch of Landscape Architecture, Western Office, Drawing No. NP-YOS-3340C.

Drive and restoring these areas to a natural state. As per Fladmark's 1959 suggestion, the employee tents and restroom facility in Boys Town were to be relocated to the east end of Camp Curry beyond the 700 block of guest tents. The "Stoneman Section" of housekeeping tents west of the old garage was to be relocated to a much larger area west of the bungalows, but this action was in "obeyance [sic] by the concessioner, pending further study in connection with Housekeeping Camp 16." Although renovations to the Registration Building had been completed during the winter of 1959 (apparently with the concurrence of Yosemite Park administrators and YP&CCo), the Master Plan called for the building to be razed and a new structure erected north of it. An entrance loop and parking lot were to be added to north side of the new Registration Building to redirect traffic away from the main dining hall complex. The service station at the old garage was to be tentatively relocated to a site just west of Camp Curry (near the current site of the Wellness Center). All structures in the present Huff area were to be removed, including the old garage, the Peterson Residence, garage restrooms, and the Housekeeping Office and Housekeeping comfort station (both to be relocated with the Housekeeping tents). The Pavilion would be converted to guest housing with the cafeteria serving double duty as an eatery and dance hall. The old bowling alley building was already gone, presumably razed during the winter of 1959. The Plan proposed that the bike rental it housed be run out of a couple of tent frames placed opposite the east entrance to the orchard parking lot.

In retrospect, the 1960 Camp Curry Master Plan seems to have been more or less an exercise in futility.<sup>176</sup> Only one of its proposals—the conversion of the Pavilion to lodging—was eventually implemented the following year.<sup>177</sup> The Plan accepted the "reduction" of the men's dorm in the service area postponed in 1957 as a *fait accompli* and the structure was subsequently modified in October 1961.<sup>178</sup>

As Mission 66 wound down, park administrators and YP&CCo officials sidestepped the Master Plan as they scrambled to make other Camp Curry improvements. In 1963, Mission 66 project dollars funded the removal of the Curry dump site and construction of a new landfill and incinerator at El Portal.<sup>179</sup> By 1965, park visitation was approaching two million annually and Camp Curry's central complex, particularly its antiquated food service facilities, proved to be woefully insufficient. The concessioner was

<sup>176</sup> The accepted plan was one of four alternatives hashed out during more than three years of planning.

<sup>177</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, December 1961.

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*, October 1961. The map of the 1960 Master Plan erroneously indicated the "reduction" had already been completed. "Camp Curry, Part of the Master Plan, Yosemite National Park, March 1960," Drawing No. NP-YOS-3340C.

<sup>179</sup> Completion Report 407, Obliterate Incinerator and Dump; Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, January 1963.

convinced that the old dining room, kitchen, and cafeteria combination had outlived its usefulness. Due to the “decline in demand for full course meals” Curry Company management felt the dining room space could be better used as part of an expansive fast food complex.<sup>180</sup> Several proposals for refitting and realignment were put forth including one that would have turned the roof over the kitchen into an outdoor gear retail outlet complete with a “fly casting pond.”<sup>181</sup> Another proposal even suggested converting the “unused portion of the [old] cafeteria to rooms with bath.”<sup>182</sup> Final plans were approved September 20, 1965, and construction was completed by mid-summer 1966.<sup>183</sup> The old dining room became a new cafeteria with fast food outlets and extensive deck space added. A “merchandising operation” was relocated to the old cafeteria. The Studio was razed.

In 1966, a major push was on to increase the number of low cost lodging facilities in the valley—but not at Camp Curry. YP&CCo proposed to add more cabin units to Yosemite Lodge and replace all the old housekeeping tents in Camp 16. Similar thoughts were expressed the following year when YP&CCo probed the Park Service about the possibility of shifting Camp Curry lodging facilities to the “year-round north side of the Valley.”<sup>184</sup> Any improvements to the lodgings at Camp Curry would have to be a “longer range project.”<sup>185</sup> In May 1971, Curry Company proposed to replace seventy tents removed from Yosemite Lodge with seventy new cottages at the Ahwahnee. “If the success is as anticipated, we will plan to do future units of this sort both at the Ahwahnee and at Curry Village.” The target pillow count at Curry Village would be twelve hundred guests. The bungalows (without bath) were slated for “eventual replacement . . . sometime in the future.”<sup>186</sup> Ultimately, the tent cabins at Curry Village were to be completely phased out in favor of bungalow cabins or something similar.<sup>187</sup> The Curry Company’s manager hinted to Superintendent Davis that the only thing

<sup>180</sup> Correspondence, Oehlmann to Supt. Preston, March 31, 1965 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1964-65).

<sup>181</sup> Correspondence, Acting Supt. David Condon to H. Oehlmann, January 6, 1966 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, folder C58-1966)

<sup>182</sup> Ibid., Oehlmann to Supt. Preston, November 6, 1964 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1964-65).

<sup>183</sup> Ibid., Acting Supt. Condon to H. Oehlmann, September 22, 1965 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1964-65); Ibid., Management Assistant to Supt., June 7, 1966 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1966-67).

<sup>184</sup> Ibid., Stuart Cross to Supt. Lawrence Hadley, June 25, 1969 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1968-69).

<sup>185</sup> Ibid., H. Oehlmann to Supt. John Davis, December 12, 1966 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1966-67).

<sup>186</sup> Ibid., Stuart Cross to Supt. Lynn Thompson, September 7, 1971 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

<sup>187</sup> Ibid., Stuart Cross to Supt. Thompson, December 7, 1971 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

holding up plans for a rapid expansion of cheap accommodations in the valley was a lack of utilities.<sup>188</sup>

By December 1971, YP&CCo's Curry Village planning had again changed directions. Plans to build cottages at Ahwahnee were deferred until the fall of 1972. In the meantime, the concessioner proposed to immediately build "approximately 50 [cabin] units with 140 beds" at Curry Village. This would allow for removal or relocation of twenty tents at Curry Village as well as the seventy already removed from Yosemite Lodge area. Plans were submitted for modular cabin units to be constructed off-site during the winter.<sup>189</sup> Superintendent Lynn Thompson approved "in principle" anticipating that the upgrade would "remove a number of unsightly and outdated tents, and if the design is successful, it could well be used for replacement of all of the tents." He felt anything hard-sided would be an improvement since, "at present, the tents rent primarily on a desperation basis."<sup>190</sup>

Mission 66 ushered in a tradition of extensive visitor services development and long-term planning in the National Park System. Camp Curry did not benefit extensively from the program's service development aspect, but planning certainly reached an unprecedented level. It seemed that the operation was on the verge of becoming something typically "new and exciting" by the early 1970s. Then, a series of tragedies at first distracted and then derailed enthusiastic Mission 66 plans for remaking Camp Curry.

## CONFLICT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT, 1970-2008

In January 1968 Director George Hartzog ordered that the Firefall cease permanently. The bonfires were consuming too much red fir bark, and the Park Service and the concessionaire were both having difficulty handling the large crowds and traffic at Camp Curry, especially during the summer evenings. Tolerating artificial spectacles in the park was also seen as being contrary to the NPS mandate in the *Organic Act*. Perhaps as tokens of sympathetic compensation, the Park Service erected a weather-proof movie projector box at the Camp Curry amphitheater by midsummer.<sup>191</sup> In June

<sup>188</sup> Ibid., H. Oehlmann to Supt. John Davis, December 12, 1966 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1966-67). See also Ibid., Supt. Thompson to Alan Coleman, YP&CCo, April 21, 1972 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1972).

<sup>189</sup> Ibid., Stuart Cross to Supt. Thompson, December 7, 1971 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

<sup>190</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Thompson to Regional Director, December 30, 1971 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

<sup>191</sup> Completion Report 473, Audiovisual Installation, Camp Curry.

1969, the Glacier Point Aerial Tramway idea was also again resurrected.<sup>192</sup> It was undoubtedly conceived to maintain a tourist base at Camp Curry and boost occupancy at the Glacier Point Hotel and the adjacent historic Mountain House. However, a fire in August brought to a close the struggling facilities at Glacier Point and permanently ended the tramway project.

Another conflict struck Yosemite near Camp Curry on the Fourth of July, 1970. This time it hit the National Park Service. The Stoneman Meadow confrontation between unauthorized campers and park staff awakened park administrators to the need for a more sensitive and sophisticated approach to the management of people and resources in a highly pressurized environment. At first, the Park Service's reaction was not very sophisticated or sensitive. In May 1971, concessionaire plans for construction of a coffee house in the old Curry Garage were blocked. Acting Superintendent Bryan Harry felt the proposed facility would not be "in keeping with the atmosphere we would like to maintain and foster at Yosemite." He felt that a coffee house was "in the category of dance pavilions and evening movies". Harry further explained that "the proximity of the facility to Stoneman meadow and the difficulties [with unauthorized campers] experienced in that locale cause us additional concern."<sup>193</sup> Fortunately, a more sensible approach was adopted and within a year approval was given for conversion of the Garage into a teen center.<sup>194</sup>

Camp Curry lost a large part of its cultural character when the Firefall ceased in 1968. However, shortly afterwards certain corporate events further reshaped the image of this national concessionaire icon. On October 25, 1968, Director Hartzog confirmed a name change suggested by YP&CCo president, Stuart Cross.<sup>195</sup> Since then the operation has been known as Curry Village. Two years later, Mary Curry Tresidder died of a heart attack in her Ahwahnee penthouse suite. She had relinquished company presidency to longtime friend and Curry employee Hil Oehlmann in 1963, but retained her position as chairman of the board until 1968.<sup>196</sup> Between 1970 and 1974, the YP&CCo shuffled through a series of changing corporate identities and leadership. Finally, Music Company of America [MCA] emerged triumphant over Shasta Telecasting Corporation and U.S. Natural Resources, Inc.

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<sup>192</sup> Ed Hardy, former president of the concession, indicated in a February 2009 oral interview that the tramway towers were actually constructed near Happy Isles to gauge the public's opinion.

<sup>193</sup> Correspondence, Acting Supt. Bryan Harry to Stuart Cross, President YP&CCo, May 27, 1971 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

<sup>194</sup> Ibid., Supt. Lynn Thompson to Alan B. Coleman, President YP&CCo, April 4, 1972 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1972).

<sup>195</sup> Mary Vocolka notes in "Serendipity File," YPRL collection.

<sup>196</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 166.





**Figure 21.** The primary entrance to the store at the recently constructed visitor services building (ca. late 1970s), accessed by a boardwalk. The boardwalk has since been removed and the primary entrance relocated to the buildings north elevation. (YOSE Research Library).

The public did not receive the transition favorably. MCA immediately became identified as the soulless “Hollywood conglomerate” muscling out a popular, home-grown family operation. And Mary Tresidder’s death during the middle of the corporate takeover did not help the situation.<sup>197</sup> From the outset the new MCA managed YP&CCo had to deal with misfortune. On Easter Sunday 1973, when the company was still in the midst of negotiating a purchase, the recently remodeled Curry dining room was destroyed by fire. Then, less than a month after finalizing the concessionaire purchase, YP&CCo introduced a radical proposal for redesigning the lodging facilities at Curry Village. The Pacific West Regional Office and Denver Service Center (the NPS’s centralized planning, design and project management office) both initially rejected the plans as being “too sketchy” and containing a “number of unanswered questions.”<sup>198</sup> However they gave tentative approval to a new set of plans in January 1974, even allowing YP&CCo’s architect to use discretion in “combining the basic [lodging] units into one, two, and three-story accommodations.” The substantial structures proposed would not be cut-rate accommodations.

<sup>197</sup> A lack of management stability during the early 1970s is reflected in the high turnover of top management. Between 1970 and 1974, the YP&CCo was headed by four different president/managers: Stuart Cross (grandson of Rufus Green), Don Hummel, Dr. Alan Coleman, and Ed Hardy.

<sup>198</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Lynn Thompson to Don Hummel, September 12, 1973 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1973).

Seventy-four units were to be constructed next to the ice rink and another seventy-six units adjacent to the cafeteria. Eventually, all the new cabin units were supposed to be built east of the cafeteria.<sup>199</sup> All but 250 of the guest tent cabins would be removed.<sup>200</sup> Although the Park Service gave the project tentative approval, they ensured YP&CCo's plan would receive negative public scrutiny when it was tied to the agenda for a meeting on Yosemite's unpopular "general planning" process.<sup>201</sup>

Opposition to the proposed up scaling of Camp Curry was overwhelming. Apparently, "the reviewing public" was "more concerned with the price of accommodations and the lack of advance planning for redevelopment, and not with the suitability of any particular site."<sup>202</sup> Opponents voiced a myriad of concerns including: non-compliance with the 1971 Master Plan; an "unfair economic impact" if high-priced cabins were allowed to replace low-priced tent units; appearing "to advocate at least reducing, if not eliminating, accommodations from the Valley;" insufficient water and sewage systems; and an objection from the State of California that historic structures would be lost.<sup>203</sup>

YP&CCo quickly dropped the modern Mission 66-ish lodging design and focused instead on a more popular nostalgic construction theme. The reconstructed dining room, supposedly a "near replica" of the Spencer building built in 1929, opened on Easter Sunday 1975.<sup>204</sup> Also opening was the newly remodeled Lounge (formerly the Registration Building) now "returned to its original function ... making available the beautiful stone fireplace which adorns [its] center."<sup>205</sup> In 1976, the interiors of the Rock toilet and the Nob Hill shower facilities south of the central complex underwent historically respectful "restorations."<sup>206</sup>

<sup>199</sup> Ibid., Regional Director to Supt., 27 March, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>200</sup> Ibid., Regional Director to Supt., May 28, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>201</sup> Ibid., DSC to Regional Director, February 4, 1974; Ibid., Supt. Arnberger to Regional Director, February 19, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>202</sup> Ibid., Manager, DSC to Regional Director, May 23, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>203</sup> Ibid.

<sup>204</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 169; Correspondence, Supt. Arnberger to Ed Hardy, YP&CCo, March 18, 1975 (YA, Resource Management Files, Box 90, Folder C58-1975).

<sup>205</sup> Correspondence, Edward C. Hardy to Supt., March 21, 1975 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 89, File C58-1975).

<sup>206</sup> E-TIC, "Curry Village – Nob Hill Shower and Toilet Building, March 12, 1976," Smith and Williams, Architects, Drawing No. 104-70056; E-TIC, "Curry Village – The Rock Toilet Building, [no date but reference made to June 1976 construction]," Smith and Williams, Architects, Drawing No. 104-70057.

The rebuilt dining facility was only in operation a matter of weeks when it was again threatened by fire. In June 1976, an arsonist set the adjacent Mountain House gift shop ablaze, and firefighters were hard-pressed to keep the fire from spreading to the rest of the central complex.<sup>207</sup> Eventually, rebuilding this structure would spark a heated debate between YP&CCo manager Ed Hardy and Yosemite National Park management. In an interesting turn of events, Hardy was determined to preserve the Mountain House from the Park Service wrecking ball, even to the point of arguing the historical integrity of the wormholes in the slab siding.<sup>208</sup>

Before reconstruction of the damaged central complex could begin, a series of arson fires claimed more Camp Curry structures. In 1977, the old Curry Garage, the swimming pool bathhouse, and the ice rink maintenance buildings were all destroyed.<sup>209</sup> The loss of the historic bathhouse was particularly devastating. The original Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places prepared earlier in the year had named it one of four structures in Camp Curry “determined to possess intrinsic value for interpreting the history and architecture of this founding enterprise of the present Yosemite Park and Curry Co.”<sup>210</sup> The bathhouse was condemned and demolished in 1978.<sup>211</sup> Reconstruction of the destroyed facilities was delayed due to a dispute with YP&CCo (MCA) over the definition of possessory interest versus concessionaire improvements. The pending approval of yet another General Management Plan also put any significant new construction on hold.<sup>212</sup>

The 1978 Draft General Management Plan for Curry Village is notable for being one of the first planning documents to address the threat of rock fall in Curry Village. The preferred plan suggested: removal of the Curry dump parking lot (96 parking spots); removing 83 guest tent cabins and an unspecified number of employee tents in the “rock fall zone;” removing all the employee tents in Camp 14 (Boys Town); eliminating altogether 68 guest tents and redesigning the remaining visitor guest tent areas to

<sup>207</sup> According to the 1979 National Register Nomination, half of the cafeteria was also destroyed by fire.

<sup>208</sup> Correspondence, Edward C. Hardy to Supt., April 20, 1976 (Yosemite Archives, RMC, Box 89, File C58). Hardy maintained that famous artist Frann Spencer Reynolds had painstakingly hand painted the wormholes as a decorative accent.

<sup>209</sup> The Sequoia Dorm at Wawona was also destroyed by the same arsonist.

<sup>210</sup> “National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form,” registered November 1, 1979.

<sup>211</sup> Correspondence, Senior Structural Engineer Maruice Paul to Assistant Manager, Pacific Northwest Region, January 31, 1978 (YA, RMC, Box 89, Folder C58-1978).

<sup>212</sup> Ibid., Supt. Arnberger to Ed Hardy, January 16, 1978 (YA, RMC, Box 89, Folder C58-1978).



**Figure 22.** The Nob Hill shower house following a rock slide in 1986. Shower house facilities on Nob Hill were rebuilt in 1993, but have since been closed since the October 2008 rock falls. (YOSE Research Library).

accommodate 350 sites; retaining all 90 cabins without baths, bungalows, and bath houses; removing all but 250 parking spaces in the orchard; removing the ice rink and replacing it with a grocery store/bike rental facility; removing the historic Peterson/Huff house; removing the historic Foster Curry Bungalow and Terrace Club House (both in the rock fall zone); eliminate “scattered” employee housing by constructing dorms on the east end of Village to house 300 staff; and retaining the 19 guest units in the Stoneman House.<sup>213</sup>

Alternative One proposed relocating 83 guest tent cabins and 30 employee tent cabins (containing two residents each) from the Terrace and Sugar Pine areas that were in an “active rock fall zone.”<sup>214</sup> The guest tents removed would be relocated west of the Bungalows (present day employee housing) and a dormitory was proposed for the east end of Camp Curry in the 700s section of the guest tents to house the sixty displaced employees. Alternative One also proposed dropping the mountain shop and gift sales from the cafeteria complex and removing day parking in the orchard but retaining overnight parking.<sup>215</sup>

Alternative Three proposed building 150 “spartan motel rooms” in the area west of the bungalows. One hundred fifty guest tent cabins could then be eliminated by simply reducing the overall density throughout Camp Curry. The grocery store would be constructed next to the ice rink and the mountain and gift shops would stay in the cafeteria complex. Day and overnight parking would be retained as is in the orchard. No employee tents would be removed. Alternative 3 did not embrace the concept of delineating a hazardous “active rock fall zone.”<sup>216</sup>

At this point, park planners seemed to universally agree with the concept of reducing tent cabins in Curry Village, whether for reasons of rock fall safety or for aesthetics. The early plans also seemed to lean towards reducing employee tents, especially in Boys Town. However, the consensus was soon lost. Another fine-tuned version of the “Preferred Alternative” was formalized in December 1979. New changes to the Plan for Curry Village included removing an unspecified number of tent cabins from the designated rock fall zone. None of these tents would, however, be lost. They were to be somehow relocated to a narrow “redesigned” area on the east end of Curry Village. Seventy-five employee tents removed from the rock fall zone would not be replaced. Boys Town would remain but it would be “redesigned” and capped at seventy-five tents. Curiously, the Foster

<sup>213</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village Development Concept, May 1978,” NPS, Drawing No. 104-20055B.

<sup>214</sup> Ibid., “Curry Village Development Concept, Alternative One, May 1978,” Drawing No. 104-20064A.

<sup>215</sup> Ibid., “Alternative One, May 1978,” Drawing No. 104-20064A.

<sup>216</sup> Ibid., “Alternative Three, May 1978,” Drawing No. 104-20065A.

Bungalow was still slated to be demolished even though the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, approved the month before, emphasized it as being one of the three most significant structures in Curry Village.

The final General Management Plan adopted in September 1980, revived recognition of the rock fall hazard zone. It stated bluntly that 83 guest tent cabins would be removed for purposes of visitor safety. The remaining 335 guest tents would be situated in the remaining traditional guest lodging area. However, one of the stated major goals of the GMP was to “reduce the density of tent cabins.” The laws of physics would seem to define this as a reduction in the number of tents per square foot. But removing the 83 hazard tents from the existing total of 418, and removing the area of the hazard zone from the total area available for occupation left exactly 335 tents in exactly the same area they formerly occupied. “Reducing the density” was to be somehow accomplished through “redesign.” Seventy-five employee tents were supposed to disappear from the hazard zone, although some of these might reappear in the 75 tents now allotted to Boys Town. Thus, the overall reduction of tents in Curry Village, while only slightly real, would have been visibly negligible. In fact, density would likely have been more noticeable because tents would have been shifted to areas where they were more visible. More importantly, for the first time in fifty years, reclamation of “temporary” Boys Town was noticeably absent from a park planning document. Park administrators were now acknowledging that Curry Village *would* be allowed to expand *permanently* into the “wet spot.” The plan also called for removal of 395 Curry Village parking spaces, including 200 spaces in the orchard. Presumably, the anticipated out-of-park parking-and-transit system would correspondingly reduce the demand for Curry parking. Although the GMP specified that “facilities and services [should be] consistent with the historical setting of Curry Village,” it also approved demolition of the Foster Bungalow and Peterson Residence, two of the most historically significant buildings in the District.

Only four of the 1980 GMP goals for Curry Village were ever fulfilled. The bathhouse at the pool was replaced the following year with a “temporary” modular unit that was eventually made permanent in ca. 2005.<sup>217</sup> As per the GMP, the Curry dump parking lot was removed and restored to a natural condition; the cafeteria, gift shop, and mountain shop were kept intact; and the Registration Building and Mother Curry Bungalow were “retained.” Ten other goals, including removing 158 tent cabins from the hazard zone, were never realized.<sup>218</sup>

<sup>217</sup> E-TIC, “Bath House, Curry Village, March 3, 1981,” NPS, Drawing No. 104-81001; Interview, Don Evans, DNC Maintenance, March 17, 2009.

<sup>218</sup> A fifteenth goal for reducing Housekeeping Camp (Camp 16) did not pertain to Curry Village. Some tents were removed from the hazard zone, but certainly far fewer than 158. A recently completed overlay comparing two maps from 1925



A serious rock fall incident at Yosemite Falls late in 1980 that claimed the life of three visitors undoubtedly should have brought home the pressing need to revisit the threat to Curry Village. Yet, a plan submitted by a contractor in 1983 for modifications to the ice rink seem to indicate a considerable softer attitude was developing. The plan called for removal of “tents *and cabins* from the rock fall zone *as replacements are built in the bungalow area*” [emphasis added]. The Foster Curry Bungalow would have been the only “cabin” to fall within the rock fall zone described in the 1983 plan. No threatened facilities would be eliminated until or unless something was built to replace them. And there was nothing in the plan to hurry the process along. The old duplex bungalows were to be replaced “as they deteriorate” even though they were all supposedly outside the rock fall zone. The number and configuration of the bungalows south of the central complex and the tents immediately to the east would be unaffected. They were not considered to be threatened by rock fall.<sup>219</sup> The plan also called for reducing the size of the ice rink and adding an elaborate new facility next to it for bike and raft rental.

In 1985, yet another, more comprehensive, “fine tuning” of the 1980 GMP was proposed. This plan called for the removal of all tents and cabins in a rock fall zone with boundaries remarkably similar to the current model. Virtually all of Curry Village’s hundreds of guest tents, inside and outside the zone, would be removed. Boys Town was deemed “suitable for historic tent cabins,” presumably for guests, not staff. The Huff area around the Peterson Residence was “suitable for employee housing.” A tree buffer would separate this built up area from the ice rink and its adjacent structures which were to be removed and replaced with a restored meadow. The ice rink could be relocated in the “open area” southwest of the cafeteria. Several hard-sided structures would be removed from the rock fall zone, including bungalows B-90 (Green Bungalow), B-80, B-70 to B-76, B-60 to B-65, B-53 to B-55, the Nob Hill bath house near Mother Curry Cottage, all the bungalows south of the cafeteria/lounge/pool area, the restroom and clubhouse in the Terrace area, and the restroom north of married staff tents. The plan proposed to convert the remaining bungalow area to “1 story development with integrated parking.” The entry area to Curry Village would be realigned to accentuate the historic camp sign. Orchard parking would become overnight rather than just day-use. Although the area west of the bungalows was “impacted,” (by something unspecified) it was deemed “suitable for higher density 2 story development.” Presumably, this would have been more guest housing to replace the tents and cabins removed from the rock fall zone. The tent area between the main cafeteria

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and October 2008, show that in 2008, thirty-three fewer tents were located in the hazard zone of the Nob and Terrace areas.

<sup>219</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village Master Plan, June 6, 1983,” Thompson Architectural Group, Drawing No. 104-70-085.”



and Boys Town containing virtually all the guest tents not in the rock fall zone was designated “suitable for mixed density development – 1 and 2 stories with winter accessibility.” These would be upscale, condo-style chalets. Plan drawings suggest that only 90 guest tents and three restroom facilities were reserved for Boys Town. Clearly, the intention was to phase out typical cut-rate, high-density guest tents in favor of better-spaced, more luxurious rental units.<sup>220</sup> However, the plan never materialized.

Subsequent to the GMP’s approval, a series of separate sub-plans were proposed to provide clarification and a strategy for implementation: the *Concessions Service Plan* (1992), the *Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan/SEIS* (1992 and 1996 addendum), the *Yosemite Lodge Development Concept Plan/EA/FONSI* (1997, modified 1997), and the Yosemite Falls Project. Litigation and public pressure led to the consolidation of these proposals into the *Yosemite Valley Plan* of November 2000. The YVP called for Curry Village tents to be reduced to 174 with “some lodging facilities relocated outside of the rockfall zone.” All historic residences (the Foster, Green, Peterson, and Mother Curry bungalows) as well as the historic men’s club (“No. 819”) and adjacent Stoneman House (formerly the Pavilion) would be converted to visitor lodging. The historic bungalows and cabins-without-bath would be retained and rehabilitated. Two dorms housing 217 beds would be built west of Curry Village. Presumably in the same area a new cafeteria/community hall and a “wellness center” would be built. And finally, 108 new cabins with baths were to be constructed, although the plan did not specify where they would (or could be) situated.<sup>221</sup> The basis for judging which facilities in the rock fall hazard zone would stay and which would go was unclear. For example, Foster Curry Bungalow, located on the southern rim of the tent lodging area well up in the talus slope and, presumably well inside the hazardous zone, was slated to become visitor lodging. Yet, the guest tents surrounding it were, presumably, some of those to be removed due to the hazard.

Following the Merced River floods of 1950, 1956, and 1997 and subsequent loss of concessioner housing at the Yosemite Lodge, “temporary” employee housing accommodations were developed in the area near the Peterson/Huff residence in Curry Village. It was not the most recent flood in 1997 but the subsequent “temporary” relocation of services and facilities from other flooded areas that altered the Historic District’s landscape. Some of

<sup>220</sup> E-TIC, “Specific Area Plans, El Portal/Yosemite Valley, Work Directive – 10002-83-13, Curry Village,” (Drawing no. 104-60978, p. 2).

<sup>221</sup> “Visitor Services, Lodging,” *Yosemite Valley Plan, 2000*, Vol. 1a, Chapter 2, Alternative 2, p. 2-8. The location of these new cabins was specified in the preferred alternative for the *Curry Village and East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvements Site Study* (2005). Forty-nine new cabins would fill the present Huff area and five new cabins would be erected immediately east of the present bungalows. *Curry Village and East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvements Site Study* (2005). Figure 22.

the temporary remedial measures implemented after the floods are still in place.

The most recent chapter in Curry Village planning was written in 2005. Several important variations from the five year-old *Yosemite Valley Plan* are worth noting. The preferred alternative for the 2005 *Curry Village and East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvements Site Plan (CV&EYVCISP)* proposed to dramatically alter the historic landscape. The ice rink and all but four historic structures (Peterson Residence, Bike Rental, and both Garage restrooms) in the Huff area would be removed. This area between Southside Drive and the bungalow parking lot would be filled with forty-eight new motel type cabins and a new fire station. Five more new cabins would be added between the historic bungalows and the Stoneman House. The parking lot south of the Huff area would double in size. A number of tent cabins as well as two historic buildings (Girls Club and Residence 101) were slated to be removed although the pattern of their removal was in no way consistent with the existing boundaries of the geological hazard zone. In fact, two new significant structures, a new Mountain House and “Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Employee Cafeteria,” would be built in the area of the Cooks cabins (immediately south and east of the service yard). All seven of the oldest pre-1925 bungalows in this area were slated for removal.

As with the 2000 YVP, Foster Bungalow, Mother Curry Bungalow, Peterson Residence, and the old Men’s Club (Residence 819) would be converted to visitor lodging in the 2005 *CV&EYVCISP*. The ice rink and its attendant support structure was to be relocated immediately in front of the main central complex (“Pavilion/Grocery Store”). South of it, a new Registration building was to be built between the Lounge (historic Registration Building) and the dining hall. The Curry Orchard parking lot would be severed in half. A new campground RV dump station, campground check station, campground shower facility, and campground access road would slice through the center of Boys Town apparently displacing nine or ten tent cabins. An expanded parking lot on the road to Happy Isles would displace a few more. Otherwise, there is no indication in the Plan that Boys Town would change. Clearly, the 2003 *CV&EYVCISP* was a radical departure from the objectives put forth in the 1980 *General Management Plan*. And, while a number of important historic structures were preserved that had earlier been slated for demolition, the historic landscape of Curry Village would have been negatively impacted. The only significant reduction in the footprint of development would have been the removal of half of Curry Orchard, the oldest historic feature at Camp Curry. The development in the Huff area would have doubled and a new road with attendant large campground service structures would pass through the heart of the collection of tent platforms in Boys Town.

The need to decisively address rock fall hazards in Curry Village occurred on October 7 and 8, 2008, when consecutive rock falls crashed through the talus slopes of the camp causing significant property damage and minor injuries. An interim emergency plan was quickly formulated for the immediate closure of the camp's visitor accommodations, residences, service facilities, and employee housing units that were located within the redefined rock fall hazard zone. This closure affected a number of historically significant permanent and impermanent structures. To compensate for the substantial loss in employee and guest overnight accommodations at Curry Village, the interim emergency plan also authorized a substantial "temporary" expansion of employee and guest accommodations to the Huff and Boys Town areas, respectively.

As a result of the October rock falls and a judgement against the *Draft Merced River Plan*, parts of both the GMP and YVP that affect Curry Village are now inapplicable. The process for formulating a practical long-term solution for these planning dilemmas will entail the following:

- a) Completion of the Camp Curry CLR (expected in April, 2010);
- b) completion of the Curry Village Environmental Assessment (EA), which will determine the appropriate disposition of permanent structures located within the rockfall zone (at the time of the preparation of this document the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was anticipated to be signed in July, 2010); and
- c) the completion of the Merced River Plan/EIS will be necessary prior to any permanent relocation of cabins at Camp Curry, as it will affect the user capacity of the Merced Wild and Scenic River (expected in 2013).



# ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF INTEGRITY

## ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF INTEGRITY SUMMARY

Camp Curry Historic District is a 55.15 acre park concessions operation located in southeastern Yosemite Valley at the base of Glacier Point. It was established in 1899 by David and Mary Curry who were schoolteachers from Redwood City.<sup>222</sup> Although their interest in the outdoors and natural history brought them to Yosemite, it was their business acumen and charismatic personalities that grew Camp Curry into the single largest and most profitable concessions operation in Yosemite. Its location in Yosemite Valley and its commitment to affordable lodging and entertainment brought Camp Curry an enormous amount of visitors, particularly following the democratization of auto touring. Far from just being a place to sleep and eat while exploring the natural wonders of Yosemite Valley, Camp Curry developed into a destination unto itself, offering an unparalleled assortment of recreation activities. Historically these activities included a swimming pool, a dance floor, an ice rink, a toboggan run, a bowling alley, barber shops and beauty salons, lawn sports, an outdoor movie theatre, a pool hall, and, of course, the nightly variety shows and Firefall.

The majority of the planning and development of Camp Curry happened quite rapidly following the camp's inception. Camp Curry was such a popular destination that it grew exponentially, doubling its capacity many times over, particularly in the early years. By 1936, Camp Curry was fully developed and closely resembles the built form that we have today. Although there have been some additions and contractions since this date (in fact, the footprint and capacity was larger in 1936 than today), an overwhelming percentage of the cultural landscape at Camp Curry pre-dates 1936.<sup>223</sup> Accordingly, the period of significance is 1899-1936, during which the majority of resources at Camp Curry were planned and constructed. The historic character of the proposed amended district is reflected in the following landscape characteristics: natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, vegetation, views and vistas, buildings and structures, circulation, small-scale features, and archeological sites.

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<sup>222</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 22.

<sup>223</sup> Yosemite Park and Curry Company, *Location Plan: Unit No. 1, Camp Curry Area*, 3 Sheets.

The natural systems and features that most influenced the development and historic character of Camp Curry are geomorphology, geology, climate, native vegetation, hydrology, and ecology. The geomorphology of the granite cliffs and its active talus slope has had a profound impact on the location form, and ultimate abandonment and demolition of a large swath of Curry Village. The geology of Camp Curry provided building materials for stone chimneys and foundations. In addition, the geologic formations surrounding Camp Curry provided the site at Glacier Point for the nightly Firefall, Camp Curry's signature attraction for decades. Climate influenced the location and amenities offered in the area by providing a relatively cool and shady location during the summer and a cold setting during the winter, which enabled a variety of winter sports offerings. Native vegetation provided building materials and architectural inspiration for Camp Curry. The hydrology of Camp Curry, which is located between a wet meadow and a steep talus slope with several seasonal drainages, has presented opportunities and constraints for development. Lastly, ecology, in particular wildlife ecology, has impacted the design and infrastructure development at Camp Curry.

Camp Curry was one of the earliest developed areas in the park. The spatial organization of the buildings and circulation routes are the result of opportunistic development and frequent expansions to meet the camp's growing demand. Development within Camp Curry was broken into a central, public zone at the main entrance surrounded on three sides by tent cabins (and later) hard-sided cabins. Integrated within the guest accommodations are several private residences that were historically reserved for camp management and several discrete groupings of employee tent cabins. Automobile parking is centrally located north of the camp, and at one time was historically confined within a large covered parking garage.

Historic land uses (guest accommodations, employee residences, visitor services and recreation) are still accommodated at Curry Village, although the scope, breadth and footprint of these offerings have been reduced since the period of significance. These land uses and historic functions are still reflected in the organization of the buildings, circulation system, and open spaces within the district.

Vegetation surrounding and within Camp Curry consists primarily of native species preserved in naturalistic groupings and communities. However, some exceptions to this rule are present. The south Lamon orchard, for instance, consists of roughly 105 grid planted apple trees along the northern portion of the camp. Furthermore, several native Sierran species have been planted in Camp Curry that are ordinarily found at higher altitudes or in lesser densities, including Pacific dogwood and giant sequoia.



Several contributing views and vistas can still be found at Curry Village. These include both panoramic views across Stoneman Meadow of natural features such as Royal Arches, Washington Column, Half Dome, and Yosemite Falls and framed vistas from the amphitheater of Glacier Point. The historic vista framed by the Camp Curry entrance sign is still extant and likewise contributes to the cultural landscape.

In total, there are 586 contributing buildings and structures (including 467 tent cabins, 46 bungalows, 46 WOBs, 7 bungalettes and 20 unique features) that contribute to the proposed amended historic district. These buildings primarily serve as guest accommodation and employee lodging and were important precursors to the development of the National Park Service Rustic architectural style.

Circulation patterns within Camp Curry include roads, trails and widened trails that provide fire lane and service access. These vehicular and pedestrian routes run all throughout the district and their abundance and lack of a hierarchical organization can often be disorienting. The primary vehicular point of entrance and egress is Curry Village Drive, a portion of which is contributing. Upon entering, motorists park their vehicle in one of five different parking areas before making their way on foot to their cabin. The circulation routes through the guest accommodation portions of the camp are generally wide enough for automobile traffic but are limited to only emergency and service vehicles. In addition, several foot trails and a bike trail bisect Camp Curry en route to scenic destinations in the Valley.

Camp Curry is located in the vicinity of a historic-era Yosemite Indian village named Toolahkahmah.<sup>224</sup> As a result, several American Indian archeological features have been found in the area, including lithic scatters with edge-modified flake tools. The district contains several Euro-American historic archaeological resources as well, including the original LeConte Memorial Lodge foundation stones.

This CLR does not include an analysis and evaluation of integrity or treatment recommendations for small scale features at Camp Curry. For guidance on the treatment of small scale features at Camp Curry, please refer to the 2005 Sense of Place Design Guidelines for Yosemite Valley.

## Integrity

The Camp Curry Historic District retains its physical integrity as a Yosemite Valley concession operation and displays the characteristics of a rustic outpost that was established to be affordable to park visitors of modest means. The district underwent the most development from 1899 through 1936 and still exhibits characteristics unique to this time period. Together,

<sup>224</sup> Archeological Site Record, *CA-MRP-0084*, 0825.

the landscape characteristics described above reflect all seven of the aspects of integrity: materials, design, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association.

The natural landscape, including vegetation, the forested location at the base of Glacier Point, and the surrounding views of waterfalls and sheer granite cliffs all serve as the backdrop to Camp Curry, giving it a distinct feeling of being a self-contained community in the woods. The majority of the buildings and roads remain in their historic locations and alignments, which helps to retain the historic layout for the district. The spatial organization, or design, of the site reflects a landscape that grew incrementally over several decades as funds and demand increased. The buildings retain the majority of their original design elements, including many original materials such as siding, windows and doors. The early rustic era buildings at Camp Curry typically have log framing and detailing, use native stone along foundations and chimneys and typically have a rustic siding finish of bark slabs, wood shakes or tongue-and-groove planks. These design components work together and help to convey the historic feeling and association of an early NPS concession operation.

The resources within the proposed amended district at Camp Curry have undergone some changes since the period of significance. Several historic buildings have been destroyed by structural fires, including the garage, the dining hall, the mountain shop and the original bathhouse. These buildings (with the exception of the garage which was never rebuilt) have typically been rebuilt in their historic location and massing, but not in a manner that is compatible with their historic design. While the core of Curry Village retains its historic spatial organization (including the visitor services complex, the bungalow area and the historic lodging/residential area), the Boys Town and Huff areas bear little resemblance to their historic configuration or character, having been substantially modified following the 1997 flood and 2008 rock fall. Indeed, the 2008 rock fall and the subsequent closure of a large swath of the camp could represent the single largest impact to Curry Village since the end of the period of significance. Given the national historic significance of Camp Curry and its enduring popularity with park visitors, the park must act decisively to improve visitor safety from the threat of rock falls while preserving the charm, setting and historic integrity of Camp Curry.

While some components of the district have changed as a result of fire, rock falls and the expanding needs of the park concessioner, the key characteristics that have historically defined Camp Curry remain. Together, the landscape characteristics and associated features help to convey the design intent and aesthetic character of the proposed amended district.

## NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

Natural Systems and features are defined as the natural conditions that have influenced or defined the development and resulting form of the cultural landscape. Camp Curry certainly is a product of its environment, as are its architectural typology, its spatial distribution, its recreational uses, and its history of damage and closure that all hinge upon the environment in which it has developed. The cliffs below glacier point, the active talus, the forests, as well as the hydrology and the spectacular views all have impacted development of Camp Curry in various ways. Wildlife ecology has also influenced its management in important ways.

### Climate

The geomorphology and geology also profoundly impact the climate of Camp Curry. Camp Curry is nestled in the southeast edge of Yosemite Valley almost directly below Glacier Point. The cliffs rise above the camp approximately 4000 feet and effectively shade it from solar radiation. This was probably one reason why the original camp (preceding the Curry family's venture) was established at that particular site; in the hot summer months, Camp Curry is typically shady and cooler than the surrounding environs. The hot summer climate and seasonal visitation patterns at Yosemite Valley inspired the tent cabin typology, which feature vented canvas siding over a wooden frame. Even though Camp Curry is cooler than most parts of Yosemite Valley, it is still sufficiently hot in summer that the tent cabin typology has proven to be a popular and lasting architectural tradition at Camp Curry.

During the winter months, however, Camp Curry is much colder than other areas of Yosemite Valley and this has also impacted its development. The ice rink and toboggan run, in particular, were feasible at this locale precisely because of the reliably colder winter climate at Camp Curry. Even during warm spells, when much of the Yosemite Valley snowpack might melt, Camp Curry will typically remain iced-over.

The opening of the All-Year Highway in 1926 and the increasing popularity of winter sports and year round visitation to Yosemite also influenced the form of Camp Curry. The demand for winter accommodations influenced the Curry family's decision to build more hard-sided cabins rather than continue the tent cabin typology. Hard-sided cabins can be effectively heated during the cold winter months, and therefore were more suitable to winter habitation. The availability of both hard-sided cabins (ideal in winter) and tent cabins (ideal in summer) helped Camp Curry develop and grow into the year-round camp that it is today.

### Ecology and Wildlife Management



**Figure 23.** Sign at Camp Curry (non-contributing) warning visitors not to leave food or toiletries in vehicles.

Perhaps the most notable ecological issue at Camp Curry regards the impact of bear behavior on camp development and management. Bears were exposed to human food sources from very early in Yosemite history and Camp Curry, as a large and early camp, was an early hot spot for bear scavenging. Not only were human food scraps readily available, but ripening orchard fruit in the Camp Curry Orchard was also available; therefore, bears have been long accustomed to seek food in this area. Historically, hand-feeding of bears by humans is known to have occurred and such incidents could only further exacerbate the conflict between Camp Curry and resident bears.

Bears have since become adept at entering automobiles, tent cabins, and hard-sided cabins in search of human food sources. This has long been a source of dialog and dispute regarding camp management; it has resulted in the needless extermination of countless bears and ultimately, the problem necessitated that all sources of human food be stored in bear-proof latched metal lockers. These ‘bear boxes’ were once stacked along the northern edge of the camp. By 2007, however, this solution had proved ineffective. The inconvenience of distance between tent cabins and the food lockers tempted visitors to disregard regulations and keep food overnight in their tent cabins. Consequently, human-bear conflicts continued, human-inhabited tent cabins were frequently entered by bears, and in 2007 bear-proof storage lockers were installed outside of every tent cabin. Despite this relatively strict oversight of human food storage, people still are negligent and sometimes leave food items in their automobiles. Consequently, bears still frequently enter automobiles and obtain food.

As mentioned, the historic Camp Curry Orchard is also a major food source for bears and because this orchard is also a parking lot, the confluence of two reliable food sources continues to draw bears into the Camp Curry environs. Bears feed on the apples produced by these trees and, if food is left in a vehicle beneath the trees, bears are likely to break into vehicles as well in search of additional food sources.

Raccoons have also been known to scavenge human food scraps around Camp Curry. Due to their small size, they are able to find shelter in the camp. Raccoons were known to dwell in rather high concentration beneath the pizza deck before the skirting was made raccoon-proof. These raccoons would often receive food from the pizza deck, both directly from diners and also by scavenging scraps. In one regrettable incident, two mountain lions had to be destroyed after they began habitually hunting raccoons in the vicinity of the pizza deck.

### **Geomorphology**

The geomorphology of the granite cliffs and related talus slope has profoundly impacted the development and management of Curry Village.

The center of Curry Village was sited at the toe of an active talus slope and one can frequently see and hear rock and ice crumbling, sliding, and falling from the cliff above camp. As the camp grew, it expanded both along the east-west axis of the cliffs, but also deep into the talus, rather close to the base of the cliff. The majority of the larger buildings, however, remained just beyond the talus slope, on relatively flat and safe ground.

Rock fall has repeatedly damaged buildings and other infrastructure at Camp Curry and instigated the closure of the Ledge Trail, which once led to Glacier Point and passed directly above the camp. As early as 1926, the launching structure of the toboggan slide, for example, was damaged by rock fall. Tents were installed and then subsequently removed when debris flow compromised the sense of security in a given area. Tent cabins were once located even higher up the talus slope than they are today. In 1986, for example, tents above the Nob Hill area were removed following rock fall. The NPS even constructed a stone and earthen channel intended to deflect debris flow from the structures at Camp Curry; however, it is currently unknown to what extent this channel is (or ever has been) effective in its intended purpose.

In October, 2008 a major rock fall event destroyed several tent cabins and damaged hard-sided structures at Camp Curry. Following this rock fall event, the NPS determined that the dangers of rock fall at Camp Curry are sufficient to justify closing the portion of the camp determined to be at a high risk to future damage from rock falls. This closure will greatly reduce the overnight guest and employee capacity of Camp Curry, reduce its developed area footprint, and alter the rambling, dispersed character of the camp.

### **Geology**

The large granite boulders of the talus slope physically define large portions of Camp Curry. The boulders both limit the extent and the shape of the camp, and they also help define the spaces throughout much of the camp. For example, where the camp is on flat open ground adjacent to the talus, tents and cabins are aligned in coherent rows. This spatial legibility is absent in the talus portion of the camp, where tents are in more scattered groups between and among the boulders. The Terrace, for example, is a cluster of employee tent cabins on a shelf deep in the talus and it exemplifies a spatial typology defined by the boulders. It lacks any coherent pattern of grouping and it is quite difficult to navigate; however, its labyrinthine character among the boulders also provides a sense of wildness and mystery not evident in the more coherent and row-aligned sections of the camp. Standing at the entrance to a tent on the Terrace, one often cannot even see many of the adjacent tent cabins, but can only see the surrounding boulders and trees. In general, as the camp ascends up into the talus, the spatial organization becomes progressively less legible and less coherent.





**Figure 24.** Staircase Creek Drainage Channel as it flows through the bungalows. The far culvert headwall remains intact, while the near culvert headwall has collapsed.

This effect can be directly attributed to the increased density of boulders higher up the talus slope.

The geology of the Glacier Point cliffs, which rise above Camp Curry along its southern extent, also has shaped the cultural landscape. The original Firefall events entailed the release of a large bed of coals from Glacier Point down onto the talus southwest of Camp Curry. David Curry vehemently pushed to maintain the firefall tradition and Camp Curry was a key viewing area for this spectacle. The site of the current amphitheater seating historically was an area used to view this event. The area around the amphitheater may have remained open precisely for this reason and the opening in the forest canopy still features some of the least impacted views throughout Camp Curry.

### Hydrology

Camp Curry is located outside the 100-year floodplain of the Merced River; however, it is situated between the talus slope and the wetlands and meadows into which the talus would naturally drain. A large nationally-designated wetland encompasses the large natural area immediately west of the Camp Curry orchard parking lot and immediately south of Stoneman Meadow. Its northern border is the South Loop Road, its eastern border is the orchard, and its south and western border approximately follows the edge of the Curry Village Drive. It is important to note that the Camp Curry orchard was once a vital part of the larger Stoneman Meadow complex, but it has been ecologically compromised by the addition of road base, asphalt paving and years of automobile compaction.

Due to its location at the base of a talus slope, water generally flows through camp from south to north. This flow often takes the form of small seasonal streams, some of which are piped beneath infrastructure and then surface into open channels through semi-naturalized planting beds. A large portion of the seasonal runoff drains informally down the trails and access roads, causing substantial erosion and pooling along the southern edge of the parking lot. Additionally, some of this water passes through Camp Curry and drains into a wetland associated with Stoneman Meadow or, in the case of Staircase Creek, directly into the Merced River. Staircase Creek seasonally flows from Staircase Falls; it appears to have been channelized in order to help reduce spring flooding in the camp and to facilitate drainage. This channel is forded along pedestrian routes by small bridges with stone culvert headwalls (see Figure 24). The entire channel is cordoned off by rope fences. Additionally, this drainage route helps define spaces and improve orientation within the western portion of camp. The delineation of this stream also serves to diminish the sense of wilderness within camp; rather, the area appears more managed and developed as a consequence of its straight, canal-like channels.



The northeastern portion of Camp Curry, downstream of the talus, is particularly prone to saturated soils and seasonal flooding. Boys Town, as well as the central parking areas in and south of the orchard, are all known to have a high groundwater table and a high frequency of minor flooding. Flooding and standing water is exacerbated by the snow plowing operations, which tend to pile snow in areas adjacent to pedestrian circulation routes. When this piled snow melts, it creates puddles that entirely submerge primary pedestrian routes (see Figure 65 on page 155) and later freeze, causing dangerous ice slicks across large stretches of sidewalks. The phenomenon is further exacerbated by the lack of drainage in the central parking lot south of the orchard. It is neither effectively graded to drain surface flow, nor is it drained via storm sewers.

### Native Vegetation

Camp Curry is densely wooded with a mixture of three primary forest types: (1) ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) / mixed-conifer forest, (2) California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) woodland, and (3) canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) forest. California black oak woodland probably was once more dominant around the base of the talus, as many mature trees occur throughout camp; however, an increase in ponderosa pine and the shade-tolerant incense-cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*) has since precluded oak regeneration and the entire site is now more easily classified as ponderosa pine / mixed conifer forest. Canyon live oak forest is typical of the talus slopes above the camp. Perhaps the most common sub-dominant canopy species across the site are California laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Mountain dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) is a native understory tree at Camp Curry; however, it was planted around many of the structures in the camp and it is therefore a common sight and even a distinctive feature of Camp Curry's vegetation.

The combination of Camp Curry's cold climate and woodland situation has resulted in a high frequency of tree failure and subsequent damage to structures. As early as 1916, shortly after its construction, the Foster Curry Cabin was badly damaged and rebuilt after an oak tree fell on it. Following the Christmas snowstorms of 2008 many tent cabins and hard-sided cabins were damaged or destroyed by tree failure (primarily California black oak). In fact, more widespread damage occurred in 2008 due to tree failure than as a consequence of the 2008 Curry Village rock fall.

The native forests around Camp Curry clearly influenced the details of its architectural typology. Camp Curry is less closely associated with the Merced River and its meadows than it is associated with the mixed forests and the talus. The use of rustic stone and wood features is pervasive on the buildings of the camp, especially as unfinished wood siding on cabins. It is also present in the tree-limb and rope fencing, and on the Camp Curry entrance sign. This unifying design aesthetic clearly is a response to the



Figure 25. Example of a historic bungalow constructed around a pre-existing conifer.

woodland setting of the camp. Several structures in the camp were even built around existing large trees; this further strengthens the relationship between the camp and its forest setting. Indeed, Camp Curry gives the explicit aesthetic impression of being integrated with the forest.

It is important to note that an historic lumber mill once was installed east of Camp Curry. This mill was able to utilize the available local timber for construction of infrastructure. In this way, native vegetation became not only an architectural inspiration, but it physically *became* architecture. It served as the surroundings, the aesthetic backdrop, the motif, and the buildings themselves; consequently, Camp Curry has a stronger sense of relationship with its surrounding forests than do some other areas of Yosemite Valley.

Characteristics of natural systems and features that contribute to the character of the Camp Curry developed area include:

- A climate that is cooler than other Yosemite Valley locales, providing relief from the heat in the summer and recreational opportunities in the winter.
- Development that is built into and around existing boulders and vegetation.
- A mixed deciduous and coniferous canopy cover that provides a sense of enclosure and privacy.

## SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

[The Spatial Organization Landscape Characteristic is adapted from the 2006 National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Yosemite Valley]  
The overall layout of Camp Curry is essentially longitudinal, with a central, core facility area, tent cabins to the east, and bungalows to the west. In addition, another group of tent cabins and wood bungalows are set on the talus slope to the south.

Camp Curry always featured a central, public zone at the main entrance, defined in part by the entrance gateway, the amphitheater, dining facility, registration building, main office, and other public spaces and activities. The larger scale buildings in this area were sited with commensurate space between them. Their central location and public functions assured that these more open, larger spaces would become gathering points for public programs and social interaction in general. The central dining facility/pool house complex was replaced (following a fire) in the 1970s, and is a non-contributing building. The new building maintained the footprint and massing of the old (1929) facility, however, and so helped maintain the integrity of spatial organization in the central area of the camp. Although many core area activities (including the nightly firefall and dancing) have ended, the amphitheater, food services, and registration all continue to enliven it.

The open, civic character of these central spaces at Camp Curry is somewhat impaired by vegetation planted in the 1980s, as well as changes in circulation patterns. The main entrance gateway remains, but has been surrounded by revegetated areas and no longer functions as a gateway. The sense of arrival is greatly diminished for visitors. Other open areas have also been replanted, and buildings have been heavily screened, a process intended to make them disappear from view, but which more often makes them merely difficult to fully apprehend or understand as buildings. As a result, the central spaces of Camp Curry (the core facility area) are themselves somewhat disorienting. This disorientation prevents visitors from forming a clear sense of the layout of the camp upon their arrival.

The spaces to the east of the core facility area are defined by hundreds of one-room, walled tent cabins. With gabled ends and set on wooden platforms, the tents are still made in Fresno, California, using new fireproof materials and following specifications that date to the period of significance. The long rows of white tents create narrow streets; these are typically of packed earth, and curve slightly to follow the talus contours. When overlaid with a 1925 plat map of Camp Curry, these rows of tent cabins line up almost exactly with the configuration that was present historically.



Figure 26. Typical narrow street defined by rows of tent cabins.

The overall setting is wooded, with a mature forest of ponderosa pine, incense cedars, black oak, live oak, and big leaf maples shading the entire area and providing an overhead sense of enclosure. The rhythm of the tent streets is punctuated by periodic, larger, wooden comfort station buildings. The overall sense of enclosure along the tent cabin streets is in marked contrast to the grandeur experienced in Yosemite Valley. The small scale of the individual tents, set one after another, also creates public paths and streets between them, which have a unique spatial character in the valley. As described in the 1979 National Register Nomination for Camp Curry, the tent cabins are “exemplary of the Camp Curry ideal and enhance the historic setting, but their individual significance is minimal and exists only in a collective sense”.

To the west of the core facility area, the original 48 wooden bungalows (cabins with baths), completed in the 1920s, still retain their character and spatial organization. The bungalows were also laid out in rows, although these larger buildings were set somewhat farther apart and in slightly straighter, more regular rows. The space created by the buildings is analogous to that of elongated city blocks, with streets on the fronts of the bungalows and narrower alleys separating the backs of the buildings. The overall character of the spaces is correspondingly less intimate, and more established. Some of the streets are broader, with planted areas down the center.





Figure 27. Typical broad street with a planted median defined by the bungalows.

Between the core facility area and the bungalows (cabins with baths) and also scattered elsewhere around the core facility area are more elaborate bungalows built for Mother Curry and other family members and employees. These residences (most now used as additional lodging or employee housing) enhanced the domestic atmosphere of what was, at least initially, a truly mom-and-pop business. Sited to maintain at least some privacy, however, these residences do not create important public spaces; rather, they provide a transition zone between the core area and the bungalows to the west.

To the south of the core facility area, the talus slope rises quickly. Most of the level ground in this area was originally used for amphitheater seating, lawn games, and some employee housing. By the early 1930s, a group of wooden, one-room bungalows without baths (known as WOBs) were built here. Additional groups of tent cabins had also been sited on the talus slopes to the south and east. One group, known as Nob Hill, made up a distinctive neighborhood.

Operating Camp Curry requires a massive influx of seasonal help, particularly during the spring and summer months. Historically, cohabitation between unmarried staff was disallowed and employees were divided up into discrete parts of camp based on gender. Male help was historically located in the areas now known as Boys Town and the Cook's WOB's cluster (originally the site of the men's dormitory). Female help

was located high up the talus slope in an area referred to as “the Terrace”. Married help were located in a small cluster of tent cabins adjacent to the Terrace at the base of the talus slope. Although employee cabins at Camp Curry have been gender integrated since 1999, this original separation of the sexes still has an impact on the overall organization of Camp Curry.

Not surprisingly, the Terrace (historically used by female employees) and Boys Town (historically used by male employees) are separated from each other by a large swath of guest accommodation tent cabins. The employee tent cabins within the Terrace, located above the core area well into the talus slope, do not represent characteristic spaces at Camp Curry; but the sight of some of the higher tent cabins, perched among the boulders, do create a picturesque image. Similarly, the Boys Town area of employee tents (and other housing) on the north side of the road (east of the apple orchard) do not create important spaces in the overall organization of the Camp Curry developed area. Furthermore, the historic spatial organization of both areas has been compromised due to the closure of the tent cabins on the Terrace and the massive expansion of Boys Town, both following the October 2008 rock slide.

To the northwest, redevelopment of the recreation center area (ice rink, etc.) and recent expansions of the Huff housing area (following the 1997 flood and 2008 rock slide) have caused a significant loss of integrity of the spatial organization in that area.

One of the most remarkable features of Camp Curry is the parking lot/apple orchard, first suggested by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. in 1927. This proved to be a happy reuse of an 1861 apple orchard, which, by 1927 had little use since produce could be brought in economically on improved roads. The rows of mature fruit trees provide a certain dignity to the space, although the frequent overcrowding of the lot, and the additional parking area immediately to the south, undermine the quality of the orchard space.

Characteristics of spatial organization that contribute to the character of the Camp Curry developed area include:

- Open spaces at the core facility area, with larger public buildings defining spaces for outdoor activities, socializing, and programs.
- A central entrance space defined by a historic gate.
- Long, narrow street spaces, curving slightly, created by the rows of tent cabins in the east end of the development.
- Wider, straighter streets and alleys created by the bungalows in the west end of the development.
- Rectilinear, shaded parking bays created by the reuse of the 1861 orchard as a parking lot.
- Overall zoning of spaces with tent cabins, bungalows, and core



facilities, all in separate zones and characterized by distinct and different qualities of outdoor spaces.

## LAND USE

Land use is defined as the salient human activities that have formed, shaped or organized the landscape. Camp Curry incorporated several distinct land uses throughout the period of significance, which extends from 1899–1936. These uses, in chronological order of development, include agriculture, residential, commercial, recreational, and memorial. The overarching and predominant land use at Camp Curry, both historically and in the present, is that of a commercial camp and park concession operation.

Pre-historic Native American peoples inhabited Yosemite Valley as early as 8,000 years prior to the arrival of European-Americans. Most recently, the Yosemite Indians maintained a village site on the footprint of the existing Camp Curry Orchard and parking lot until 1851, and possibly later. Located in the shade of Glacier Point, this site probably would have been used seasonally, mostly during the hot, dry summer months. The abundance of California black oak was a staple food source for these people, who harvested the acorns. They used fire to maintain the open character of the oak groves and to prevent the encroachment of conifers. This pre-historic human activity fundamentally shaped the nature of the vegetative communities throughout Yosemite Valley and in the present-day Camp Curry environs. Camp Curry's abundance of mature oaks can likely be attributed to this early subsistence agricultural land use.

In 1861, James Lamon planted two large orchards, the remnants of which still remain.<sup>225</sup> One of these orchards occurs in the northeastern section of the Camp Curry historic district and represents the earliest relic of Euro-American land use at the site of the camp. The orchards were part of a broader land use typology brought to Yosemite Valley by white settlers. Their patterns of settlement and land use were typified by agricultural subsistence including fenced livestock, cultivated forage crops, as well as fruit and vegetable production.

In 1888, the Stoneman House hotel was built at the south edge of Stoneman Meadow, which would be just north of today's Camp Curry.<sup>226</sup> This hotel set the first precedent for the development of commercial guest accommodations in the immediate area but was destroyed in a fire soon thereafter. During this period, a cabin also was occupied in the northeast corner of Lamon's south orchard. This cabin was the first known private residence in the area. A fence, located along the southern border of this

<sup>225</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-7.

<sup>226</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 155.

orchard, also dated from this period. These structures represent the first known residential land use by white settlers in the Camp Curry area and neither remains.

By 1898, William Thomas erected a camp for his family at the current site of Camp Curry.<sup>227</sup> This included a bathhouse as well as tents with frames and platforms. In 1899, this site was occupied by the Curry family, which then became the first private, camp-style guest accommodations in Yosemite Valley. This rustic commercial camp grew steadily and facilitated the development of recreational land use in the area. It incorporated basic guest services including lodging, dining, and washroom facilities. Early on however, Camp Curry expanded well beyond minimal accommodations to include a wide manner of recreational pursuits. As early as 1902, tennis and croquet courts were laid out.<sup>228</sup> In 1913, a swimming pool was constructed.<sup>229</sup> This was followed in 1917 by a constructed eight-hundred foot toboggan run, which was the first recreational development at Camp Curry geared toward winter sports.<sup>230</sup> By the 1920's, recreational opportunities at Camp Curry would include nightly variety shows and music, a children's playground, a bowling alley, a pool room, an automotive repair shop, a movie projector, a darkroom, and a beauty / barber services. In 1929, an ice-skating rink was established.<sup>231</sup>

The commercial enterprise of Camp Curry and its associated guest accommodations were and remain the central land use of Camp Curry; however, the residential developments, which housed the camp's owner's, manager's and staff, also are integral to the area's historic character. Several permanent residential structures were constructed during this era for Camp Curry's employees. In addition to permanent hard-sided structures, the seasonal employees also inhabited tent cabins identical to those rented by guests. The residential component at Camp Curry lends the area a more intimate character than it would otherwise have.

Following the death of Joseph LeConte, the Sierra Club constructed, in 1904, a Memorial Lodge in his memory.<sup>232</sup> This architecturally elaborate building, which was designed by Bernard Maybeck, was constructed of granite blocks and was situated southwest of Camp Curry at the base of the Glacier Point cliffs. This memorial lodge was used as a meeting place for the non-profit Sierra Club and represents the earliest such facility in Yosemite

<sup>227</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite Innkeepers*, 17.

<sup>228</sup> *Ibid.*, 29.

<sup>229</sup> *Ibid.*, 41.

<sup>230</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-50.

<sup>231</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, November 1929, YPRL collection.

<sup>232</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-79.

Valley. Originally constructed within the Camp Curry historic district, it was later moved farther west of the district. It represents a unique land use in the vicinity of Camp Curry.

Characteristics of land use that contribute to the character of the Camp Curry developed area include:

- A low cost, family friendly concession operation composed primarily of tent cabins
- An overnight lodging facility that offers a mix of tent and hard-sided accommodations and multiple recreational activities, including interpretive programming at the amphitheater, swimming and winter ice skating.

## VEGETATION

At least as early as 1861, the vegetation around Camp Curry was being altered through occupancy by Euro-American settlers. James Lamon planted his southern orchard in this year in an area that had been a wet meadow. Early settlers also used Stoneman Meadow as pasture for stock animals and in this early period, several species of non-native pasture grasses became established throughout Yosemite Valley meadows.

As Camp Curry became established, the installation of various structures resulted in additional changes to native vegetation. The sawmill immediately east of Camp Curry was utilized by 1918 to mill local timber for construction activities around Camp Curry.<sup>233</sup> As buildings were constructed, some landscape improvements seem to have been undertaken, with a preference given towards certain species, reflected in the abundance of flowering pacific dogwood around many of Camp Curry's more significant structures. Other horticultural species that have been planted within the district include sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) at Foster and Mother Curry's bungalows and black locusts (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) in the northern vegetated median between Curry Village Drive and the Bus Loop. These specimens likely are historic, but their exact age is unknown. Some areas may have been intentionally screened with conifers as well, though this is difficult to positively ascertain.

One particular revegetation event is well-documented, and that is a misguided mitigation undertaken after the south Lamon orchard was retrofitted as a parking lot in 1929.<sup>234</sup> The design necessitated the removal of every third row of apple trees and "a few small pines" in the orchard.

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<sup>233</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-82.

<sup>234</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-82.

To compensate for the tree removal, the YP&CCo planted roughly 150 ponderosa pine saplings “in the meadow adjoining the corner of the parking area”. Unfortunately, this large group of ponderosa pine along the southeast edge of Stoneman Meadow has thrived and facilitated the spread of the conifers in the meadow, which has long been accepted as detrimental to meadow preservation goals in Yosemite Valley.

Beginning in the 1930’s and carrying on through recent times, much effort has been spent to control the spread of conifers in Yosemite Valley’s meadows. This has included hand removal of seedlings and more recently, prescribed fire. In addition to these pines impacts on meadow ecology, they are also a major obstruction with regard to Camp Curry’s views. They obstruct many views along the northern edge of the camp outward toward several iconic natural features.

In the late 1920’s, Carl Purdy was hired as a horticulturist to collect wild plants from throughout the park to be used in Yosemite Valley plantings. These were primarily commissioned for the grounds of The Ahwahnee hotel; however, his services were also commissioned for road and trailside plantings around Camp Curry. Unfortunately, many of the plants Mr. Purdy collected and used were from much higher elevation and were ill-adapted for life on the floor of Yosemite Valley. Records indicate, however, that many of the plantings were destroyed by deer grazing. In any case, no remnants of these plantings are known to remain.

In the 1930’s and thereafter, sporadic vista clearing was undertaken throughout Yosemite Valley. This typically consisted of the removal of selected coniferous trees that obstructed popular views of popular features. While it is believed that very little such work was undertaken at Camp Curry, it is known that some did occur. The details of this work, unfortunately, have not surfaced in the process of archival research.

In recent decades, many construction projects have been undertaken in and around Camp Curry. Road construction and repair, utilities work, and building construction all require some degree of post-construction revegetation. Where such revegetation projects have occurred, they have been executed in such a manner that they blend unobtrusively with the existing native vegetation.

The pedestrian circulation pattern throughout Camp Curry is defined by rope and limb fencing at approximately knee height. This system of rustic fencing effectively defines planting beds from which pedestrians are excluded. While these beds do not appear to be deliberately planted, the fencing limits damage from trampling and these islands typically have a host of native plant species, including upper canopy and sub-canopy shrub and herbaceous species. This typology of rope and limb fencing is unique

to Camp Curry within Yosemite Valley.

By the early 1980's, planting beds with irrigation were installed in the area between the Visitor Services Building and the paved pedestrian trail along its western edge. Additional irrigated planting beds occur along the northwest side of the Pavilion and just north of the Post Office. These beds are primarily naturalized in appearance and are comprised of primarily native species with some non-native species included in the grass seed mixture. The density of these planted areas, however, can disrupt sightlines and cause visitor confusion and way-finding problems. At the time this document was being prepared one very large planted island directly north of the Visitor Services Building was in the process of restoration to native meadow conditions.

Characteristics of vegetation that contribute to the character of the Camp Curry developed area include:

- A mixture of deciduous and coniferous vegetation at various canopy layers that is primarily native.
- Development that is located adjacent to but not within Stoneman Meadow.

## VIEWS AND VISTAS

Views and vistas are alternately defined as an expansive and panoramic prospect or a controlled prospect of a discrete range of vision, which may be naturally occurring or deliberately created or enhanced. The setting of Camp Curry in the mixed forest beneath Glacier Point does not lend itself particularly well to naturally-occurring expansive views. Camp Curry has always been more dominated by close views within the forest; however, there are some notable exceptions. The historic views outward across the wetlands and meadows were historically present and were almost certainly more open and extensive than they are today. Long views of key scenic features are limited but they do occur and they contribute to the Camp Curry Historic District.

In a broad sense, the naturally-occurring views across Yosemite Valley and in Camp Curry are severely impacted by conifer encroachment on historically open meadows and wetlands. The spread of aggressive coniferous species such as incense cedar and ponderosa pine has been facilitated by a multitude of factors, including a century of wildfire suppression, a lowered groundwater table following various human-induced changes, and by increasing deer populations, which consume oak seedlings. Camp Curry and its surrounding landscape are not exceptions to this phenomenon; California black oaks do not appear to be regenerating,

despite an abundance of mature specimens. Instead, shade-tolerant conifers are thriving and aggressively spreading through the remaining open areas of the camp.

Several contributing views and vistas have been identified (see relevant site plans). These are the views of key scenic features such as Half Dome, North Dome, Washington Column, Royal Arches, Glacier Point, and Yosemite Falls. These views and vistas originate primarily in and around the central visitor services complex along pedestrian paths. An additional contributing vista has been identified as that which is framed through the Camp Curry entrance sign, looking both inward toward camp and looking outward across Stoneman Meadow. Another contributing view is from the historic Post Office entrance (current registration building) toward Half Dome.

### **Views and Vistas that Contribute to the Historic Character of the District**

#### **View of Scenic Features (1) *from the pedestrian plaza and trail to Happy Isles immediately north of the Visitor Services Area.***

This is the only known viewpoint in Camp Curry from which one can see Yosemite Falls, North Dome, Royal Arches, and Washington Column. It occurs along the pedestrian trail to Happy Isles, which runs east-west between the main short-term parking lot and the northernmost contributing tent cabins. This view was identified as contributing because it occurs along a contributing historically-aligned trail corridor and it is the relic of what was likely once a more extensive view of multiple scenic features across Stoneman Meadow. This view is currently compromised by conifer encroachment and by the parking lot which dominates the foreground. Particularly, the planted conifers that line either side of the Curry Village Drive, where it connects with the orchard parking area, have obstructed historic views across Stoneman Meadow.

#### **Vista of Scenic Features (2) *from the amphitheater seating area***

The views from the amphitheater seating area feature clear views of Half Dome (near the front rows), as well as North Dome, Royal Arches, and Washington Column (from the mid-rear rows). One can also capture framed views of Glacier Point and Staircase Falls throughout this area. This amphitheater seating area historically served as a viewing area for the nightly Firefall and as such was deliberately kept open. The vistas from this area were identified as contributing because this is a historic amphitheater and stage area, specifically sited for its viewing opportunities. Its current vistas are therefore a significant part of its legacy. These views are somewhat impacted by conifer encroachment, which has restricted the views outward, narrowing the opening through which Glacier Point and other features are visible.





Figure 28. Panorama view from the trail to Happy Isles showing Yosemite Falls, North Dome, Royal Arches and Washington Column.

#### View of Half Dome through Post Office and Main Office Entrances

The historic Camp Curry post office and main office were aligned with their front entrances pointing directly at Half Dome. It seems very likely that this alignment was a deliberate attempt to frame views of Half Dome through windows and from the buildings front porches and entrances. These buildings are located in such a manner that guests look directly at Half Dome when exiting the building. This view was identified as contributing because it is associated with the presumed design intent of a historic building within Camp Curry. This view is substantially compromised by a group of alders, dogwoods and other primarily deciduous species in the foreground (particularly during the spring and summer when they are fully



Figure 29. Contemporary view from the amphitheater area up to Glacier Point, the site of the historic firefall.



Figure 30. View through the Camp Curry Entrance Sign, c. 1970s.

leafed-out) and they might soon be more substantially impacted by young incense cedar saplings, which are growing nearby.

#### Vista through the Camp Curry Entrance Sign

The Camp Curry entrance sign has been prominently featured in many of Camp Curry's historic brochures and countless historic photographs. Its rustic charm has provided a sense of arrival and departure to Camp Curry visitors for nearly 100 years. The sign successfully frames vistas looking inward toward camp as well as outward toward Stoneman Meadow through the sign. This vista has been compromised by the realignment of historical circulation patterns and the 1980s revegetation of the areas in front of the visitor services facilities.

Characteristics of views and vistas that contribute to the character of the Camp Curry developed area include:

- A mixture of deciduous and coniferous vegetation at various canopy layers that is primarily native.
- Development that is located adjacent to but not within Stoneman Meadow.

### BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

The contributing buildings and structures within the Camp Curry Historic District collectively convey the recreational and aesthetic significance of development in the area from 1899 through 1936. Building styles within the district range from the ornate and intricate, exemplified in such buildings as Foster Curry's and Mother Curry's bungalows; to extremely simple and streamlined, exemplified by the tent cabins and bungalettes. As described in the 1979 Camp Curry National Register Nomination, the overall building theme at Camp Curry was:

*"...rustic and was characterized primarily by the use of native materials in their natural state, such as unpeeled logs and strips of bark. Other elements include horizontal or diagonal sawn wood, river run stone foundations, and strongly expressed structural members. A low profile was expressed through gabled or hipped roofs with widely overhanging eaves and a uniform dark color to all buildings but the tents. The intent behind this style was for buildings to blend into the natural environment and to preserve a sense of primitiveness that enhances the character of the Camp."*

This document primarily refers to buildings and structures by their oldest known name. For instance, The Men's Lounge has had many names over

the years, including Cabin 819, Pool Room, Social Hall and Day Room. However, this document will refer to it as the “Men’s Lounge” as this is its oldest known name. In many instances, the oldest known name is not the name that the building is currently referred to as or the name that is listed in the National Register. If there is more than one known name for any building or structure, these names are listed parenthetically following the oldest known name for each entry. For a complete list of all buildings and structures and their existing and proposed amended national register status, refer to the matrix at the end of this section.

## Contributing Buildings and Structures

### **Main Office (Registration Office, Lounge, Current Post Office)**

#### **LCS ID: 55959, built 1904 – contributing**

Built in 1904, the registration building is the oldest building in Yosemite Valley that remains in its original location. It is a one-story wood frame building that measures roughly 50x70 feet. The building consists of an unpeeled log frame, vertical posts and horizontal beams with infill panels of wood shakes on the upper half of the wall and, below, strips of natural cedar bark are arranged in panels diagonally, creating a herringbone pattern. The veranda, which wraps around the north and east facades of the building, is supported by unpeeled log columns, 10’ on center and does not have a railing. A string of incandescent lights run along the perimeter roof line of the veranda. A large tree that originally projected through the veranda and roofline has been cut down and its large stump fashioned into the shape of a chair. The overhanging hipped roof has wood shakes, with several skylights, with an extra coursing of wood shakes along the buildings ridge line. The building has double casement windows, each with six lights. A large rubble stone masonry interior chimney projects from the western portion of the roofline.

Although many expansions and modifications have been made to the building since its initial construction, it still retains its historic character. Circa 1915 a performer’s stage (or platform) was constructed on the southeast corner of the building. Circa 1920, an additional room was constructed on the north side of the building (in the location of the original log trellis). In 1936 a small addition was constructed on the south end of the west elevation. In 1953 the performer’s stage was expanded and amphitheater seating was added. In 1960 additions to the west and north elevations were partially removed and replaced with a wood deck in the porch area in the northwest corner of the building. In 1979 the buildings north room was converted into a post office and remains so today. The counter from the old post office was incorporated into the new post office.

In 1979, this building was listed in the National Register within the Camp



Figure 31. The main office following rehabilitation work that was completed in 2009.

Curry Historic District and in 2006 it was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. In 2008-09, the building underwent extensive rehabilitation which included a new concrete foundation wall on three sides, a structurally reinforced roof and veranda, new wood shingle siding, a new AC system and an electrically heated floor located over the original floor.

**Post Office (Transportation Headquarters, New Registration Office),  
LCS ID: 55928, built 1911-1920, contributing**

This one-story wood frame building was built sometime between 1909 and 1920. All secondary sources, including the historic resources study, Yosemite Valley CLR and the Camp Curry Historic District National Register Nomination state that the building was constructed in 1920. However, no primary source citation is provided for this date. Primary research analyzing historic Camp Curry brochures indicates that there was a Post Office at Camp Curry by 1911. It remains unknown whether this is the same post office that is typically ascribed to have been built in 1920, although this is a distinct possibility. No historic maps of Camp Curry or photos of the Post Office between these years were found to confirm or refute this hypothesis.

The post office is located to the west of the visitor services building and is currently used as the camps registration office. Its irregular plan is largely square in shape (roughly 40 by 40 feet) and is capped by a hipped roof covered in split shakes with unpeeled log detailing along the ridge line. It has an at-grade, covered porch on its east façade made of unpeeled log post-and-beam construction. The building has had additions added



to it in the 1930s and 1950s. The building has a variety of window types, including single-hung box-head windows with some casement windows on the 1930s addition. The building is primarily sided with vertical bark slabs and unpeeled logs, except for the small 1930s addition that is covered with vertical tongue-and-groove. The building was originally constructed with a minimal foundation that rested on wood blocks set directly on grade, but has since been rehabilitated with a concrete slab. A wood framed shed addition dating to the 1930s is located on the southwest corner of the building, which enclosed a portion of the veranda and extended the roof several feet. In the late 1950s an addition was built to this building on its north side so that it could be used as a registration office. This addition again eliminated a portion of the veranda and extended the roof and consists of log post and beams with multi-panel window pane infill.

In 1979, this building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Camp Curry Historic District and in 2006 it was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. In 2008-09, the building underwent extensive rehabilitation which included a new poured concrete slab foundation and replacement in-kind of all rotten wood found in the building.

#### **Pavilion (Stoneman House, Auditorium, Dance Hall)**

**LCS ID: 55927, built 1913 – contributing**

Constructed in 1913, the pavilion and dance hall were built to provide evening entertainment for Camp Curry patrons following the nightly Firefall. This building was designed in the nascent rustic style and was originally clad in native river cobble stone masonry veneer (with shakes at the gables) over a wood frame. Although some of this original stone masonry work is still extant, the buildings siding has been replaced with vertical tongue-and-groove painted brown. The shake siding at the gables, however, remains.

It is a 1.5-story timber framed structure with a gabled roof and a veranda covered with a hipped roof. Its exterior measures roughly 50x100 feet. The building retains some of its original 6-light windows, but many have been replaced with modern aluminum windows. The window locations, however, have remained. The covered veranda features a discontinuous stone masonry railing with a concrete cap, chamfered 6x6 posts, a mixed exposed aggregate and wood plank floor and a bead-board ceiling. A ring of miniature exposed incandescent light bulbs lines the perimeter of the veranda's ceiling. In 1961 the building was remodeled into ten employee housing units. Today, the building has been further modified into 18 guest accommodation units with baths, some of which contain lofts. Although modified since the period of significance, the building still retains its historic character.



**Figure 32.** The historic post office (registration building) as seen through the Camp Curry entrance sign.



**Figure 33.** The eastern gable end of the Pavilion, which was converted from a Dance Hall into guest accommodations in 1961.



**Figure 34.** The historic Camp Curry Entrance Sign as seen while exiting the camp, reading “FAREWELL”.

In 1979, this building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Camp Curry Historic District and in 2006 it was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **Camp Curry Entrance Sign**

**LCS ID: 55960, built 1914 – contributing**

The Camp Curry entrance sign is located near the present registration office. This sign is perhaps the most photographed feature within Camp Curry, both historically and currently. The sign is about 20 feet high and consists of unpeeled log supports with the words “CAMP CURRY” and “WELCOME” on the front and “FAREWELL” on its rear, all spelled out in unpeeled saplings. Fretwork, also in unpeeled saplings, adds decoration to the sign. Small, globular incandescent bulbs placed every 2-3 inches trace the lettering of “CAMP CURRY” on the front of the sign. The original sign did not have the second, lower panel that houses the word “WELCOME” although this modification has been present for many years. Although slight modifications have been made to the sign since construction, including the replacement of supporting members, the basic design of the sign is still largely original as built by Foster Curry in 1914.

In 2009, the sign was temporarily removed by the park concessioner for rehabilitation and reinstalled later that year. Rehabilitation included replacing the wood posts and returning the word “FAREWELL” to the rear of the sign, which had previously been missing. In 1979, this structure was listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Camp Curry Historic District and in 2006 it was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **Foster Curry Cabin (Tresidder Residence, Mary Curry Residence)**

**LCS ID: 55961, built 1916 – contributing**

This cabin was built by Foster Curry in 1916 against the talus at the base of Glacier Point. It is surrounded by large boulders and the remnants of a hand-split palisade fence that is in poor condition. In fact, a large boulder at the rear of the building actually projects through the building’s envelope. It is a one-story wood frame structure, containing about 1,000 square feet. It is a U-shaped rustic cabin, and the western wing was rebuilt shortly after it was constructed because it was demolished by a fallen tree. The building is comprised of an unpeeled log frame with infill panels of cedar bark and log slabs, similar in style to the Mother Curry bungalow and registration office.

The building has retained much of its log siding, but some sections have been replaced with textured plywood, especially the foundation skirting. The building’s entrance features a covered front porch with bead-board ceiling, supported by unpeeled log posts and a decorative log railing. The building has decorative log detailing throughout in its trim, siding, knee





**Figure 35.** Primary entrance and porch to the Foster Curry Bungalow. Incompatible repairs made to the building include the use of textured plywood around the foundation, dressed lumber for the stairway railing, milled landscape timbers for the right lookout and knee brace, false divided light aluminum windows and the use of modern-appearing light fixtures on the porch.

braces, lookouts and rafters. Some sections of the log trim have been replaced over the years with incompatible peeled and milled log sections. The main entrance retains its original French double doors. The building retains some of its original 3-light casement windows while others have been replaced with modern aluminum windows. The window locations, however, have appeared to remain. Its exterior, although irregular in plan, measures roughly 20x60 feet. The building has an intersecting gable roof, and the west wing (which was rebuilt following tree damage) has a noticeably more shallow pitch. The roof is covered in asphalt composite shingles. An interior stone masonry chimney projects from the roofline at the rear of the building.

In 1979, this building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Camp Curry Historic District and in 2006 it was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. In 2008, following a massive October rockslide at Camp Curry, the Foster Curry Cabin was determined to be within the rock fall zone and closed. Indeed, the debris from the October 2008 rockslide hit this cabin causing minor damage. Prior to being closed, the building was divided into a duplex and used as employee housing.

#### **Mother Curry Bungalow (Curry Residence)**

**LCS ID: 55962, built 1917 - contributing**

The Mother Curry bungalow was built by Foster Curry in 1917 as a residence for his mother. It is a one-story (with attic) wood frame structure containing 1200 square feet. It is T-shaped and has an early addition (c.1928) off the west side of the cabin. The building consists of an unpeeled log frame, vertical posts and horizontal beams with infill panels of natural cedar bark strips arranged vertically. The upper portion of the walls are sheathed in tongue and groove bead-board siding, stained brown, and the gable is filled with log slabs arranged in a decorative pattern. The cabin has a mortared river rock foundation wall with an interior post and beam foundation. Decorative mortared river rock can also be found in the buildings steps, and chimney. The building has unpeeled log detailing throughout, with log siding, rafters, lookouts, knee-braces, trim and railing. Two pairs of multi-light French doors are located on the north façade.

The building retains its original divided light casement windows. The majority of the building is sided with half-log siding with some use of vertical shiplap bead-board and diagonal tongue-and-groove plank. The building has an intersecting gable roof covered in asphalt composite roofing. The building is currently divided into 4 employee housing units. Although irregular in plan, the building measures roughly 30x48 feet. In 1979, this building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Camp Curry Historic District and in 2006 it was listed in the



**Figure 36.** Front elevation and porch of the Mother Curry Bungalow seen through a dense planting of Pacific dogwood.

National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

**Men's Lounge (Cabin 819, Pool Room, Social Hall, Day Room, Stoneman Cabin)**

**LCS ID: 59769, built 1918 – contributing**

The Men's lounge was built in 1918 as an attached wing to the much larger Ell-shaped building that housed a bowling alley. By 1930 the bowling alley was converted into a bicycle rental facility and by 1960 it was razed. During the demolition, however, they preserved the much smaller southern Tee-shaped wing of the building (historically known as the Men's lounge or pool room). Sometime between 1960 and 1975 (according to historic maps) this building was further pared down from a Tee-shape to a simple rectangle, losing the southern "top" of the Tee. Although this building has been heavily modified since it was constructed, it still retains its rustic materials and details and is considered a contributing feature.

Originally constructed as a Men's lounge, the building is currently used as guest accommodations (as is the nearby Stoneman House). It is a one-story log frame structure that measures roughly 20 by 25 feet. It has a small lean-to along the rear of the building currently used to store linens. The building consists of an unpeeled log frame, vertical posts and horizontal beams with infill panels of wood shake siding and horizontal logs at the gable ends. The cabin has a mortared river rock foundation wall with an interior post and beam foundation and a massive exterior stone-masonry chimney along its south façade. The building has unpeeled log detailing throughout, including its frame, rafters, lookouts, knee-braces and gable ends. The building is accessed by a pair of multi-light French doors and a small wooden deck. The deck was once covered but its roof is no longer present.

The building retains its original six-light casement windows. The building is sided with wood shakes painted gray with green trim. The building has a side-facing gable roof covered in asphalt composite roofing. In 2006, this building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Valley Historic District.

**Bungalows (Bungalows with Bath)**

**LCS ID: 250094, 250109, 250129, 250166, 250206, 250232, 250254, 250276, 250294, 250313, 250336, 250354, 250372, 250389, 250405, 250421, 250441, 250458, 250474, 250493, 250521, 250540, 250557, 250574, 250592, 250614, 250631, 250654, 250673, 250691, 250714, 250766, 250806, 250834, 250869, 250887, 250904, 250921, 250939, 250990, 251017, 251034, 151051. Built 1918-1922 - contributing**

The Camp Curry bungalows, of which there are 43, are duplex units built between 1918 and 1922.<sup>235</sup> They are designed in the rustic style and are,

<sup>235</sup> There are 48 bungalows at Camp Curry if you include the three fourplex cab-



**Figure 37.** The Men's Lounge is used today for guest accommodation and was once connected to a much larger bowling alley.





**Figure 38.** One of the historic bungalows that are within the rock fall hazard zone. This bungalow features board-and-batten siding, with half-log battens.

smaller and simpler variations on the design style established at Mother Curry's bungalow and the Foster Curry cabin. Unlike other guest accommodations provided at Camp Curry at this time, the bungalows were unique in that they had private bathrooms, although they were originally shared between the two duplex units (each duplex unit now has a private bathroom). The cabins are single wall box construction with log detailing and a variety of exterior treatments. They have split-log gable ends, overhanging eaves, paneled doors, post and beam foundations with a veneer foundation wall of mortared river stone, casement windows and wooden porches. The duplex bungalows are in two sizes, either 14 by 30 feet or 14 by 35 feet.

The bungalows have gabled roofs with front-facing gabled entry covers clad in asphalt composite roofing. The original roofing material, however, was wood shakes. The wood shake roofing was still found on the bungalows when the National Register Nomination for the Camp Curry Historic District was completed in 1979. In 2006 the bungalows were also listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The bungalows are arranged in double-loaded rows that undulate with the natural topography of the area. Many of the bungalows are in fair condition and have suffered damage from rotten wood and foundations that have settled unevenly. In 1941, ten of the bungalows had bathroom ins, the Rufus Green bungalow and the modern bungalow that was rebuilt in the 1980s. The bungalow units are typically counted at 48.

additions built onto their rear facades, with shed roofs. These additions range in size from 5 by 5 to 5 by 7 feet and provide these units with a private bath for each unit in the duplex.

The 43 bungalows can be further subdivided based on their exterior treatment; tongue-and-groove, wood shake and board-and-batten. The tongue-and-groove sided units are the most abundant and account for the four southernmost rows of bungalows. These bungalows feature a log frame with vertical and herringbone infill tongue-and-groove siding. In total, there are 26 tongue-and-groove sided bungalows, including all 10 of the units with rear bathroom additions. The next most common bungalow typology are those clad in wood shakes. These account for the majority of the bungalows in the three northernmost rows. These bungalows feature a log frame with horizontal courses of 26 inch long wood shakes with a 12 inch reveal. In total, there are 14 wood shake sided bungalows. Lastly, there are 3 bungalows clad in board-and-batten. These are located in a cluster along the northwest perimeter of the bungalow grouping. These bungalows feature a log frame with vertical half-log battens placed every 8 inches on center. The half-log battens are 4 to 5 inches in diameter and are peeled and painted. All of the 3 various siding materials used on the bungalows appear to be original.

#### **Fourplex Cabins (Fourplex Bungalow, Fourplex Cabin with Bath)**

**LCS ID: 55920, 56009, 250740. Built 1918-1922 - contributing**

Distributed throughout the Camp Curry duplex bungalow area are three fourplex bungalows. These fourplex bungalows were built concurrent with the duplexes; between 1918 and 1922. Each fourplex houses four guest accommodation units, each with a private bath. Two of the units are basically square in plan (28 by 30 feet) while the third is slightly more rectangular (28 by 35). All of the fourplex's have large gable roofs with front-facing gabled entry covers clad in asphalt composite roofing. They have log frames with many log details throughout, particularly at the gable ends. Fourplex #1 also has log rafters, lookouts and knee-braces, while the other two fourplex's have milled lumber in these locations.

The fourplex's retain the majority of their original divided light casement windows. They have post and beam foundations with a veneer of mortared river stone. The two square fourplex's have contiguous wood porches that wrap around three of the buildings elevations while the rectangular fourplex has two separate wood porches. The buildings have log frames with vertical and herringbone tongue-and-groove infill panels. The fourplex's are in fair condition and have suffered damage from rotten wood and foundations that have settled unevenly.

In 1979, these buildings were listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Camp Curry Historic District and in 2006 they were listed



**Figure 39.** View of fourplex bungalow #1. This is one of the few bungalows that retain log rafter and lookouts.



in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

**Camp Curry Substation (Electrical Transformer Building, Power House)**

**LCS ID: 55923, built 1920 - contributing**

The Camp Curry substation was built in 1920, the same year that Camp Curry was completely electrified. The substation is located behind the second row of bungalows. It is a concrete, industrial structure that measures 18 by 24 feet. Historically, the building may have had a stucco finish, although today it is completely absent. The building has wide (48 inch) doors constructed of 4 stout planks and strap hinges and a central vent. There are indentations above the doors that may have originally been the location of signs. The top of the building has concrete crenellations interspersed with a chamfered edge. The building still appears to be used as a substation/high voltage building. In 2006 the Camp Curry substation was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

**Original Bungalows, (Cook's WOBs #1, 5-10)**

**LCS ID: TBD, built pre 1921 - contributing**

The 1925 plat map of Camp Curry shows "1-7 Bungalows" in the location just east of the Men's dormitory. Although no construction documents exist for the bungalows, it is believed that all seven of them are still extant



**Figure 40.** Camp Curry Substation, built in 1920. This industrial bunker's impenetrable presence within the bungalow area is reinforced by its crenellated roof-line.

and three remain in their original locations.

When first constructed, the bungalettes were half frame structures partially enclosed in canvas. Of the seven bungalettes, six measure 12 by 14 feet and one measures 9 by 12. They have shallow pitched roofs and a combination of horizontal plank siding at their base, followed by a course of vertical plank siding before finishing with horizontal lap siding at the gables (these buildings should not be confused with Cook's WOBs #2-4, which are non-contributing, have steeper roof pitches and different siding). Most of the buildings original fenestration has been replaced with aluminum sliding windows, although a few original divided-light casement windows remain. These small buildings have minimal concrete pier block foundations and are easily moved. However, when compared to the 1925 plat map, three of these buildings appear to be in their original locations (#8-10). The 1925 plat map also shows one of the bungalettes as being slightly smaller than the rest, which likely accounts for #1, which measures only 9 by 12 feet. It is unclear exactly when the 4 bungalettes that are not in their original location were moved, but it likely was sometime after 1960 according to a master plan map of Camp Curry from that year.

**Bungalow #90 (Rufus Green Bungalow)**  
**LCS ID: 204177, built 1922, contributing**

Bungalow #90 was constructed for Jennie Curry's cousin and Camp Curry cofounder Rufus Green. The cabin was built in conjunction with the duplex bungalows and is built in a similar design, but it is slightly larger, has a different interior floor plan and has a large exterior chimney attached to its east façade. Prior to the rock fall in 2008, the building had been used as guest accommodations and divided into a duplex.

Bungalow #90 is a one story log frame cabin with a gable roof with front-facing gabled entry covers clad in asphalt shingles. The building measures roughly 22 by 35 feet. The building has log detailing throughout, including the building corners, along the foundation, around the windows and at the knee-braces and lookouts. The building is sided in wood shakes up to its eaves and vertical thin log trim at the gables, all painted brown. The building has a large stone masonry chimney constructed of mortar and local river cobbles. The chimney is currently reinforced with metal clamp and rods to prevent it from collapsing. The building has a 6 foot wide porch with a wood railing on its north façade that is accessed by wood steps. Although the windows maintain their original configuration, they have all been replaced with aluminum sliding windows. The building has a post and beam foundation with a river cobble stone masonry veneer around the perimeter. Bungalow #90 is in fair condition and has suffered damage from rotten wood and a foundation that has settled unevenly.

In 1979, this building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places



**Figure 41.** One of the three original bungalettes (out of seven total) that remain in their original location. These buildings have been overlooked in past National Register nominations.



**Figure 42.** Bungalow #90 was custom built for Rufus Green in 1922, using a slightly modified plan from the other historic duplex bungalows.

within the Camp Curry Historic District and in 2006 it was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **Women's Club (Club House, Comfort Station and Kitchen at the Terrace)**

**LSC ID: TBD, built c.1922 – contributing**

The Women's Club was built c.1922 (according to a Camp Curry brochure from that year). It is built in the area known as "the Terrace", which was historically the area set aside for female employees at Camp Curry. It was originally used as a recreation lounge and club house and, until recently, it was used as a kitchen and comfort station for concessioner employees who lived at the Terrace. Following the October 2008 rockslide at Camp Curry, the Women's Club (and in fact the whole Terrace) was closed.



**Figure 43.** The Women's Club was historically used as a recreation lounge for the female employees at Camp Curry.

The Women's Club has a gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. It has a wood frame building with vertical and herringbone tongue-and-groove siding, with log details at the building corners, rafters, lookouts and gables. The front (north) elevation of the building has separate entrances that lead to the male and female restrooms and the shared kitchen that are accessed by wooden stairs. The entrance to the kitchen has a covered porch and bench. The building has a post and beam foundation built on a slope encompassed with plywood skirting. The building has aluminum windows, some of which are secured with exterior metal grates. There is a small lean-to addition in the rear of the building that is likely not original.



In 2006 the women's club was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **Comfort Station at the base of the Terrace (400's Comfort Station)**

**LCS ID: 55925, built pre-1925 – contributing**

Although it is unknown exactly when the comfort station at the base of the Terrace was built, it does appear on a plat map from 1925. However, the footprint of this building in 1925 (as depicted on the map) was rectangular, and today it has a distinctly Tee-shape. In a 1937 map, however, the building is shown as having a Tee-shape. It is unclear whether an addition was added in this time span or if the 1925 map did not accurately capture the footprint of the building.

The comfort station has an intersecting gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. It has a wood frame and wood shake siding and gapped vertical boards at the gables, all painted brown. It has a raised (roughly 2 foot tall) concrete foundation with a mortared river cobble veneer. It has sliding aluminum windows (non-original) and privacy screens at the restroom entrances constructed with log posts. The windows are narrow and positioned high on the building to allow for privacy within the comfort station. In 2006 this comfort station was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **Executive Guest Comfort Station**

**LCS ID: 231580, built pre-1925, contributing**

The executive guest comfort station was built sometime before 1925, and then remodeled into its current Tee-shape configuration sometime between 1925 and 1930 (as evidenced on the 1925 and 1930 plat maps of Camp Curry). On the 1925 map it is simply labeled as "toilet" and it is unknown when or why it became known as the executive guest comfort station.

The executive guest comfort station has a concrete foundation clad in angular granite stone masonry. It has an intersecting gable roof covered in asphalt composite roofing. It is a balloon frame structure with wood shake siding painted gray. It has separate men and women entries with privacy screens. The privacy screens are supported by recently installed milled round posts. The buildings windows remain in their original locations but have been replaced with aluminum sliding windows. In 2006 this comfort station was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **Cabin 101 (Nob Hill Cabin, Nob Hill Residence)**

**LCS ID: 55926, built 1925-1928, contributing**

Cabin 101 was constructed between the years 1925 and 1928. It is unclear what the building was historically used for. It was recently used as employee housing before being closed following the October 2008 rockslide. Its



**Figure 44.** View of the comfort station at the base of the Terrace, which is inside of the hazard zone and has been closed.



**Figure 45.** The executive guest comfort station is one of the oldest extant comfort stations at Camp Curry.



**Figure 46.** Cabin 101 has been closed since the October 2008 rockfalls.

location immediately behind the original (and also the current) Nob Hill shower house might imply that the cabin was used to house the shower house caretaker. The building is largely rectangular in plan and measures roughly 12 by 28 feet. The building has been divided into two employee housing units (101 A&B) with separate entrances on the east and west elevations.

Cabin 101 has a low-pitched gable roof covered in asphalt composite roofing. The building retains its original divided-light sliding windows on the west end of the building and divided light casement windows on the east of the building. The building has a covered porch on its east side and a small stoop entry on the west side. The building is sheathed in a variety of different siding materials including board and batten, horizontal plank, vertical bead board tongue-and-groove and textured plywood. The building appears to have a post and beam foundation set on stone blocks. The north side of the building has a small addition that houses a bathroom. It has a gable roof and aluminum windows. It is unclear when the addition was constructed.

#### **Tall Linen Hut**

**LCS ID: TBD, built 1925-1930 - contributing**

The tall linen hut was likely built between 1925 and 1930, although no completion report or historic photographs exists to confirm this date. This span of years was inferred from historic maps from 1925 and 1930, in which the hut is absent in the 1925 map and present in the 1930 map. Although it is present on the 1930 map, it is not labeled and it is possible that the current structure was rebuilt in the location of an earlier structure.



**Figure 47.** This whimsical storage building, referred to as the tall linen hut, first appears on a map at Camp Curry in 1930.

The tall linen hut is a vertical log frame building constructed primarily of unpeeled incense cedar logs of varying diameter. It has log rafters, lookouts and knee-braces. It has a wood shake gable roof and measures roughly 6 by 10 feet. It is a peculiarly tall building with a second story storage loft. It is located between the first two rows of bungalow cabins. It has a post on concrete pier block foundation.

#### **Tent Cabins (Tents. Canvas Cabins)**

**LCS ID: 55921 and 269881, built late 1920s - contributing**

There are a total of 467 contributing tent cabins at Camp Curry (out of a total of 584). The tent cabins that are within the core of Camp Curry (including the Terrace) are considered contributing, since their location and spatial arrangement closely matches that from the end of the period of significance. The tent cabins at Boys Town and Huff are non-contributing and are discussed under the non-contributing buildings and structures section.

Tent cabins, which are common throughout Yosemite National Park, have





**Figure 48.** Cluster of four tent cabins in the area determined to be uninhabitable due to rock fall danger. Due to the steeper terrain and the presence of boulders, the majority of cabins within the rock fall zone are characterized by elevated platforms and irregular groupings and configurations.

been present at Camp Curry since its inception in 1899 (although the typology of tent cabin that exists today dates to the late 1920s). There are two sizes of tent cabins at Camp Curry; 10 by 12 feet and 12 by 14 feet. The 10 by 12 foot cabins have two cots and the 12 by 14 cabins hold 4 cots. The tent cabins consist of a genuine canvas roof and synthetic canvas walls stretched over a 2x4 wood frame to create a simple, one-story gable building. The attractions of the design are simplicity and low cost, but the design also reflects the local environmental conditions and the specific way in which the cabins were used. Tent cabins are meant for seasonal occupancy and were historically vacated at the end of summer (although currently, a number of the tent cabins have been outfitted with space heaters and insulation and are occupied year round). It is believed that the basic tent cabin design that is in use today at Camp Curry dates to the late 1920s. It was at this time that the cabins at Camp Curry were converted to having entrance doors rather than entrance flaps.

The tent cabins at Camp Curry were built incrementally over a period of many decades. In the inaugural year of operation, the camp had a modest total of 7 tent cabins. By 1921, there were as many as 650 guest tent cabins (this figure, it is presumed, does not include employee tent cabins). By the mid 1920s, Camp Curry, (in particular Foster Curry) was promoting the plan to replace tent cabin structures with hard-sided bungalows, although

this goal was never realized. Again, in the 1970's, park and concessioner managers wanted to phase out the "outdated" tent cabins at Camp Curry. By the late 1970s and 1980s, plans were beginning to call for the removal of tent cabins on the talus slope due to rock fall hazard, and many tent cabins were removed during this time. However, despite numerous attempts at modernization and removal, the tent cabin typology at Camp Curry remains. The 467 contributing tent cabins at Camp Curry today retain remarkable consistency in their layout and spatial organization as the original tent cabins, closely mirroring the tent cabin configuration from the earliest maps available of Camp Curry.

The 467 contributing tent cabins can be organized into many different classifications. Of the 467 tent cabins, 209 are large tent cabins (12 x 14) and 258 are small tent cabins (10 by 12 feet); 45 are employee tent cabins and 422 are guest accommodation tent cabins; and, perhaps most importantly, 161 are located within the designated rock fall zone and will no longer be occupied while 308 are located outside of the rock fall zone and will remain open.

The tent cabins within the core of Camp Curry are still determined to be eligible as contributing resources despite the changes and modifications that have been made to them because they continue to convey the significance of the historic period during from which they were introduced. Although individual structures have been moved and new structures have been added, they are still located within the area originally designated for tent cabins and they maintain the majority of their original spatial organization. The present tent cabins also continue to convey the significance of their historic architectural typology despite material changes and modifications made to them. The most significant character defining material – the canvas skin – is still used; the cabins retain their original rustic feeling and associations of a primitive lifestyle in a communal, village-like setting. The replacement of structural material from time to time is characteristic rather than exceptional with ephemeral architecture like this.

In 1979, these "Canvas Cabins" were listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Camp Curry Historic District and in 2006 they were listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **Bungalettes, (Cabins without Bath, WOBs)**

LCS ID: 246429, 246448, 246463, 246480, 246496, 246574, 246590, 246608, 246633, 246652, 246670, 246687, 246712, 246732, 246752, 246771, 246789, 246820, 246840, 246865, 246885, 246904, 246926, 246954, 246983, 247013, 247031, 247051, 247071, 247225, 247255, 247291, 247310, 247338, remaining 11 are TBD. Built 1930 - contributing

Although the bungalettes were approved for construction by the NPS Director in 1925, construction of the bungalettes likely did not begin until 1929 or 1930. The bungalettes were built as either duplex units – two bungalettes back to back – or as individual units, and measured either 12 by 28 or 12 by 14 feet. Today, there are 34 duplex units and 12 individual units, for a total 46 detached structures and 78 rooms. Using a location plan from Camp Curry from 1937, all of the bungalettes appear to be accounted for and in their original locations. However, following the rock fall at Camp Curry in October 2008, all of the bungalettes have been closed.

The bungalettes have shallow pitched gable roofs covered in asphalt composite roofing. They have wood frames and vertical tongue-and-groove siding (although the construction documents originally called for board-and-batten) painted brown. They have post and beam foundations resting on wood blocks. The buildings have 3 panel wood doors and non-original sliding aluminum windows. Shallow, overhanging eaves provide minimal cover for entrance and egress. The bungalettes do not have decks or porches. In 1978, the cabins were refurbished with (among other modifications) new roofs, new metal steps, new aluminum windows and new wood paneling.

In 1979, these buildings were listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Camp Curry Historic District and in 2006 they were listed



Figure 49. Row of the 1929-1930 bungalettes. All of these bungalettes (total of 46) are located within the rock fall zone and are deemed uninhabitable.



**Figure 50.** The comfort station at the bungalettes derives its nickname “the rock” due to the massive boulder located behind the building.

in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **Comfort Station at the Bungalettes, (“The Rock”)**

**LCS ID: 231566, built 1935 - contributing**

The comfort station at the bungalettes was built in 1935 (judging by maps produced in 1925, 1930 and 1937 and correspondence between the superintendent and YP&CCo). This building actually replaced an earlier comfort station that was located in the same location, but was L-shaped and oriented along a north-south axis (the current building is rectangular and on an east-west axis). It is possible that the east wing of the current building reused a portion of the north wing of the original comfort station within its building envelope. In 1935, correspondence between the superintendent and the YP&CCo grants approval to construct two restrooms at Camp Curry, “one of which replaces Building No. 20 and one replacing half of Building No. 18.” On the 1937 location plan of Camp Curry, the comfort station at the bungalettes is labeled as building # 18, which provides an inference that this building was constructed in 1935.

The comfort station at the bungalettes has a shallow pitch gable roof with asphalt composite roofing. It measures 12 by 43 feet and is sided with wood shake siding on three elevations with plywood siding on its rear. The building has two fixed windows on its east and west elevations with hopper windows on its north elevation. The building was renovated in 1976 with new interior fixtures, wall cladding and flooring. The building is currently in poor condition and is located within the rock fall zone so it will likely remain closed. It is referred to as “the rock” due to the massive boulder immediately adjacent to the buildings south façade. In 2006 this comfort station was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **500’s Comfort Station**

**LCS ID: 231539, built 1935 – contributing**

The 500’s comfort station was built in 1935 as a replacement to an earlier comfort station (#18) located to its south. It is rectangular in plan and measures 20 by 24 feet, with a gable roof covered in asphalt composite shingles. It is a wood frame structure with a board-formed concrete foundation and wood shake siding painted brown. The buildings original windows have all been replaced with sliding aluminum windows. There is a wood phone kiosk and a large bank of toiletries lockers in front of the buildings south elevation. Either restroom entrance is protected with a privacy wall. It has an identical design to the 600’s comfort station, which was built the following year in 1936. In 2006 this comfort station was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.



**Figure 51.** The 1935 500’s comfort station features an undressed concrete foundation and frame construction. This building is identical in design to the 1936 600’s comfort station.

#### **600’s Comfort Station**

**LCS ID: 231553, built in 1936 – contributing**



The 600's comfort station was built in 1936 to accommodate increasing visitation at Camp Curry. It is rectangular in plan and measures 20 by 24 feet, with a gable roof covered in asphalt composite shingles. It is a wood frame structure with a board-formed concrete foundation and wood shake siding painted brown. The buildings original windows have all been replaced with sliding aluminum windows. There is a wood phone kiosk and a large bank of toiletries lockers in front of the buildings south elevation. Either restroom entrance is protected with a privacy wall. It has an identical design to the 500's comfort station, which was built one year earlier in 1935. In 2006 this comfort station was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.



Figure 52. The 600's comfort station, as seen facing north.

### Non-Contributing Buildings and Structures

#### **Swimming Tank (Swimming Pool), built 1928-1940 (remodeled in c. 1996), non-contributing**

The swimming tank was originally built in 1913. However the existing swimming tank was completely reconstructed sometime between 1928 and 1940 (based on historic photos from those years). The pool was then remodeled again in 1996. The current swimming tank is considered a non-contributing feature within the district; however the land use tradition of having an outdoor swimming pool in this location contributes to the district.

The original swimming tank measured 40 by 90 feet and was lined in mortared river cobbles, giving the pool a distinctive look. The perimeter wall of the tank rose roughly a foot above grade, and reduced the amount of water that would get splashed over the pools edge. It also featured a substantial stone masonry high dive platform, which climbed up 10 steep steps before reaching the high dive platform. Between 1928 and 1940, the tank was substantially reconstructed. The reconstruction was located in roughly the same location as the original pool, but featured a more modern concrete surface rather than the mortared stone masonry exterior of the original pool. The stone masonry high dive was also removed at this time, replaced with a more conventional spring-plank low dive. In 1978, the current six foot high chain link fence with cedar posts was added around the perimeter of the pool. In 1996, the tank was further remodeled. The 1996 remodel included removing all of the pool's paint and plaster, adding a new coat of paint and plaster, pouring new concrete walkways around the pool and adding depth marker tiles around the pools perimeter. This work did, however, retain the coping stones that line the perimeter of the pool.

The current pool is rectangular and measures roughly 40 by 90 feet and ranges from 2-8 feet deep. It no longer has a diving board but it does have elevated lifeguard chairs on its east and west sides. It is surrounded by a





**Figure 53.** Amphitheater stage and seating following its rehabilitation in 2009.

concrete deck with patio furniture and the visitor services building and the bathhouse. The doors from the dining room that lead to the pool are currently barricaded off, leaving the only access to the pool through the bath house.

#### **Amphitheater and Projection Booth (Camp Curry Entertainment Area), 1953, non-contributing**

Although the entertainment and performance area is known to have existed since at least 1915, the current amphitheater ensemble dates back to a substantial remodel of the facilities by Eldridge Spencer in 1953. The original entertainment area was located in the same basic footprint as the current amphitheater, and despite its tremendous popularity for evening variety shows and the nightly firefall, consisted of very little permanent infrastructure. The “stage” was simply the portion of the veranda attached to the rear, or south end, of the original registration building. There was no permanent fixed stadium seating like there is today, rather the audience sat on chairs that would be brought out and set up before each nightly performance. Guests would also use this area for communal campfires, interpretive programs and motion picture viewing.

The amphitheater, as it exists today, is largely a product of the 1953 redesign of the original facilities and remains much as it was. Whereas the original “stage” followed the angle of the registration building, the new stage was skewed clockwise from the building, giving it a slightly different orientation. This reorientation and expansion of stadium seating required the removal of at least three tent cabins. The new facilities included a covered 32 foot wide, V-shaped stage with a small, internal dressing room. In 1968 the park added a weather-proof projector box to the amphitheater area that housed both 35mm and 16 mm projectors, for the purpose of upgrading the quality of evening programs at Camp Curry.

In 2009 the amphitheater was rehabilitated along with the main office and post office. This rehabilitation work included repairing and replacing the structural members of the roof thereby removing the shoring columns in the middle of the stage, adding an ADA accessible concrete ramp up to the stage, and upgrading the audio/visual and lighting system.

#### **Transit Shelter (Bus Shelter), built 1954, non-contributing**

The transit shelter was designed by Eldridge Spencer in 1954 and approved by the NPS for construction that year. It was also likely built that year as well, but it was definitely constructed by 1956 as it shows up on a map from that year. The transit shelter is an open air structure that is roughly 65 feet long. It consists of 5 wooden posts that support upward-tilting cantilevered beams that have rounded ends. Cables zigzag through the beams to support a canvas roof, which is removed seasonally. Wood benches run the length of the shelter and are located at the base of the posts. The posts

are anchored in concrete footings and the bench is supported by concrete posts. The shelter is painted gray.

**Cook's Employee Shower Building (Cook's WOBs Shower house), built 1962 – non-contributing**

The cook's employee shower building was "reconstructed" in 1962 following the demolition of the men's dormitory, which had occupied the same footprint (and some additional area as well) of the shower building. The original men's dormitory was a two story building of which a part of the first floor was made up of a shower and restroom facility. Evidently, the shower and restroom portion of the men's dormitory was partially salvaged and "reconstructed" following the demolition of the dormitory. This explains the many rustic features of this building, which would not have been typical for a new building constructed in 1962.

The cook's employee shower building is a log frame structure with a battered, board-formed concrete foundation that is not clad with any stone masonry application. It has a gable roof with front-facing gabled entry covers on its north and south elevations. The roof is covered in asphalt composite roofing. It measures 20 by 28 feet and is sided with wood shake siding painted brown. The building has large, 5-light casement windows and some replacement aluminum sliders. The largest and lowest light on the casement windows has been painted to enhance the buildings interior privacy. The gable ends of the building are comprised of vertical planks. This shower and restroom facility is used only by concessioner employees.

**Cook's WOBs #'s 2-4, built or installed c. 1962 – non-contributing**

Although 4 of the 7 WOBs (the ones with a more shallow roof pitch) at the cook's area are contributing and are known to date to 1921, it is unknown exactly when these steep pitched roof WOBs were constructed. Like the contributing WOBs at the cook's area, the non-contributing cook's WOBs were likely installed at the cook's area following the demolition of the men's dormitory in 1962. With the non-contributing WOBs, however, we do not know if they were constructed onsite in 1962 or moved there from another location (like the contributing cook's WOBs). Since there is no record of historic WOBs that fit the design of these 3 cook's WOBs, it is believed that they were either constructed on site in c. 1962 or moved from another location within the park (possibly the Yosemite Lodge area) in c. 1962. In either scenario, however, they would be considered non-contributing features.

These three cook's WOBs are distinguished primarily by their relatively steep pitched gable roofs. They are also distinguishable from the other surrounding WOBs by having horizontal wood lap siding. They measure 12 by 14 feet and have sliding aluminum windows (although one of the WOBs retains 2 divided-light casement windows with wood muntins. They are on



**Figure 54.** Transit shelter as seen during the winter months when the canvas roof is removed.

post and pier block foundations obscured by horizontal plank skirting and they have asphalt composite roofing.

**Visitor Services Building (Store/Dining Room/Mountaineering Shop/Kitchen/Pavilion), built in 1975, non-contributing**

The current visitor services building (which includes the Store, Mountaineering Shop, Dining Room and Kitchen) was constructed in 1975 following the destruction of earlier such facilities in a fire. In fact there have been four different visitor service facility buildings in this same area. Beginning in 1901, the original dining hall was constructed in this location and was the first permanent building at Camp Curry. In 1912, this building was substantially damaged in a fire and rebuilt. The new facilities were much larger than the original and included a dining room, a cafeteria and a studio/store. Following substantial growth in the 1910s and 1920s, Camp Curry rapidly outgrew even these expanded facilities. By 1929, these buildings were demolished (except for the studio/store) and replaced with larger and more modern facilities, including an enlarged dining room and an expanded concrete kitchen. These facilities remained largely unchanged, until another fire destroyed the majority of these facilities in 1973, except for the original studio/store (which by this time was used as a mountaineering store) and portions of the concrete kitchen. By 1974 the park was constructing the present day facilities, which were completed by Easter of 1975. In the summer of 1975 though, an arson fire completely



Figure 55. The dining room portion of the sprawling Visitor Services Building, as seen from the amphitheater.

destroyed the original studio/store and came close to damaging the recently completed visitor services building. Although the overwhelming majority of the visitor services building today dates to 1975, an interior section of the 1929 concrete kitchen (not visible in any exterior elevations) is still extant.

The present day visitor services building includes the mountaineering school and shop, a grocery and gift shop, a dining room and kitchen, maintenance facilities and housekeeping office, a taqueria, and a pizza shop with outdoor patio. All of these visitor services are held within the envelope of one building with many discrete entrances and elevations. The building is irregular in plan and is roughly Ell-shaped, measuring roughly 275 feet by 184 feet at its longest elevations. It has a complex, interconnected roofline that is primarily a hipped gable, all covered in asphalt composite roofing. It has a concrete foundation and a wide variety of siding materials, including vertical plank, horizontal plank, tongue-and-groove herringbone siding and textured plywood siding. The dining room portion of the building has two stories and the store portion of the building has a large clerestory skylight window. It was built in a similar footprint to the 1929 buildings and is deliberately referential to their form, massing and materials. In this sense, the visitor services building is compatible within the historic district.

**Campground Reservation Building (Camping Permit Office), installed in 1980 - non-contributing**

The campground reservation building is a modular building that was installed northeast of the Camp Curry orchard in 1980. It has a gently-pitched gable roof and measures 24 by 24 feet. It has aluminum windows and textured plywood siding painted green with brown trim. It has a post and pier block foundation obscured by skirting. The building has a wood deck on its front (south) elevation and a fenced in picnic area along its west elevation.

**Bathhouse, built 1981 - non-contributing**

The current bath house was built in 1981, following an arson fire (1977) and subsequent demolition (1978) of the original bathhouse, which was built in 1913. The original bathhouse was a one story concrete and stone masonry structure with an intersecting gable roof that was H-shaped in plan.

It featured men's and women's shower rooms, a barber and beauty shop and storage space. The current 1981 era bathhouse, was built in the same location as the original bathhouse, but was built with a different shape and contemporary materials. It no longer contains a barber shop or beauty salon.

The current bathhouse is rectangular and measures 25 by 72 feet. It has a concrete foundation and aluminum awning windows. It has textured plywood siding painted brown and privacy walls at the men's and women's



entrances.

**Bungalow #61 (Contemporary Bungalow), 1980s - non-contributing**

Bungalow #61 was built in the 1980s after the original bungalow #61 was destroyed in a fire. Although it is distinguishable as a contemporary building, it is compatible with the other bungalows in its materials, siting, form and size. It is built in the same footprint and orientation as the original bungalow #61 and, like the other bungalows, it is a duplex unit. It has wood shingle siding, similar to the other bungalows that it is sited next to. However, it is distinguishable from the historic bungalows in several ways. The shingle siding on this structure has a lesser reveal than on the historic bungalows shake siding (7 inches opposed to 12 inches) and it is painted a lighter shade of brown than the other buildings. This building has a modern stud wall rather than the single wall construction of the other bungalows, but it does have stout log posts near the entries to give the suggestion of a log structure. Unlike the other bungalows, this one has a concrete slab foundation, but it is similar in that the exposed portion of the foundation is clad in a rubble masonry veneer. The gabled roof is at a more shallow pitch than the other bungalows as well. Like the other bungalows, this building has a wood porch that is 6 feet wide. In 2006 this bungalow was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District, however, this was certainly a mistake as this building post-dates Yosemite Valley's period of significance.

**Nob Hill Shower House, built 1993 - non-contributing**

The contemporary Nob Hill shower house was built in 1993 in a similar location as the original shower house on Nob Hill, which was demolished following damage it sustained during a debris flow in 1986. The original Nob Hill shower house was built sometime before 1925 to provide shower facilities for the tent cabins (and later the bungalows) on Nob Hill and was oriented on a north-south axis. The contemporary Nob Hill shower house also provides shower facilities for Nob Hill guests, but it is located on an east-west axis.



**Figure 56.** The 1993 Nob Hill shower house. This building is located deep in the talus slope hazard zone and has been closed since October 2008.

The contemporary Nob Hill shower house was built in a compatible, rustic style to the other historic structures within Camp Curry. It has structural log post framing, with log lookouts and rafters. It has a concrete slab foundation sheathed in rubble stone masonry cladding. It is sided with a mixture of wood shingles and vertical and herring bone plank siding. It has divided light fixed and casement windows throughout. It is painted gray and brown and has an ADA accessible ramp leading to its front entry.

**Linen Shed in Bungalows, built pre-2002 - non-contributing**

The small linen shed in the bungalow area was constructed sometime before 2002, as it shows up in the CAD survey of Camp Curry from this year. However, it remains unknown exactly when the building was



constructed. It is not represented on any historic maps (1925, 1930, 1937, 1953, 1956, 1960, or 1975) and appears to be of contemporary design and construction. It has a forward facing gable roof covered in asphalt composite roofing, textured plywood siding painted gray and measures 10 by 12 feet. It has an exposed (no foundation skirting) post and pier block foundation with wood steps leading up to the front entry. This building should not be confused with the tall linen shed in the bungalows, which is of log construction and is a contributing feature.

Table 2. Contributing and non-contributing buildings and structures.

Building Name	LCS Number	Type of Contribution	Year of Construction	Listed on 1979 NR Nomination	Listed on 2006 NR Nomination
Main Office	55959	Contributing	1904	yes	yes
Post Office	55928	Contributing	pre-1911	yes	yes
Pavilion	55927	Contributing	1913	yes	yes
Camp Curry Entrance Sign	55960	Contributing	1914	yes	yes
Foster Curry Cabin*	55961	Contributing	1916	yes	yes
Mother Curry Bungalow	55962	Contributing	1917	yes	yes
Men's Lounge	59769	Contributing	1918	no	yes
Bungalows (44)***	*	Contributing	1918-1922	yes	yes
Fourplex Cabins (3)****	*	Contributing	1918-1922	yes	yes
Camp Curry Substation	55923	Contributing	1920	no	yes
Bungalettes (c. 1921) (7)	*	Contributing	c. 1921	no	no
Bungalow #90*	204177	Contributing	1922	yes	yes
Women's Club*	TBD	Contributing	c.1922	no	yes
Comfort Station at the base of the Terrace*	55925	Contributing	pre-1925	no	yes
Executive Guest Comfort Station*	231580	Contributing	pre-1925	no	yes
Cabin 101*	55926	Contributing	c.1925	no	no
Tall Linen Hut	TBD	Contributing	1925-1930	no	yes
Tent Cabins (467) *****	55921, 269881	Contributing	c. late 1920s	yes	yes
Bungalettes (46) *	*	Contributing	1929-1930	yes	yes
500's Comfort Station	231539	Contributing	1935	no	yes
Comfort Station at the Bungalettes *	231566	Contributing	1935	no	yes
600's Comfort Station	231553	Contributing	1936	no	yes

Male Employee's Housing Area Rest Room	058767	Contributing	1937	no	no
Swimming Tank	N/A	Non-contributing	1928-1930, 1996	no	no
Amphitheater and Projection Booth	N/A	Non-contributing	1953, 1968	no	no
Transit Shelter	N/A	Non-contributing	1954	no	no
Cook's Employee Shower Building	N/A	Non-contributing	1962	no	no
Cook's WOBs #'s 2-4	N/A	Non-contributing	c.1962	no	no
Visitor Services Building	N/A	Non-contributing	1975	no	no
Campground Reservation Building	N/A	Non-contributing	1980	no	no
Bathhouse	N/A	Non-contributing	1981	no	no
Bungalow #61	N/A	Non-contributing	c. 1980s	no	yes
Nob Hill Shower House	N/A	Non-contributing	1993	no	no
Linen Shed in Bungalows	N/A	Non-contributing	pre-2002	no	no

•Indicates buildings within the rockfall hazard zone.

\* These buildings have too many LCS records to include within the matrix. There are 44 records for the bungalows, 3 records for the fourplexs, 7 records for the original bungalettes, and 46 records for the 1929-1930 bungalettes.

\*\* 19 out of the 44 Bungalows fall within the rockfall hazard zone

\*\*\* 1 out of the 3 Fourplex cabins fall within the rockfall hazard zone

\*\*\*\* 158 out of the 467 tent cabins fall within the rockfall hazard zone

## CIRCULATION

For the purposes of the CLR, circulation is defined as spaces and features which constitute systems of movement within a landscape.

Curry Village is located immediately adjacent to South Side Drive, near the junction with the Stoneman Bridge where South Side Drive merges into North Side Drive. The camp is primarily accessed by Curry Village Drive, a road that branches off from South Side Drive. Although the road network in Yosemite Valley has changed dramatically since the inception of Camp Curry in 1899, the location of South Side Drive (originally referred to as the road to [the old] Yosemite Village) and the Stoneman Bridge junction to North Side Drive (originally referred to as the road to Kennyville) has remained constant, placing Camp Curry at an important crossroads. The earliest development at Camp Curry began close to this intersection and has grown incrementally north, south, east and west since then. Despite some changes since the period of significance, the general pattern of circulation has remained intact.

### Contributing Circulation

#### Happy Isles Road

##### **LCS ID: 059735, built pre-1925 – contributing**

The Happy Isles Road dates back to at least 1925 and is likely much older. It is depicted on a 1925 plat map of Camp Curry so it is known to be historic. It likely, however, dates back much earlier than this and it may possibly predate the inception of Camp Curry. Up until 1929, when the South Side bypass road was constructed north of Camp Curry, the Happy Isles Road was the primary vehicular route for vehicles traveling to East Yosemite Valley. Today, the road is rarely used and the majority of vehicular traffic stays on South Side drive, which runs north of but parallel to Happy Isles Road.

Happy Isles Road is paved with concrete and has a discontinuous boundary of partially submerged boulders. The road is not striped and is roughly 14 feet wide. Informal, unpaved parking is located off the road's northern right-of-way. This parking had been used primarily by employee residents at Boys Town, but with the relocation of employees away from Boys Town, the parking may now possibly be used as overflow parking for guests. The portion of Happy Isles Road that is within the historic district is roughly 700 feet in length.

#### Packed Earth Paths Between the Tent Cabins

##### **LCS ID: 059855, built 1910s-1920s – contributing**

The circulation routes that meander through the central tent cabin area are

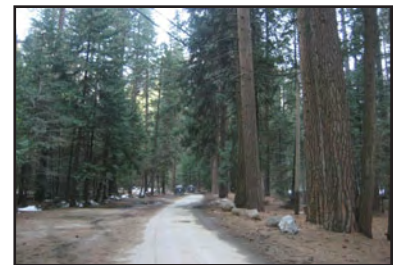


Figure 57. Happy Isles Road as it passes through Camp Curry



**Figure 58.** The packed earth paths that run through the tent cabins form narrow streets that curve with the sites topography.

largely defined by the spatial organization of the tent cabins and associated buildings themselves. Since the location of these buildings has changed very little since the period of significance, the circulation that runs between the tent cabins is considered contributing.

The packed earth paths were historically used and continue to be used primarily by pedestrians. Tent cabin guests are not permitted to drive directly to their cabin and must park at one of the central parking areas and walk in. The trails, however, are maintained in most locations to a width that is great enough to be accessible to service vehicles and to be used as a fire road. The long rows of white tents create narrow streets; these are typically of packed earth, and curve slightly to follow the talus contours. The rhythm of the tent streets is punctuated by periodic, larger, wooden comfort station buildings. The small scale of the individual tents, set one after another, creates public paths and streets between them, which have a unique spatial character in the valley. The tent cabin area also has many social trails that cross through the landscape. The social trails are not depicted on the circulation map.

In 2006 the packed earth paths between the tent cabins were listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

### **Packed Earth Paths Between the Wood Bungalows**

#### **LCS ID: 059856, built 1918-1922 – contributing**

The circulation routes that meander through the bungalow area are largely defined by the spatial organization of the bungalows themselves. Since the location of the bungalows has not changed since they were constructed in 1918-1922, the circulation that runs between the bungalows is considered contributing.

The packed earth paths were historically used and continue to be used primarily by pedestrians. Guests to the bungalow area are not permitted to drive directly to their cabin. The trails, however, are maintained in most locations to a width that is great enough to be accessible to service vehicles and to be used as a fire road. The bungalows are laid out in rows, although these larger buildings were set somewhat farther apart and in slightly straighter, more regular rows than the tent cabins. The space created by the buildings is analogous to that of elongated city blocks, with streets on the fronts of the bungalows and narrower alleys separating the backs of the buildings. The overall character of the spaces is correspondingly less intimate, and more established. Some of the circulation routes are broader, with planted areas down the center. These routes are hard-packed earth roads and not improved with gravel. The bungalow area also has many social trails that cross through the landscape. The social trails are not depicted on the circulation map.

In 2006 the packed earth paths between the wood bungalows was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

### Happy Isles Trail

**LCS ID: TBD, built 1928-1929– contributing**

The Happy Isles Trail was constructed in 1928-1929 as part of a network of paved foot paths constructed in Yosemite Valley during those years. This trail extends from the location of the “Old Village” in the west (site of present day chapel) out to Happy Isles to the east. A portion of this trail (roughly 2600 feet) extends longitudinally through the proposed amended historic district.

The Happy Isles Trail is of varying width (6-8 feet) and winds along the perimeter of Camp Curry, crossing several seasonal drainages along the way that have been directed through culverts. Much of the paving along the trail is quite old (likely original) and is pitted. The trail does not drain water particularly well and is lined with puddles during the wet months, particularly adjacent to the central parking area.

### Orchard Parking Area (Overflow Parking Lot)

**LCS ID: 059770, built 1929 – contributing**

The South Lamon orchard (Curry orchard) was planted by James Lamon in c.1861, nearly 40 years before Camp Curry was established. The orchard continued to exist adjacent to Camp Curry undisturbed until 1929, when the area was converted into an overflow parking lot and every third row of fruit trees was removed. The conversion of the orchard into a parking lot, which was first suggested by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. in 1927, expanded the parking capacity at Camp Curry to 750 vehicles.

Photos from the original modification of the orchard parking area scarcely resemble the parking area today. Photos from 1929 show a parking lot that is tidy, lineal and easily navigable. At that time, fewer of the historic apple trees had yet been lost, and they therefore presented more uniform rows for parking cars. The paving between the rows of trees was fresh and well-defined. Parking, which was done on unpaved surface under the shade of the orchard, was clearly delineated by rows of partially submerged barrier boulders. The barrier boulders also delineated pedestrian walkways for entering and exiting the parking area. Today, however, the parking area has been modified and suffers from poor maintenance. Many of the original orchard trees have died, leaving a loose patchwork of trees that scarcely resembles a grid. The trees that remain have sustained substantial damage from snow over the years and are extremely overgrown. All of the barrier boulders have been removed and no longer provide definition for where cars should be parked or for pedestrian pathways. The paved surface between the rows of trees is pitted and generally covered in duff. These components combine to make the orchard parking area confusing and

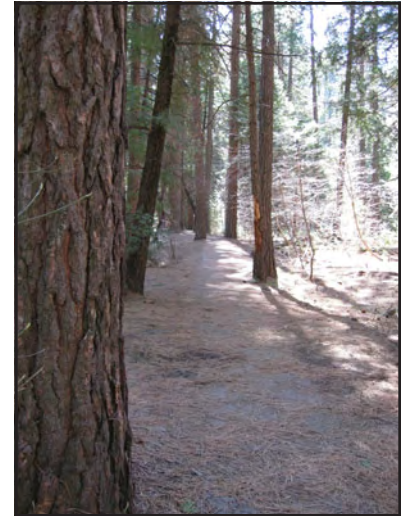


Figure 59. View of the Trail to Happy Isles as it meanders between mature trees. The trails paved surface is barely visible beneath the forest duff.



Figure 60. The historic South Lamon Orchard serves as an overflow parking area during times of heavy visitation. In its current condition, the parking area is disorienting and has an unkempt appearance.



disorienting for park visitors.

The orchard parking area consists of six rows of paved surface between the remnants of the historic orchard. The orchard and paved rows are on a north-south alignment. The rows between the trees are paved but the space under the trees (where vehicles park) is unpaved. The paving is roughly 20 feet wide and is not striped. The orchard parking area measures roughly 370 by 460 feet and provides space for roughly 250 parked vehicles. Vehicles also use this area to access the campground registration permit office, which is located at the northeastern corner of the orchard. In 2006 the orchard parking area was listed in the National Register within the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

#### **Central Parking Area (Camp Curry Ice Rink)**

**LCS ID: TBD, built 1929 – contributing**

The central parking area was constructed in 1929. It was developed concurrently with the orchard parking area and is immediately south of the orchard. It was also developed to be used for winter sports and would be flooded with water in the winter and transformed into an ice skating rink. This ice skating rink, which took up the entire 100 by 500 foot parking area, was of much larger proportions than the current one.

The central parking area measures roughly 100 feet by 500 feet and has striped parking for roughly 140 vehicles. The parking area is routinely plowed during the winter months. The parking lot is paved but is extremely rutted and drains water poorly. Concrete “half-log” barriers surround the perimeter of the parking area. A small number of bear lockers are located at the southwest corner of the parking area.

#### **Service Yard and Road to Service Yard**

**LCS ID: TBD, built 1929 – contributing**

The service yard dates to 1929 and the redesign of the Camp Curry cafeteria and dining room. It is likely that some sort of service yard was used in this location even prior to 1929, but the massing of buildings and feeling of enclosure that now define the service area date to 1929.

The service yard is located within a quad defined by the housekeeping office to the north, the kitchen to the east, and the mountaineering school (historically the cafeteria) to the north. Areas of the quad that are not enclosed by buildings are surrounded by wood fencing painted brown. Within the service yard are a number of loading bays for delivery vehicles, dumpsters and a ramp that leads down to storage underneath the kitchen. The dimensions of the service yard are roughly square and measures roughly 75 by 90 feet.

The road leading to the service yard originates at the central parking area

and travels roughly 191 feet to the service yard. Near the entrance to the service yard there is a paved area for short term delivery vehicle parking and for turning around. This road is paved and of varying width, and is often too narrow to facilitate vehicles passing (less than 13 feet wide).

### Non-contributing Circulation

#### ADA Accessible Paths to Bungalows, Bungalettes and Tent Cabins, built 2001-04 – non-contributing

Beginning in 2001, a representative group of the three primary visitor accommodations at Curry Village (bungalows, bungalettes and tent cabins) were made ADA accessible. This primarily involved paving existing circulation routes with asphalt in order to make them wheelchair accessible. The paved pathways were designed to be at least 5 feet wide and slope no greater than 5 percent. These pathways allow ADA access to at least 5 tent cabins, 2 bungalows and 6 bungalettes. In addition the ADA pathways extend to a number of public facilities, including a comfort station, shower house, swimming pool and the dining hall.

Table 3. Contributing and non-contributing circulation features.

Building Name	LCS Number	Type of Contribution	Year of Construction	Listed on 1979 NR Nomination	Listed on 2006 NR Nomination
Happy Isles Road	059735	Contributing	pre-1925	no	no
Packed Earth Paths Between Tent Cabins	059855	Contributing	1910-1920s	no	yes
Packed Earth Paths Between Wood Bungalows	059856	Contributing	1918-1922	no	yes
Happy Isles Trail	TBD	Contributing	1928-1929	no	no
Orchard Parking Area	059770	Contributing	1929	no	yes
Central Parking Area	TBD	Contributing	1929	no	no
Service Yard and Road to Service Yard	TBD	Contributing	1929	no	no
ADA Accessible Paths	N/A	Non-contributing	2001-2004	no	no

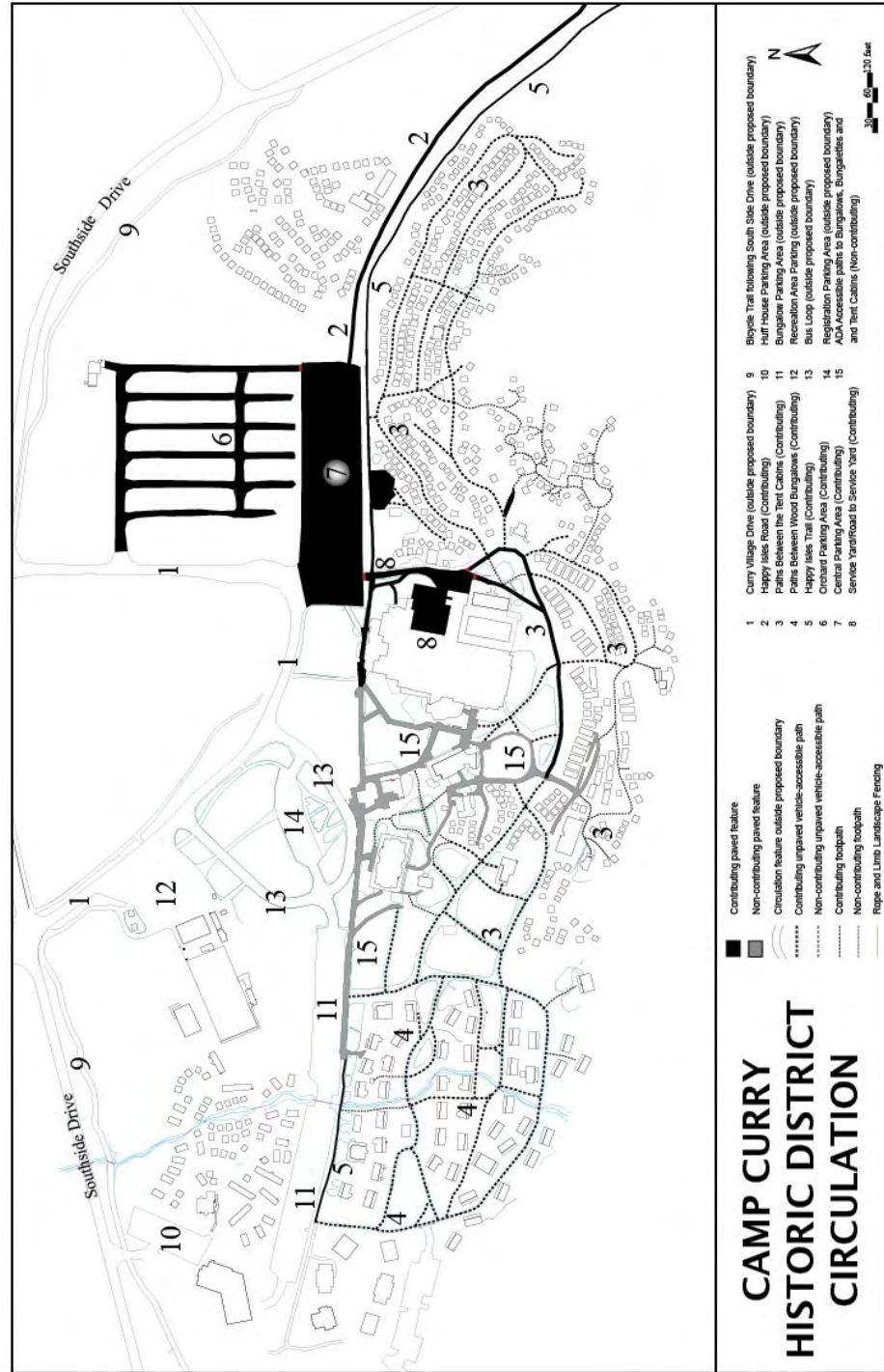


Figure 61. Map showing circulation throughout the Camp Curry Historic District. A larger print of this map is available in Appendix E.

## ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

A historic-era American Indian village named Toolahkahmah was located in the vicinity of Camp Curry Historic District.<sup>236</sup> The abundance of mature California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) is likely a product of American Indian vegetation management, which used anthropogenic fire and hand thinning to reduce the shrub layer and encourage the production of preferred plant species. This land management legacy is still noticeable throughout Yosemite Valley.

The Camp Curry area has been inventoried for archeological resources and a total of 5 archeological sites have been documented.<sup>237</sup> Inventoried archeological sites include historic-era trash pits, the foundation of the original LeConte Memorial Lodge, and the site of the former Stoneman House. No bedrock mortars have been identified within the Camp Curry Historic District.

Known historic-era archaeological resources in the district include the ruins of the original LeConte Memorial Lodge foundation stones. The LeConte Memorial Lodge was built to honor Joseph LeConte who was a noted geologist and a seminal member of the Sierra Club, who died while staying as a guest at Camp Curry in 1901. The original location for



Figure 62. Remnant bench and foundation stones from the original site of the LeConte Memorial Lodge.

<sup>236</sup> Archeological Site Record, CA-MRP-0084, 0825.

<sup>237</sup> Hicks, Morgenstein and Hamilton, Archeological Test and Data Recovery Excavations of Seven Sites in East Yosemite Valley, 152.

this National Historic Landmark recognized lodge was located within the Camp Curry Historic District. In 1918, Mother Curry successfully negotiated with the Sierra Club to move the building to its current location outside of the district. By 1919, it was moved from its original site. A large number of the original stones, however, could not be moved and were replaced instead. Consequently, many of these stones remain at the area of the original building footprint. This ruin is located northeast of the Rufus Green cabin near the alignment of the historic Ledge Trail.



# TREATMENT

## INTRODUCTION

According to National Park Service policy, the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) serves as the primary supporting document guiding the treatment of a cultural landscape, and is required before a major intervention. The primary treatment goal for Camp Curry is to ensure that the site's complex historic character and cultural resources are retained following the closure of a large percentage of the camp due to rock fall hazards. With a period of significance spanning 37 years, proper treatment is critical to enhancing historic interpretation for visitors and aesthetic continuity within the built landscape. This chapter describes treatment alternatives and implications, the history of treatment approaches, and provides guidelines and recommendations for site rehabilitation, which is described further below in the site's preferred alternative. The overall goal is to reinforce the National Park Service's tradition and philosophical basis for the sound stewardship of cultural landscapes as outlined in National Park Service Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline (1997) and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Rev. 1992).

Following this CLR, the park will develop a Site Development Plan for Curry Village in the form of an Environmental Assessment. This CLR will be used to help inform the development of alternatives for the Curry Village Site Development Plan.

## HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE TREATMENT APPROACHES

The 1979 National Register nomination for the Camp Curry Historic District defines its significance as:

Through the history of Yosemite National Park's chief concessioner, Yosemite Park and Curry Company, one may trace the evolution of concession philosophy, and the relationship between the concessions and administration in the park over the last 77 years. The Camp Curry Historic District is illustrative of the foundation and early

development of the Curry family enterprise and their unique contribution of a character of accommodation still available in Yosemite and other national parks today. The district is of local significance in exploration-settlement and commerce. There are four structures on the site that are important survivors of early Camp Curry and of local architectural, as well as historical, significance.

As expanded upon in the 2006 National Register nomination for Yosemite Valley:

Many individual areas also retain excellent integrity. The historic district at Camp Curry, for example, is the most significant and intact tent camp of its type left in the national park system.

Furthermore, the park's 1980 General Management Plan (GMP) states that Curry Village will "...*Provide facilities and services consistent with the historical setting of Curry Village and the natural scenic resources of the Valley.*" The plan defines a "Historical Subzone" for Camp Curry, which is described as being "*comprised of architecturally and historically significant cultural resources. Management emphasis will be on preservation of these resources unless such action causes unacceptable alteration of natural resources or processes.*"

In addition to these fundamental National Register nominations and management plans, a variety of other planning and treatment related documents have been prepared by the park service that (directly or indirectly) affect the Camp Curry Historic District. These documents were referred to regularly and examined carefully during the preparation of this CLR. A complete list of documents referred to in devising treatment recommendations for Camp Curry includes:

1979	Camp Curry Historic District National Register Nomination
1980	General Management Plan
1994	Yosemite Valley Cultural Landscape Report
2005	Sense of Place: Design Guidelines for Yosemite Valley
2006	Yosemite Valley National Register Nomination

## TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of the Interior has specified standards for four distinct, but interrelated, approaches to the treatment of historic properties (preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction). These treatment approaches and their implications at Camp Curry are described

below.

Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. This approach would prescribe the maintenance and repair of the site as it currently exists, and would allow existing features to be replaced in kind, yet would not permit the addition of new features. A preservation strategy at Camp Curry is incompatible with the current GMP and the new realities of eliminating employee and visitor accommodations from what has been determined to be a high risk rock fall zone. Two of the GMP's principle tenets are to "markedly reduce traffic congestion" and "reduce crowding". The GMP proposes accomplishing this at Curry Village by downsizing the number of guest and employee accommodations offered there and removing and naturalizing two of the parking areas. Despite the parks identification in the GMP (1980) of Curry Village being within a "Historic Subzone" with an emphasis on *preservation* of historic resources, many features have been added and removed from the district (indeed, the GMP itself called for a substantial reduction in the footprint of Curry Village, including the removal of many historic structures). This is probably the reflection of sophistication in terminology and a redefinition of appropriate treatments within historic districts. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (rev 1992) provide clearer distinctions between a preservation and rehabilitation treatment than what was available in 1980.

Restoration is undertaken to depict a property at a particular time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods. This approach would require depiction of the site at a certain date or period of time. The period of significance of 1899-1936 would imply restoration of the site to its circa 1936 appearance. A restoration strategy would require maintaining buildings within the rock fall zone, demolishing non-contributing features including the amphitheater, Nob Hill shower house and portions of the visitor services building and eliminating the entire bungalow parking area. Clearly, restoration is not a feasible alternative.

Reconstruction recreates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for historic purposes. This approach would only be appropriate if the site had been destroyed or if the earlier landscapes of Camp Curry were determined to be so significant that their re-creation was critical to the park's significance. Rarely selected, reconstruction is not considered a feasible option for this site.

Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to meet continuing or changing uses through alterations or new additions while retaining the property's historic character. It allows for repairs or alterations of the cultural landscape, and for improving the utility and/or function of landscape features. It is used

to make an efficient, compatible use while preserving those portions or features of the site that contribute to defining its historical significance. These changes would best serve management goals for continued visitor use. Therefore, the most sound treatment approach for the Camp Curry Historic District is rehabilitation.

### PREFERRED TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE - REHABILITATION

This Cultural Landscape Report recommends rehabilitation as the treatment approach for the Camp Curry Historic District as it allows for the preservation of historic characteristics and features while accommodating necessary changes. The Secretary of the Interior defines rehabilitation as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. Rehabilitation treatment standards and recommendations seek to embrace the camp's multiple historical themes and serve as an umbrella for other treatment options, such as preservation and restoration. These treatment recommendations often support recommendations made through other studies of the camp such as the 1980 *General Management Plan* or the 2005 *Sense of Place: Design Guidelines for Yosemite Valley*. The treatment guidelines and recommendations section will describe rehabilitation measures recommended for Curry Village.

### SITE STANDARDS FOR LANDSCAPE TREATMENT

The Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation provide a cohesive approach for preserving the camp's historic landscape character while allowing for contemporary modifications to the landscape. These general standards are followed by more specific *Treatment Guidelines and Recommendations* which address design and functional issues, then specific needs and considerations or appropriate courses of actions for features.

#### Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

## TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section is organized by key issues, landscape characteristics and features. Relevant conditions and issues are described, and then rehabilitative guidelines serving as design parameters are provided to ensure future actions are sensitive to the historic character. Problems unique to each feature are described and followed with general treatment recommendations. These solutions or actions improve future conditions and respond to adaptive use needs. Possible future actions are presented and discussed at the end of



this section. The guidelines and recommendations presented below are keyed to the Treatment Plans. The issues and conditions are described with some historical background.

It should be noted that the treatment recommendations and guidelines contained within this CLR are not intended as a substitute for the NEPA process and should not be misinterpreted as a conclusive planning decision in regards to Camp Curry. Rather, these guidelines and recommendations are intended to help inform future actions taken within the Camp Curry Historic District, with an emphasis on preserving historic character and materials.

## **Response to Talus Slope Hazard Zone**

### **Consider Relocating Buildings Outside of the Talus Slope Hazard Zone**

The consecutive rock falls on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of 2008 have arguably had the greatest impact to the Camp Curry Historic District since the end of the period of significance in 1936. These rock falls led to the formal demarcation of a “talus slope hazard zone” in which no guest or employee accommodations are to be located. However, hundreds of overnight accommodations, many of which are also historic buildings, are located within the hazard zone. Since the area where these buildings are located has been permanently closed, the buildings can either be demolished, preserved in situ and left unoccupied or relocated. Although relocating the buildings would have an adverse effect to the historic district and require additional environmental compliance, it is the preferred option as it would allow for sustained use of the buildings and would not result in their destruction, by either planned demolition or benign neglect.

Consideration should be given to relocating many of these contributing buildings to other locations within Curry Village to ensure their continued use and preservation. Relocation of all contributing buildings within the talus hazard zone may not be possible due to the potential of structural deterioration within some of the buildings as well as topographic constraints.

Consideration should be given to relocating the 22 bungalows (21 of which are historic and one of which dates to the 1980s) that are located within the hazard zone. The two northwestern bungalows that are located partially within the hazard zone could be moved roughly 100 feet northwest and rotated 180 degrees so that they align with the row of bungalows to their north. Five of these bungalows could be relocated east of the current bungalows. The southeastern most proposed site for



**Figure 63.** Both hard-sided and tent cabins suffered extensive damage during the October 2008 rock falls at Camp Curry.

these five relocated bungalows could be used for bungalow #90 (Rufus Green bungalow) so that it retains its southeastern setting in relation to the other bungalows. Consideration should be given to relocating the remaining 15 bungalows (including the fourplex) to the area that is now occupied by the Huff developed area and the ice rink. These relocated buildings should be sited to make two rows of bungalows, having setback and spatial organization qualities similar to their historic configuration. When relocating the bungalows, consideration should be given to constructing concrete foundations covered with the existing river rock cladding for the bungalows, although final recommendations should be made in a future proposed Historic Structures Report or building assessment document for Curry Village.

Consideration should be given to relocating the 46 historic bungalettes (WOBs) located in the hazard zone. These buildings could all be relocated to the Boys Town area. There, they could be configured in a similar organization as the original tent cabins in that area (which is entirely different than the current organization, see Treatment Plan). These bungalettes could then be utilized as year-round guest accommodations.

In addition, consideration should be given to relocating the comfort station at the base of the terrace (located on the outer periphery of the

hazard zone) northwest of its current location so that it is outside of the talus slope hazard zone. The majority of the cabins that this building served are located outside of the hazard zone and will be maintained in operation, ensuring continued use of this building.

**Consider Mothballing the Foster Curry Bungalow until a Long term Decision is Reached Regarding its Disposition.**

Although the Foster Curry bungalow is one of the more significant buildings within the district, it would be virtually impossible to relocate this irregularly shaped building. Additionally, since the rear of the building is literally built into a massive boulder, moving the building would leave a gaping hole in the buildings south elevation. As such, it is unlikely that the building would be able to be relocated. However, the buildings early rustic design and historic significance dictate that it should also not be demolished if at all possible. However, given the buildings location within the talus slope hazard zone, it is also untenable to resume human occupation of the building. Further recommendations for the buildings ultimate treatment should be made in the proposed Historic Structures Report or building assessment document for Curry Village. Until such time, the building should be professionally mothballed until a decision has been reached regarding its ultimate disposition.

**Consider Relocating or Demolishing Some Buildings within the Talus Slope Hazard Zone.**

Other contributing and non-contributing buildings that are within the talus slope hazard zone that are not identified as buildings that should be relocated within Camp Curry should be either demolished or possibly moved outside the hazard zone and the landscape should be restored to near natural conditions. This includes 161 tent platforms, the women's club, and cabin 101, a linen hut and the Nob Hill showerhouse. All historic structures must be documented according to NPS Directors Order 28 and the mitigation measures listed in the 1999 Park Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office. This mitigation should include HABS photography and salvage and stockpiling of historic material for use in future repairs to remaining structures. When removing or demolishing hard sided and tent cabins in the hazard zone, the buildings foundations and concrete foundation pier blocks should be preserved *in situ*, for their archeological and interpretive value.

**No New Buildings within the Talus Slope Hazard Zone**

No new buildings should be located within the talus slope hazard zone. All existing buildings within the hazard zone should be relocated, demolished or left in place unoccupied.

## **Employee Housing**

### **Consider Removing Employee Housing from Curry Village**

In keeping with the park GMP which calls for removing “non-essential employee housing”, consideration should be given to removing employee housing within the proposed amended Curry Village Historic District. Consider relocation of employee housing outside of Yosemite Valley; potentially to El Portal. This includes employee housing at the Terrace, Huff, Boys Town and Cook’s. Additionally, historic cabins that have recently been used as employee housing (including Mother Curry bungalow, Foster Curry bungalow, Huff house and cabin 101) will no longer serve that purpose.

## **Visitor Services**

### **Maintain Low Cost, Family Friendly Concession Operation Composed Primarily of Tent Cabins**

The essence and overarching identity of Camp Curry has always been characterized as a low-cost, family friendly concession operation composed primarily of tent cabins. Although the prices have risen well above the \$2.00 dollars per night rate charged in 1899, Camp Curry remains an affordable option for those who are looking for rustic accommodations within Yosemite Valley. If at all possible, this type and character of operation should be retained at Camp Curry into the future.

### **Consider Reducing the Footprint of Overall Development at Camp Curry**

One of the five broad goals of the 1980 General Management Plan at Yosemite is to “Reduce crowding”. The proposal outlined in this CLR calls for many actions that would advance this goal. Indeed, the permanent closure of a large swath of Camp Curry following the October, 2008 rockfalls has already achieved a substantial reduction in the footprint of Camp Curry. As outlined by this CLR, the proposed future of Camp Curry would have 161 tent cabins removed from the talus slope hazard zone, 134 employee units from the Huff developed area and 132 employee units removed from Boys Town. In addition the two employee units provided at cabin 101 and the two employee units provided at Foster Curry bungalow would be mothballed or potentially removed. These removals are informed by a Superintendent’s Order following the October, 2008 rockfall events and the demarcation of the talus slope hazard zone in which no employee or visitor facilities are to reside. These removals amount to a net loss of approximately 429 employee and visitor accommodations at Camp Curry.



**Figure 64.** The existing interpretive signs at Camp Curry are small, monotone and do not conform to current interpretive sign standards. Furthermore, much of the information on the signs is dated.

With the loss of a substantial number of overnight accommodations at Camp Curry, the total demand for parking spaces and number of parking lots will be correspondingly decreased. With the proposed relocation of the ice skating rink to the central parking area, the current ice skating rink parking area will be reduced by roughly half of its current capacity. In addition, the parking area that comprises the northern portion of the Curry Orchard is proposed for removal and restoration to natural meadow conditions.

The relocation and potential demolition of so many contributing resources at Camp Curry will have an unavoidable adverse effect on the Camp Curry Historic District. Accordingly, this work should be coupled with mitigation measures including recording and salvaging materials, consultation with the California SHPO and an appropriate level of environmental compliance, likely an EA.

#### **Consider Improving, Expanding and Unifying Interpretive Waysides at Camp Curry**

The interpretive waysides at Curry Village have great potential that has not been realized. The sites rich history and continuity of use provide rich material for potential improvement and expansion of interpretive signs. The existing interpretive signs located throughout Camp Curry (c.1970s) are small and do not conform to current interpretive sign standards of the NPS. These signs should be replaced with new interpretive signs that conform to current interpretive sign standards. Potential topics for interpretation include the firefall and other performances at the stage/amphitheater, the recent rock fall and its impact on Camp Curry, the ruins of the LeConte Memorial Lodge, history of winter sports at Camp Curry and biographical information on the Camp's founders. Any new interpretive signs should be agreed to by the Yosemite's Division of Interpretation and reflected in their Interpretive Prospectus. Care should be taken in the design and placement of these signs to avoid diminishing the historic character of the place they are interpreting.

#### **Consider Enhancing and Restoring Prominence to the Gathering Area at the Central Core of Camp Curry**

Many planning documents call for removal of understory vegetation at the central core of Camp Curry to re-create a central gathering space and to improve the area's way-finding qualities. This proposal is included within the Sense of Place Design Guidelines.

This CLR agrees with the findings of the aforementioned planning documents and the conceptual design. Removing under story vegetation and creating a central gathering space would have a positive



impact on the visitor experience and be in keeping with historic land use patterns at Camp Curry.

## Drainage

**Consider Resurfacing and Regrading (if necessary) Roads, Pathways, and Parking Areas to Make Water Shed Off of and Away From these Features.**

Camp Curry, located at the foot of Glacier Point and the beginning of Stoneman Meadow, has many seasonal drainages that flow through the camp and a high water table that leaves soils saturated for many months of the year. The large amount of runoff that drains through Camp Curry, however, is not adequately moved away from and around the camp's existing roads, pathways and parking lots. The lack of grading away from the camps circulation features has resulted in water draining down the center of pathways, increased erosion, pooling of water, damage to paved surfaces, unsafe walking conditions (particularly in the winter) and gives the camp an unkempt appearance during the winter and spring thaw. A drainage improvement assessment should be conducted at Camp Curry to look into measures to remedy the current condition. Strategies should consider regrading roads, pathways, and

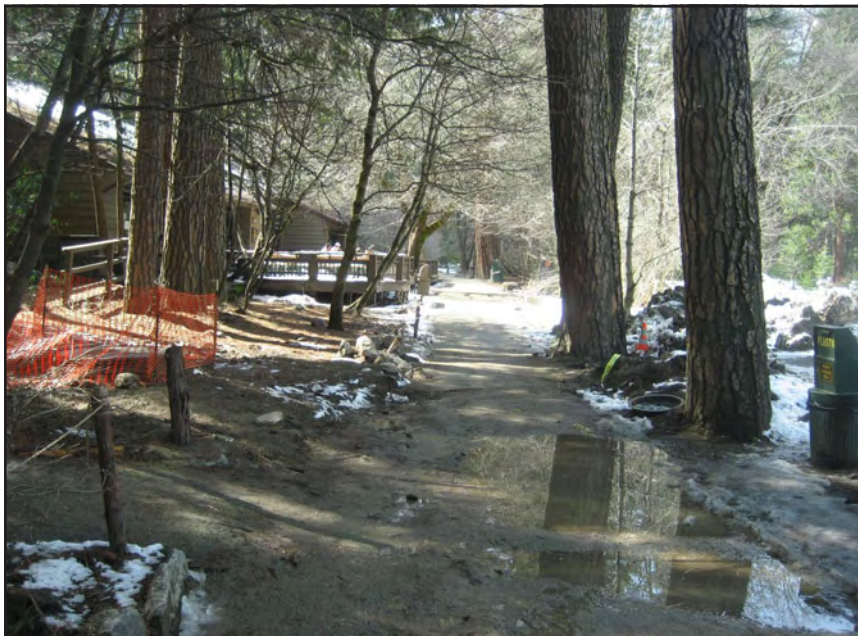


Figure 65. Many pedestrian and automobile circulation routes within Camp Curry do not adequately drain water and are subject to puddling and erosion during the wet months. This section of the Happy Isles trail is particularly bad due to the plowed snow that is piled along its perimeter.

parking lots to shed water to their perimeter, constructing water bars where appropriate, installing strategic drainage swales and catch basins, and developing better locations to pile plowed snow. All drainage improvements and re-grading should ensure that routed surface water flows and shallow sub-surface flows emerge back into natural drainages and feed into Stoneman Meadow.

**Consider Installing Bioswale Type Filtration System to Pre-treat Water as it Drains from Parking Lots into Stoneman Meadow**

Bioswales are commonly used at parking areas where substantial automotive pollution is collected by the paving and then flushed by rain. The proposed bioswale would wrap around the parking lot and would treat the runoff before releasing it into Stoneman Meadow. Contaminants that can be captured within bioswales include silt, inorganic contaminants, organic chemicals, and pathogens. The bioswale should be planted with native hydrophilic plants. Consideration should be given to developing a native seed mix for these bioswales in consultation with Yosemite Vegetation and Ecologic Restoration Branch staff. The use of bioswales is recommended in the Yosemite Valley Sense of Place Design Guidelines, where it states that “Runoff from snowmelt and paved parking areas should be guided to mechanical or biological filters (such as a bioswale) to capture pollutants before reaching the Merced River or its tributary”.

**Consider Designing for Surface Flow Drainage rather than Piped Drainage**

The Sense of Place Design Guidelines calls for the strategic opening (daylighting) of piped drainages within Camp Curry. In particular, the drainages that are culverted across the housing area to Stoneman Meadow and the South Lamon Orchard area are recommended for daylighting. This CLR supports those findings. Strategic daylighting of piped drainages within Camp Curry would enhance the aesthetic, ecological and interpretive value of the waterways.

## **Vegetation**

**Consider Following the Treatment Recommendations for the South Lamon (Curry) Orchard Outlined in the GMP and the current Draft of the Park Orchard Management Guidelines**

The GMP and the Draft Orchard Management Guidelines call for the removal of the South Lamon Orchard and its associated parking area following mitigation measures. It has been determined that the negative impacts associated with the trees, primarily as bear attractants to a densely populated area, outweigh their cultural value. The draft Orchard Management Guideline specifically calls for removing the



Figure 66. The South Lamon Orchard in 1929 (midground), following its conversion into an overflow parking area at Camp Curry. Notice the uniform rows of neatly pruned apple trees, the regularly placed boulder barriers and the alternating rows of pedestrian pathways. None of these organizational features are currently present. Accordingly, the present-day layout and appearance of the parking area is confusing and chaotic . (YOSE Archives, Completion Report #32, 1929).

South Lamon Orchard (Curry Orchard) while preserving the North Lamon Orchard (which are located near the Yosemite Valley Stables, roughly 1500 feet from the South Lamon Orchard), as the North Lamon Orchard is of a comparable size and vintage comprised of similar fruit tree species as the Curry Orchard, but it does not attract bears to a heavily populated area. It does, however, call for germ plasm samples to be taken for any cultivated varieties of apple trees whose germ plasm is not currently inventoried and for the rehabilitation of the nearby North Lamon Orchard, possibly planted from propagules from the removed South Lamon Orchard.

Although all of the orchard fruit trees are slated to be removed, consideration should be given to retaining the southern portion of the orchard as parking (particularly if the alternative is to build a new parking area elsewhere). However, the look and feeling of the orchard could be maintained in the southern portion of the orchard with the replanting of a bosque of either non-fruiting heirloom apple trees or an appropriate native species. This planting would provide comparable feel and aesthetic values while screening parked cars from aerial views but would not provide an artificial food source for local bear populations. In addition, circulation within the remaining orchard parking area should be restored to its 1929 condition, including a uniform bosque of trees, new paving and partially submerged barrier boulders that delineate pedestrian walkways between rows of trees.

At this time, fewer of the historic apple trees had been lost, and they therefore, historically, presented more uniform rows for parking cars. The paving between the rows of trees was fresh and well-defined. Parking, which was done on an unpaved surface under the shade of the orchard, was clearly delineated by rows of partially submerged barrier boulders. These barrier boulders also delineated pedestrian walkways for entering and exiting the parking area. Today, however, the parking area has been modified and suffers from poor maintenance. Many of the original orchard trees have died; leaving a loose patchwork of trees that scarcely resembles a grid.

Consideration should be given to removing the northern portion of the orchard and restoring the area to natural meadow conditions.

#### **Meadow Restoration**

Over the years, Stoneman Meadow has been degraded by a number of factors, including agricultural practices, circulation routes that bisect it and potentially interrupt hydrologic flows, fire suppression and conifer encroachment. All planning documents reviewed in preparation of this CLR have called for restoration of Yosemite Valley meadows and Stoneman Meadow in particular. The Yosemite Valley CLR calls for the reestablishment of meadows natural hydrology. Although the Stoneman Meadow is outside of the Camp Curry Historic District, it is visually connected to the district as many of the historic views from Camp Curry look out over the open meadow. This CLR recommends several actions that would result in a less fractured, more robust Stoneman Meadow. These measures include recommending the removal of the portions of South Side Drive and Curry Village Drive that bisect the meadow, mechanically removing conifers from the road margins that abut the meadow, removing the fruit trees from the Curry Orchard and restoring the northern portion of the orchard to natural meadow conditions, pre-treating surface runoff from parking areas before it drains into the meadow using bioswale technology and maintaining a regular burn regime in the meadow.

#### **Consider Restoring Talus Slope Hazard Zone to Natural Conditions, but leaving Pier Blocks and Foundations *in situ***

The talus slope hazard zone should be restored to natural conditions following the documentation and removal of buildings that are currently located there. However, this document recommends the building foundations and pier blocks be preserved *in situ*, for their archeological and interpretive value. Restoration work should involve the obliteration of pathways (paved and unpaved), and the planting of native vegetation. Upon completion, the area should blend into the surrounding vegetation communities in its form, density and species composition.

**Consider Planting a Vegetative Screen between the Contemporary Curry Village Dorms and the Historic Bungalows**

A vegetative screen should be located along the western periphery of the Camp Curry Historic District to obstruct sightlines to and from the modern Curry Village dorms. Sightlines between these groups of buildings should be obstructed because the dorms are used as employee accommodations and the bungalows are used for guest accommodations. The screen should be comprised of native plant species that occupy multiple forest layer strata and should be planted in a naturalistic arrangement and groupings rather than a straight line.

**Consider Maintaining a Mixed Deciduous and Coniferous Canopy Cover throughout Curry Village that Favors California Black Oak**

The overall mixed canopy cover that envelops most of Curry Village should be maintained. This tree cover provides a sense of enclosure and intimacy to the area that it would not have otherwise. Additionally, the tree cover provides the benefit of obscuring views of the camp from other locations within and above Yosemite Valley, particularly Glacier Point. Young conifers that grow within the dripline of mature black oaks should be removed and revegetated with black oak saplings.

**Consider Using Native Plants Grown from Material Sourced in the Valley**

Use only native plants grown from material sourced in the Valley for any landscape or restoration projects within Curry Village. Specific plant palettes and the use of vegetation should be devised in consultation with park natural resource specialists to reflect appropriate native plant community associations and anticipated natural succession.

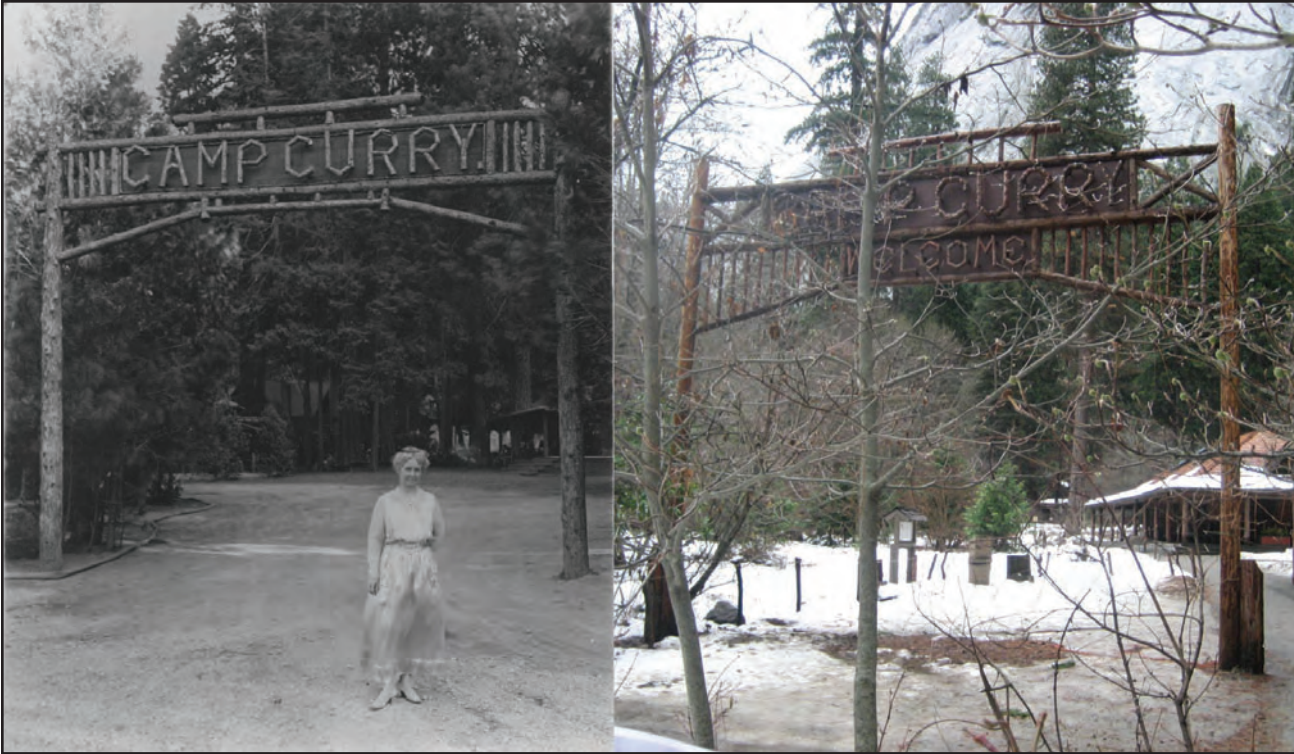
**Continue and Expand Periodic Monitoring, Pruning, and Removal of Hazard Trees within the Historic District**

The combination of Camp Curry's cold climate and woodland setting has resulted in a high frequency of tree failure and subsequent damage to structures. Following the Christmas snowstorms of 2008 many tent cabins and hard-sided cabins were damaged or destroyed by tree failure (primarily California black oak). To better mitigate against potential injuries and damage to historic resources, the Park should continue and possibly increase its monitoring, pruning and removal of hazard trees within the historic district. Additionally, any new facilities should be sited outside of the drip zone of existing oak trees as much as possible.

**Consider Removing Understory Screening Vegetation from around the Visitor Services Complex and the Central Core of Camp Curry**

As stated earlier (see *Visitor Services* section and *Enhance and Restore Prominence to the Gathering Area at the Central Core of Camp Curry*





**Figure 67.** Comparison of the central gathering space in c. 1940 and today. Notice now the vegetation swings out towards the Main Office (Lounge) eliminating much of the historic plaza space.

bullet), the understory vegetation within the central core of Camp Curry should be thinned or cleared to re-create a central gathering space, restore obstructed view corridors and improve the area's way-finding functionality. The understory vegetation and associated irrigation that is proposed for removal were installed in the 1980s and consists of native species.

## Views and Vistas

### **Consider Restoring the Historic Viewshed from Registration Building, Post Office and the Meadow Deck**

Although the majority of views from within Curry Village are characterized by close foreground views with a discrete range of vision, there are some expansive and panoramic viewing opportunities. These historic views occur outward from the first tier of development at Curry across the wetlands and meadows to the north and east. Vantage points for taking these views include the Registration Building, the Post Office, the Meadow Deck and the Happy Isles Trail. Scenic features that figure prominently in these views include Half Dome, North

Dome, Washington Column, Royal Arches, and Yosemite Falls.

However, this view is currently compromised by conifer encroachment within Stoneman Meadow. Particularly, the planted conifers that line either side of the eastern portion of Curry Village Drive, where it connects with the orchard parking area, have obstructed historic views across Stoneman Meadow. In particular, the planted conifers that line either side of Curry Village Drive, where it connects with the orchard parking area, have obstructed historic views across Stoneman Meadow. Historic views looking outward across Stoneman Meadow should be restored by relocating the portion of Southside Drive that bisects Stoneman Meadow along the present alignment of the western portion of Curry Village Drive, and obliterating the eastern portion of Curry Village Drive that bisects the meadow, including removal of the conifers that line either of its sides. Following these improvements, ecological restoration work should be done to reconnect these fractured portions of Stoneman Meadow. Following restoration, a periodic fire regime should be reintroduced to prevent the encroachment of conifers into the meadow and preserve the historic viewshed.

#### **Consider Expanding the Historic Vista from the Amphitheater up Towards Glacier Point**

Without a doubt, the most famous view from Camp Curry is the view from the stage/amphitheater area up towards Glacier Point. This view of the firefall was enjoyed by millions of visitors over the firefall's nearly 100-year tenure before it was cancelled in 1968. Although the nightly firefall is no longer an occurrence, the historic vista from the amphitheater to Glacier Point retains high historic and interpretive value. However, the vista of Glacier Point from the amphitheater area has been compromised by conifer encroachment and growth, and is now only visible from a reduced, narrow portion of the amphitheater. The historic vista should be widened and expanded by selective removal and pruning of the grouping of conifers that stand between the amphitheater and Glacier Point.

#### **Consider Returning the Camp Curry Entrance Sign to a Position of Prominence**

This Camp Curry entrance sign has been prominently featured in many of Camp Curry's historic brochures and countless historic and contemporary photographs. Its rustic charm has provided a sense of arrival and departure to Camp Curry visitors for nearly 100 years. The sign successfully frames vistas looking inward toward camp as well as outward toward Stoneman Meadow through the sign. However, this vista has been compromised by the realignment of historical circulation patterns and the 1980s revegetation of the areas in front of the visitor services facilities. To return the sign to a position of prominence and



**Figure 68.** The vista from the main office (Lounge) towards Half Dome, North Dome, Washington Column and Royal Arches has been negatively impacted by native understory vegetation that was planted in the 1980s, particularly in the spring and summer when the predominantly deciduous species have leafed out.



Figure 69. The Camp Curry Entrance Sign (which was rehabilitated in 2009) is no longer a prominent, organizing feature at Camp Curry due to changes in circulation routes and vegetative density.

provide a strong sense of arrival and departure at Curry Village, the understory vegetation around the sign should be thinned or removed. In addition, consideration should be given to realigning circulation features to return the sign to a more prominent position.

## Buildings and Structures

**Consider Preserving and Maintaining the Main Office (Original Registration Office, Current Lounge), Post Office (Current Registration Building), Pavilion (Stoneman House), Camp Curry Substation, Executive Guest Comfort Station, Camp Curry Service Station's Men's and Women's Restroom, Tent Cabins, Tall Linen Hut, 500's Comfort Station, 600's Comfort Station, Male Employee's Housing Area Rest Room (Boys Town Kitchen/Shower Building) and the Foster Curry Bungalow.**

Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. This approach would prescribe the maintenance and repair of the site as it currently exists, and would allow existing features to be replaced in kind, yet would not permit the addition of new features. This is the appropriate approach for the buildings included within this treatment recommendation subheading.

Only a portion of the tent cabins should be preserved. The tent cabins



that are within the talus slope hazard zone and the non-contributing cabins at the Boys Town and Huff Areas should be relocated or demolished. The remaining tent cabins (308 of them) should be preserved and maintained in their present locations.

Although the Foster Curry bungalow is one of the more significant buildings within the district, it would be virtually impossible to relocate this irregularly shaped building. Additionally, since the rear of the building is literally built into a massive boulder, moving the building would leave a gaping hole in the buildings south elevation. As such, it is unlikely that the building would be able to be relocated. However, the buildings early rustic design and historic significance dictate that it should also not be demolished. However, given the buildings location within the talus slope hazard zone, it is also untenable to resume human occupation of the building. Further recommendations for the buildings ultimate treatment should be made in the proposed Historic Structures Report or building assessment document for Curry Village. Until that time, the building should be maintained and preserved.

**Consider Maintaining the following Non-Contributing but Compatible Buildings and Structures at Camp Curry: the Bicycle/Ice Skating Rink Rental Building, the Transit Shelter, the Swimming Tank, the Visitor Services Building and the Amphitheater Projection Booth.**

As proposed, the current bicycle/ice skate rink rental building will no longer support ice skate rink operations. However, this architecturally compatible building should be maintained to support summer bicycle and raft rental operations.

The transit shelter was designed by the prolific Yosemite concessioner architect Eldridge Spencer in 1954. Although non-contributing, the structure continues to serve as an important transit stop at Curry Village. Its cantilevered beams with rounded ends are reminiscent of the amphitheater stage, which was also designed by Eldridge Spencer. This structure is compatible to historic facilities and should be maintained.

The swimming tank, visitor service building (including the store, mountain shop, dining hall and kitchen) and amphitheater projection booth are non-contributing but compatible features that provides services in locations that are comparable to historic facilities. As such, they should be maintained.

**Consider Relocating or Demolishing the Women's Club (Comfort Station and Kitchen at the Terrace), Cabin 101, Cook's Employee Shower Building, Cook's WOB's nos 2-4, Ice Skating Rink Rental Building, Chiller/Compressor, Hot Water Tank Shed near Ice**

**Rink, Campground Reservation Building, Nob Hill Shower House, Boys Town WOBs, Huff Office, Residential, and Comfort Station Trailers, Huff WOBs, Boys Town Comfort Station/Shower House Trailers, Tent Cabins and Linen Shed.**

For a range of reasons, a number of buildings within the Camp Curry Historic District should be relocated or demolished. These buildings are typically (but not exclusively) non-contributing and incompatible within the district. The contributing buildings that are included within this list are located within the talus slope hazard zone but lack sufficient significance to mandate their relocation and are sited in locations that would make relocating them technically difficult. A number of these buildings are also temporary in nature and were intended to provide short term housing and operations support until a long-term direction is agreed upon.

The Women's Club is located on the Terrace well within the hazard zone. This building is contributing to the district and was historically used as a Women's social hall. However, the lack of roads leading to this building and its surrounding topography would make it an exceedingly challenging building for relocation. Leaving the building *in situ* is inadvisable because all of the surrounding tent cabins that it serviced will no longer be present. As such, the only suitable option for this building may be demolition. If the building is demolished, the buildings foundation should be preserved *in situ*, for its archeological and interpretive value. Prior to demolition, the building should be documented in accordance with NPS Directors Order 28 and the mitigation measures listed the 1999 Park Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office. This mitigation should include HABS photography and salvage and stockpiling of historic material for use in future repairs to remaining structures.

Cabin 101 is another building located within the hazard zone. Although a contributor, it is of only minor historical significance, likely built as a residence for the caretaker of the original Nob Hill Shower House. As such, its generally poor condition and its diminished integrity may warrant demolition of this structure. If it is moved, an appropriate location for it might be near the Huff House amid the relocated bungalows and it could be rehabilitated into guest accommodations. If the building is demolished, the buildings foundation should be preserved *in situ*, for its archeological and interpretive value. Prior to demolition, the building should be documented as noted above.

The Cook's employee shower building and the Cook's WOB's nos 2-4 are non-historic buildings that date to the early 1960s and provide lodging and restroom facilities for employees. Since employee housing



will no longer be provided at Curry Village, these non-contributing buildings should likewise be relocated outside of the district or demolished. In their place, a new maintenance/housekeeping facility should be constructed in the same footprint as the men's dormitory and warehouse that originally occupied this site and it should be in a compatible style to the historic architecture at Camp Curry.

Consideration should be given to demolishing several non-contributing, incompatible buildings at Curry Village, including the campground reservation building, and the (non-historic) linen shed at the bungalows. These buildings are either in the rock fall zone (linen shed) or are located in the northern portion of the Curry Orchard (campground reservation building), which is slated for ecological restoration. Since none of these buildings are compatible with the district's historic character, they should not be relocated within the district. However, if a suitable location and an adaptive reuse can be found for one or all of these buildings outside of the district, relocation may be a possibility.

The over-sized Nob Hill shower house is a non-contributing building constructed in 1993 in the neo-rustic style that is located within the hazard zone. Although demolishing this building is an option, its relatively recent construction and high replacement value may compel the park to look for a different location for this building outside of the hazard zone. One possible site for relocating this shower house to is along the far east end of camp amid the tent cabins, with a generous setback from the Road to Happy Isles. This location is appealing in that it would have a minimal presence within the historic district and it would provide shower facilities in the portion of camp that currently is the greatest distance from such facilities. A second option for the shower house would be to locate it in the location of the current bath house near the swimming pool. This would replace the current bath house (which is a modular structure that was originally intended to be temporary) with a building that is more in keeping with the areas architectural character. However, this would result in a net loss of shower facilities at Camp Curry. A thoroughly unsuitable location for the shower house would be in the clearing at the southern periphery of the amphitheater, as the buildings large scale would have an adverse effect on the areas historic spatial arrangement and open character.

Temporary buildings that should be demolished or relocated outside of the district include the Boys Town WOBs, the Huff Area trailers, the Huff WOBs, and the Boys Town trailers. These buildings were brought in to Curry Village to provide support for temporary housing and operational facilities and should be removed from the district as soon as is practicable.

269 tent cabins within Curry Village should also be relocated or demolished. 161 of these tent cabins are located within the hazard zone in which no overnight accommodations are permitted. When removing or demolishing hard sided and tent cabins in the hazard zone, the buildings concrete foundation pier blocks should be preserved *in situ*, for their archeological and interpretive value. The remaining tent cabins are set up in the interim employee housing areas of Boys Town (92) and Huff (25) that were established following natural disasters. These tent cabins should be removed when these temporary developed areas are eliminated.

#### **Consider Rehabilitating Mother Curry Bungalow**

The Mother Curry bungalow has been used as employee housing at Camp Curry since it was constructed for Mother Curry in 1917. However, with the GMP's focus on moving non-essential employees out of Yosemite Valley, this structure could be rehabilitated into guest accommodations. This recommendation is reinforced by the fact that this bungalow is historically and architecturally significant and guest accommodations are generally better maintained and wear more gently than employee accommodations.

#### **Consider Relocating Bungalows, including Fourplexs, Bungalow #90 (Rufus Green) and Bungalow #61 (1980s)**

Consideration should be given to relocating the 22 bungalows (21 of which are historic and one of which dates to the 1980s) that are located within the hazard zone. The two northwestern bungalows that are located partially within the hazard zone could be rotated 180 degrees and moved roughly 100 feet to the northwest so that they become a seamless part of the row of bungalows located behind their original location. Five of these bungalows could be relocated east of the current bungalows. The southeastern most proposed site for these five relocated bungalows should be used for bungalow #90 (Rufus Green bungalow) so that it retains its southeastern setting in relation to the other bungalows. The remaining 15 bungalows (including the fourplex) could be relocated to the area that is now occupied by the Huff developed area and the ice rink. These relocated buildings should be sited to make two rows of bungalows, having setback and spatial organization qualities similar to their historic configuration. The cabins should be photo documented according to HABS standards prior to relocation and a Historic Structures Report or building assessment document needs to be prepared to guide their relocation and rehabilitation.

#### **Consider Restoring the Original Bungalettes (Cook's WOBs #1, 5-10)**

The original bungalettes should be restored to their original condition

and re-established as guest accommodations at Curry Village. The original condition of these bungalows featured hard-sided walls half way up with canvas curtains along the top. These buildings are significant in that they represent a synthesis of the two common typologies at Curry Village: hard-sided cabin and canvas tent. The three bungalows that are in their original locations should remain while the other four bungalows should be relocated to their original locations. However, a Historic Structures Report or building assessment document for Curry Village should be done to determine exact treatment recommendations for these commonly overlooked yet historically significant buildings.

#### **Consider Rehabilitating the Peterson Residence (Huff House)**

The Peterson residence has been used as employee housing at Camp Curry since it was constructed for Charles Peterson in 1923. However, with the GMP's focus on moving non-essential employees out of Yosemite Valley, the Peterson Residence should be rehabilitated into guest accommodations. This decision is supported by the fact that the residence is historically significant and guest accommodations are generally better maintained and wear more gently than employee accommodations.

#### **Consider Relocating the 1929-1930 Bungalows (WOBs)**

Consideration should also be given to relocating the 46 historic bungalows (WOBs) located in the hazard zone to the Boys Town area. They could be configured in a similar organization as the original tent cabins in that area. These bungalows could then be rented out to The Yosemite Institute and other park visitors year round. The cabins should be photo documented according to HABS standards prior to relocation and a Historic Structures Report or building assessment document should be prepared to guide their relocation and rehabilitation.

#### **Consider Relocating Comfort Station at Bungalows to Boys Town**

Along with the bungalows (WOBs), consideration should be given to relocating the comfort station at the bungalows to the Boys Town area. This would preserve the association between the bungalows and this comfort station and would provide needed toilet facilities to the reconfigured Boys Town.

#### **Consider Relocating Comfort Station at the Base of the Terrace**

Consideration should be given to relocating the comfort station at the base of the terrace (located on the outer periphery of the hazard zone) northwest of its current location so that it is outside of the talus slope hazard zone. The majority of the cabins that this building serviced are located outside of the hazard zone and will be maintained in operation. this would ensure continued use of this building.

### **Consider Rehabilitating the Amphitheater Seating Arrangement**

The Camp Curry amphitheater should be retained but modified to serve more intimate gatherings. Crowds at Curry Village are not as large as they were when the camp featured the Firefall and nightly dances. The current expansiveness of the amphitheater is over-sized for the areas current interpretive needs. As such, the amphitheater seating could be downsized and rehabilitated to meet today's interpretive needs.

### **Consider Relocating the Ice Skating Rink**

Consideration should be given to returning the ice skating rink to the central parking area. This location would be most appropriate as this is where it was originally located and visitation at Camp Curry (which remains primarily tent cabins) is markedly reduced during winter months so that there is decreased demand for parking. The ice rink should be of temporary design and it should be able to be broken down and stowed away during the spring and summer months. Support buildings for the ice rink (such as a ticket booth and warming hut) should be minimal in number and have a minor presence so that they do not unduly detract from the historic district. Locating the temporary ice skating rink in the parking area rather than in the otherwise undeveloped area between the meadow deck and the historic post office is recommended as this is the ice rinks historic location and there would be lesser damage to park resources by installing the temporary ice rink in a paved parking area rather than on undeveloped land.

### **Consider Constructing a New Maintenance/Housekeeping Facility in the Footprint of the Historic Men's Dormitory and Warehouse**

Historically, there was a men's dormitory and warehouse that flanked the otherwise exposed eastern portion of the road to the Service Yard. These multi-story buildings provided important acoustic and visual screening from the goings-on inside the busy service yard. Since these buildings were demolished, the service yard has become too visible and detracts from the character and quality of the visitor experience. This location would be an ideal location for new maintenance and housekeeping buildings that would reoccupy the footprints of the historic warehouse and men's dormitory. If constructed, this building should be compatible with the historic architecture within the district.

### **Consider Re-design of the Bicycle Storage Tent**

When it comes time to replace the bicycle storage tent (installed c. 2001) consideration should be given to designing a storage facility with a simple gable roof and white canvas walls that would be evocative of the camps many tent cabins. The current structure is incompatible within the district in color, materials, form and massing.

## Circulation

### **Consider Reorienting South Side Drive so that it no Longer Bisects Stoneman Meadow**

South Side Drive could be realigned so that it no longer bisects Stoneman Meadow. This is considered important to the long term vitality of Stoneman Meadow as it would remove a substantial impediment to ground and subsurface water that flows from the cliffs into Stoneman Meadow. Essentially, Southside Drive would turn south at its current intersection with Curry Village Drive, bringing east bound traffic closer to Curry Village and out of the meadow, returning the road to a more original alignment. The abandoned portion of South Side Drive should be regraded and restored to natural meadow conditions. The realigned portion of South Side Drive should be oriented so that it points toward the Camp Curry entrance sign.

### **Consider Preserving Hard-packed Earth Paths through Tent Cabins and Bungalows**

The hard-packed earth pathways that lead through the historic sections of the tent cabin and bungalow areas should be preserved and maintained. These roads should not be improved with gravel or asphalt paving. These pathways are primarily pedestrian routes but are maintained for service vehicles and as fire roads. However, service vehicle access on these pathways should be kept to an absolute minimum to maintain the primacy of the pedestrians in these spaces and to prevent rutting and dust from being kicked up.

### **Consider Eliminating the Northern Portion of Orchard Parking Area and Restoring it to Natural Conditions**

The South Lamon Orchard (Curry Orchard) has been used as an overflow parking lot at Camp Curry since it was rehabilitated for this purpose in 1929. However, the orchards current condition is quite poor as a high number of trees have died in recent years and the orchard has never received appropriate maintenance. In addition, the demand for parking at Camp Curry has diminished with the expansion of shuttle service and the recent elimination of guest accommodations within the talus slope hazard zone and the eventual elimination of all employee housing at Curry Village. Accordingly, there is now an opportunity to eliminate some parking at Curry Village, which would help meet the GMP goals of reduced crowding and markedly reducing traffic congestion. Indeed, the GMP and the Draft Orchard Management call for the elimination of some or all of the parking at the orchard, with the land restored to natural conditions. This CLR agrees with these recent planning documents and it too calls for the removal of parking along the northern portion of the orchard and restoration of the area to natural meadow conditions. The southern portion of the orchard



could be retained as parking, but the fruit trees should be removed to eliminate the source of food for bears. However, the look and feeling of an orchard should be maintained in this area with the replanting of a bosque of either non-fruiting cultivars of apple trees or an appropriate native species. Prior to removal, any fruit trees from the Curry Orchard should first have their germ plasm sampled and stored for future research.

#### **Consider Reducing the Area of the Ice Rink Parking**

With the relocation of the ice skating rink, the volume of parking available at the current ice skating rink is no longer necessary. A yet to be determined percentage of this parking should be retained to provide parking for bicycle and raft rentals. The eliminated portions of the parking area as well as the area that had once housed the ice skating rink should be restored to natural conditions.

#### **Consider Returning Privacy and Screening to the Service Yard and the Road to the Service Yard**

Located near guest accommodations and along a primary pedestrian access route, the Service Yard is currently too visible to Camp Curry visitors. The Service Yard and the Road to the Service Yard should be better screened from view and partitioned from the guest accommodations of the camp. This could be accomplished by minimizing guest access along the road through signs and by screening the service yard and road with new facilities (such as needed maintenance and housekeeping facilities) that match the footprints of the original buildings (men's dormitory and warehouse) that historically provided cover to the service yard.

#### **Consider Constructing No New Parking**

If possible, no new parking areas should be constructed at Camp Curry. If it is determined more parking is needed, consideration should be given to maintaining more of the orchard area as a parking area (currently slated for restoration) rather than constructing new parking.

### **Archeological Sites**

#### **Preserve, Maintain and Interpret LeConte Memorial Lodge Ruins**

The LeConte Memorial Lodge was moved from Camp Curry to its present location in 1919. However, the foundation stones and bench of this National Historic Landmark building are still visible in its original location. This area should be preserved and its historical and architectural significance interpreted with new interpretive signs.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK AND RESEARCH**

### **Amend the 1979 National Register Nomination for the Camp Curry Historic District**

The 1979 National Register nomination for the Camp Curry Historic District should be amended to include many of the changes outlined in this CLR, including:

- Providing a comprehensive inventory of the district's contributing buildings and structures as reflected in this CLR;
- Reconsidering and redrawing the existing historic district boundary, which excludes many potentially contributing features and includes many unintended non-contributing features;
- Conducting a comparative analysis to determine the validity of preliminary research conducted in the CLR which infers that Camp Curry is the oldest continuously operated tent cabin operation in the National Park system, that Camp Curry is the oldest continuously operated tent cabin operation in the United States, and that Camp Curry has the oldest detached cabin rentals original to the National Park System. If these preliminary findings prove to be true, it is possible that the significance of Camp Curry may rise to the level of a National Historic Landmark.

### **Write a Historic Structures Report or building assessment document for the Historic Buildings and Building Typologies at Camp Curry that have been Impacted by the Talus Slope Hazard Zone Delineation**

NPS Directors Order 28 states "The historic structure report (HSR) is the primary guide to treatment and use of a historic structure and may also be used in managing a prehistoric structure. A separate HSR should be prepared for every major structure managed as a cultural resource. Groups of similar structures or ensembles of small, simple structures may be addressed in a single report. In no case should restoration, reconstruction, or extensive rehabilitation of any structure be undertaken without an approved HSR, Parts 1 and 2." Alternatively, a thorough building assessment document may also suffice.

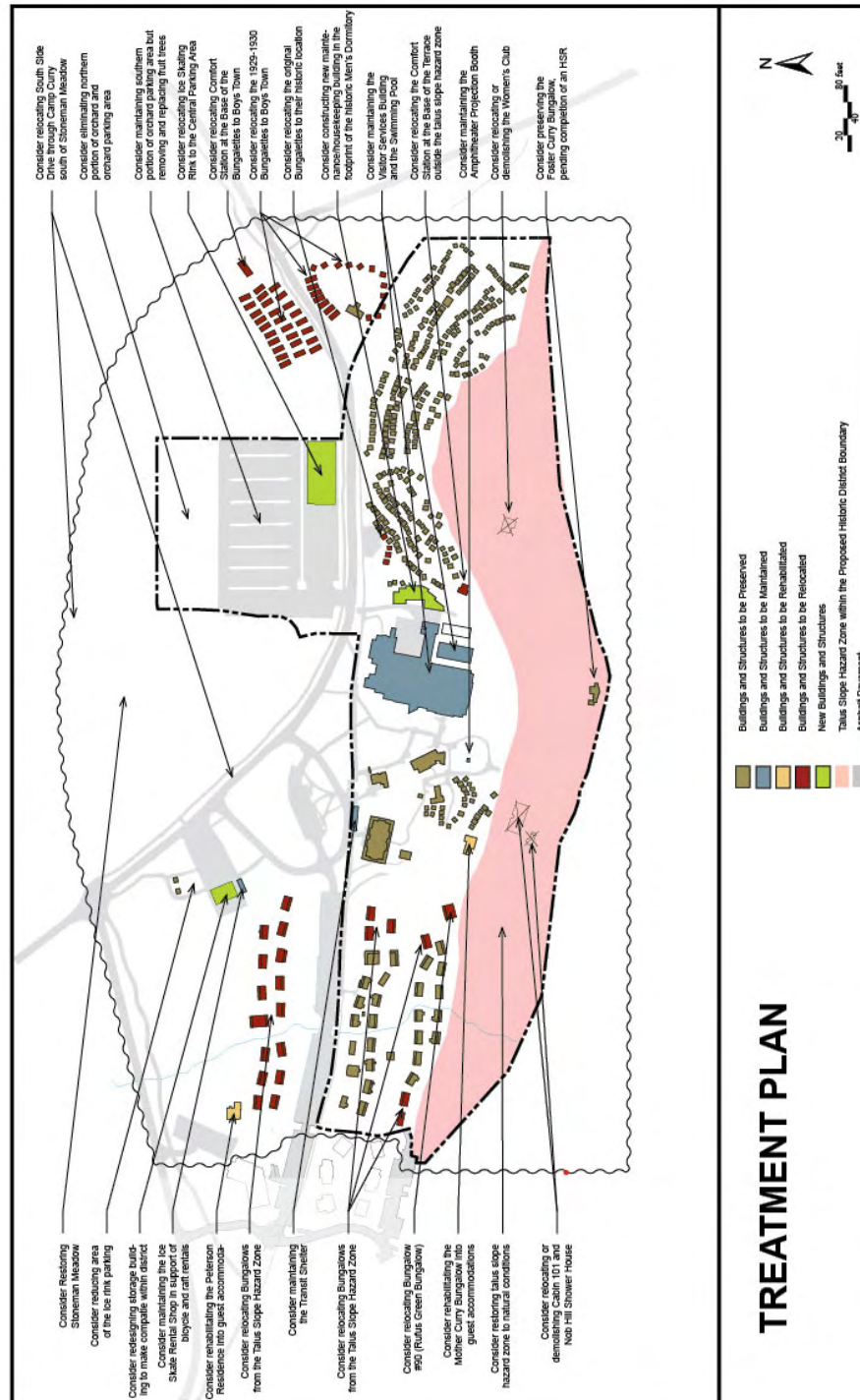


Figure 70. Map showing treatment recommendations as proposed in the Camp Curry CLR. A larger print of this map is available in Appendix E.

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# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A: CHRONOLOGY

Year	Event	Description
Pre-1851	Inhabited	Evidence indicates Native-Americans occupied the Yosemite Valley for four thousand years prior to 1800. The Ahwahneechee a subgroup of the Mewuks, were the last occupants before a epidemic swept all inhabitants out of the valley very early in the nineteenth century. “Several years later, a small band comprised of Ahwahneechees and members of other Native-American groups returned ... This group came to be known ... as Yosemite Indians.” <sup>238</sup> Only one historic village site, Toolahkahmah, has been identified in Camp Curry. It was located in the Lamon Orchard parking lot. <sup>239</sup>
1851, March	Removed	James D. Savage and the Mariposa Battalion forcibly eject the Ahwahneechees from Yosemite Valley. <sup>240</sup>
1855	Exploited	James M. Hutchings leads the first tourist party into Yosemite Valley. <sup>241</sup>
1861, circa	Farmed	James Lamon, Yosemite Valley’s first non-Indian permanent settler, plants two orchards, one of which is located in the present day Camp Curry area. <sup>242</sup>
1864	Land Transfer	Congress passes the Yosemite Grant bill and transfers Yosemite Valley as a trust to the State of California. <sup>243</sup>
1872	Established	James McCauley pushes a bonfire off the edge of Glacier Point. <sup>2</sup> The resulting “firefall” was so spectacular that it became a regular visitor attraction. After Camp Curry’s establishment in 1899 at the foot of Glacier Point, David Curry resumed the Firefall for special occasions. <sup>245</sup>

<sup>238</sup> *Yosemite Valley Cultural Landscape Report, October 1994*, Vol. 1 (Yosemite, CA: US National Park Service, 1994), 2-3 (hereinafter YVCLR).

<sup>239</sup> Brian Bibby, *An Ethnographic Evaluation of Yosemite Valley: The Native American Cultural Landscape* (Yosemite, CA: US National Park Service, 1994), 145.

<sup>240</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-6.

<sup>241</sup> Ibid.

<sup>242</sup> Ibid., 2-7.

<sup>243</sup> Ibid., 2-10.

<sup>244</sup> Hank Johnston, *The Yosemite Grant, 1864-1905* (Yosemite National Park: Yosemite Association, 1995), 160.

<sup>245</sup> Ibid., 192.

Year	Event	Description
1874	Built	The Coulterville and Big Oak Flat roads are completed. They are the first roads to reach Yosemite Valley. <sup>246</sup>
1888	Built	The State of California constructs the four-story Stoneman House Hotel “at the south end of the large meadow directly in front of present Camp Curry.” <sup>247</sup>
1888	Built	The Yosemite Grant Commissioners authorize construction of a footpath from Stoneman House through the South Lamon Orchard (currently in Camp Curry) to the Moraine Bridge (present day Clark’s Bridge). <sup>248</sup>
1888	Built	Road is constructed in Yosemite Valley from the South Lamon Orchard to the Merced River (at Clark’s Bridge) to a point east of the North Lamon Orchard. A branch of the road is extended to the Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company Stables located between present Upper and Lower Pines campgrounds. <sup>249</sup>
1800s, late	Inhabited	“Sometime in the late nineteenth century between 1864 and 1879,” Etienne Manet occupies a cabin in the northeast portion of the South Lamon Orchard (current Camp Curry parking lot). <sup>250</sup>
1800s, late	Built	“A fence ran along the boundary of the South Lamon Orchard; it may have been affiliated with Manet’s cabin.” <sup>251</sup>
1898	Inhabited	Between Stoneman House and the cliffs of Half Dome, San Francisco lawyer and agricultural developer William Thomas erects a “family camp” containing bathhouse, cook tent, and several camping tents with frames and platforms. <sup>252</sup>
1899, June 1	Established	The Yosemite Grant’s Guardian, Galen Clark, guides Stanford professor Rufus Green and journalist Will Thomson to the site of the Thomas camp. Against Clark’s advice the two select the site as “Camp Sequoia,” a new commercial camping operation for Green’s cousin Jennie Curry and her husband David A. Curry. The Currys were teachers in Redwood, California. Guardian Clark authorizes the establishment. <sup>253</sup> The first camp consisted of seven tents. <sup>254</sup> The first structure, a stage loading platform, is erected. <sup>255</sup>

<sup>246</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-14.

<sup>247</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 155.

<sup>248</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-16.

<sup>249</sup> Ibid.

<sup>250</sup> Ibid., 2-78.

<sup>251</sup> Ibid.

<sup>252</sup> Shirley Sargent, *Yosemite & Its Innkeepers* (Flying Spur Press: Yosemite, CA, 1975), 17; Otheman Stevens, “William Thomas,” *Western Edition Notables of the West*, vol. I (New York, NY: International News Service, 1915), 279 [also at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~npmelton/sfbthom5.htm>].

<sup>253</sup> “Yosemite Tourist,” June 8, 1899 (quoted in Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 18).

<sup>254</sup> “The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You,” 1922 brochure, Yosemite Research Library Collection.

<sup>255</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 22.

Year	Event	Description
1899, June 17	Established	David and Jennie Curry arrive at Camp Sequoia with their children. David assumes management. Soon afterwards the operation becomes known as Camp Curry. <sup>256</sup> During its first season, 29 campers lodge at the facility. <sup>257</sup>
1900, June 23	Event	First automobile enters Yosemite Valley. <sup>258</sup>
1901, April 12	Expanded	By 1901 Camp Curry had expanded to 40-50 guest tents and two larger 28 by 48 foot dining tents. During the previous 1900 season 410 lodgers registered. <sup>259</sup>
1901	Built	By 1901, Camp Curry boasted of having the “coldest of pure spring water from the foot of Glacier Point . . . piped through the camp.” <sup>260</sup>
1901, July 5	Memorialized	Joseph LeConte dies of a heart attack in his tent at Camp Curry. David Curry erects a rock cairn memorial at the site of the tent. <sup>261</sup>
1901, July 25	Event	Around 8:00 p.m. Dr. William A. Clark drives his 1900 Locomobile into Camp Curry. <sup>262</sup>
1901	Built	The first dining hall is constructed – a “tall, bleak building.” This is the first permanent building at Curry Village. <sup>263</sup> Its rustic design included long, slightly scalloped shingle siding accented with vertical unfinished slabs. <sup>264</sup> The slab motif became, and remains, trademark of Camp Curry structures.
1902	Built	First sewer installed at Camp Curry. It was probably a septic tank system. <sup>265</sup>
1902	Built	Running water restrooms and bath-house are erected. First tennis platforms are installed. The tennis court and croquet court are laid out. <sup>266</sup>
1903-1904	Built	The Sierra Club constructs the LeConte Memorial Lodge as memorial to prominent member and a former director, Joseph LeConte. The building is situated directly under Glacier Point about 1000 feet back from the boundaries of Camp Curry at the time. <sup>267</sup>

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<sup>256</sup> Ibid., 19.

<sup>257</sup> Ibid., 24.

<sup>258</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 217.

<sup>259</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 27.

<sup>260</sup> “Camp Curry Yosemite,” 1901 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>261</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 28.

<sup>262</sup> Hank Johnston, *Ho! For Yo-Semite* (Yosemite Association: Yosemite, CA, 2000), 120.

<sup>263</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 28.

<sup>264</sup> Ibid., 31.

<sup>265</sup> Ibid., 29.

<sup>266</sup> Ibid.

<sup>267</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-79.



Year	Event	Description
circa 1904	Expanded	Hazel Green, a stage stop near the present day Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park, is acquired by the Curry's and used as a tourist camp. Facilities included dining room, tents, and cabins. <sup>268</sup>
circa 1904	Built	An office with verandas, stone fireplace, and a new stage loading platform is constructed. <sup>269</sup> This building was used as the registration office and is currently used as a post office and lounge.
1905	Graded	Approach roads leading to Curry Village had been constructed by 1905. <sup>270</sup>
1906	Land Transferred	California cedes the Yosemite Grant to U.S. government. US Army cavalry takes over administration of the new Yosemite National Park and the concessions in it.
1907, June	Event	Major Harry Benson, US Army administrator of Yosemite NP, bans motor vehicles from the park.
1907	Altered	US government hydrographer recommends ending the Camp Curry lease due to sanitation problems. The camp's capacity is subsequently reduced to 200 rather than the anticipated increase to 500. <sup>271</sup> Camp Curry is placed on a yearly lease system.
1907	Developed	The Yosemite Railroad is completed to El Portal. Visitation to Yosemite Valley increases dramatically. Visitation patterns change to predominantly short-term rather than weeks at a time. <sup>272</sup>
1908	Established	Following the success of Camp Curry, W.M. Sell establishes Camp Ahwahnee at the base of Sentinel Rock in Yosemite Valley. <sup>273</sup>
1909	Built	In 1909, the US Postal Service establishes a "seasonal branch post office" at Camp Curry. <sup>274</sup> It is not known if the present Post Office structure was built that year but it seems likely that postal regulations may have required a building.
1910	Planned	Dispute heats up between David Curry and US cavalry administration over Camp expansion plans exceeding sewage capacity. Congressional involvement follows a spectacular publicity campaign initiated by Curry.
1911	Inhabited	During 1911 season, 3,622 guests check into Camp Curry. <sup>275</sup>

<sup>268</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 32.

<sup>269</sup> Ibid.

<sup>270</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-78.

<sup>271</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 33.

<sup>272</sup> Ibid.

<sup>273</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-37.

<sup>274</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 38

<sup>275</sup> Ibid., 40.

Year	Event	Description
1911	Established	On October 18 <sup>th</sup> Curry Camping Company is incorporated under the laws of California. All shares are privately held by Curry family. <sup>276</sup>
1911	Engineered/ Built	By 1911, Camp Curry was a part of the electric light network in the Yosemite Valley. <sup>277</sup>
1911?	Built	Earliest reference to Camp Curry having a post office is 1911. <sup>278</sup> A 1912 brochure contains a photo of the Main Office (Registration Building). <sup>279</sup> A later brochure in 1917 identifies both buildings. <sup>280</sup>
1912, July	Destroyed	Fire broke out in Camp Curry laundry facility, destroying 75 guest tents and the laundry house and damaging icehouse, bakery and dining room. <sup>281</sup> Total of guest tents before fire was reportedly 275. <sup>282</sup>
1913, April 30	Altered	Secretary of Interior Franklin Lane lifts the ban on automobiles in Yosemite National Park. Restrictive regulations required that campers or lodgers using commercial facilities had to park their vehicles in a garage at Army Headquarters near present Yosemite Lodge. <sup>283</sup>
1913	Reconstructed	The Curry's build a new dining room and cafeteria following the fire. <sup>284</sup> The dining room reportedly seated 750 to 800 and the cafeteria seated "about 300." <sup>285</sup>
1913	Inhabited	Camp Curry's capacity is 254 guest tents and 46 additional tents for employees. <sup>286</sup>
1913	Built	The Curry Camping Company installs a new sewer system in Camp Curry. <sup>287</sup>
1913	Built	A 40 by 90 foot swimming tank is constructed between the rebuilt laundry and the dining room. <sup>288</sup> The new facility includes adjacent cobblestone bath house.
1913	Built	Auditorium/dance pavilion (64 by 86 foot) is completed "west of the camp entrance." <sup>289</sup>

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<sup>276</sup> Ibid.

<sup>277</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-81.

<sup>278</sup> "Camp Curry California," 1911 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>279</sup> "Camp Curry Yosemite," 1912 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>280</sup> "Camp Curry," 1917 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>281</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-80.

<sup>282</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 41.

<sup>283</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 219.

<sup>284</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-80.

<sup>285</sup> "The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You", 1922 brochure; "Camp Curry," 1928 brochure, both in YPRL collection.

<sup>286</sup> Ibid.

<sup>287</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-81.

<sup>288</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 41.

Year	Event	Description
1913, May 13	Removed	At a meeting in Washington, D.C., Asst. Secretary of Department of Interior informs David Curry that Firefall will cease. <sup>290</sup>
1913, August 23	Established	US government administration allows first automobile traffic into Yosemite Valley. The first auto repair garage opens opposite Army headquarters and immediately does a lucrative business. <sup>291</sup> Curry begins agitating for permission to build a similar facility.
1914	Expanded	Curry Company initiates back-country camping equipment rental service. <sup>292</sup> This service was apparently housed in the “porter’s porch” of the main office. <sup>293</sup>
1914	Designed	A rustic sign designed by Foster Curry is erected at Camp Curry entrance. <sup>294</sup>
1915	Expanded	By 1915, a bakery, a fruit stand, a cigar/candy/newsstand and barber shop had been added to Camp Curry facilities. <sup>295</sup> The barber shop was apparently located in the swimming tank’s bathhouse building. <sup>296</sup>
1915, June 1	Retained	D.J. Desmond of San Francisco is given a year lease by NPS to erect an automobile camp in Yosemite Valley. For \$40 per year, he acquires the old US Army’s Camp Yosemite buildings, including 156 tent frames. This operation eventually becomes Yosemite Lodge. <sup>297</sup>
1915, April	Altered	David Curry appeals to the Railroad Commission, alleging discriminatory practices by Southern Pacific and its subsidiaries. Curry wins and railroads ordered to change schedules to accommodate express rather than overnight transportation into Yosemite Valley (and Camp Curry) from Merced. However, Passenger Service limits through service by rail to only one day per week to fit the evening-operation-only automobile curfew. <sup>298</sup>
1915	Expanded	In anticipation of the Pan Pacific Exposition, NPS gives Curry permission to erect 300 more tent frames, “increasing the camp’s overnight capacity to 1,000.” <sup>299</sup>

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<sup>289</sup> Ibid.

<sup>290</sup> Ibid., 42.

<sup>291</sup> Ibid., 43.

<sup>292</sup> Ibid., 46.

<sup>293</sup> “The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You,” 1922 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>294</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-80.

<sup>295</sup> Ibid.

<sup>296</sup> “The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You,” 1922 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>297</sup> Ibid., 50.

<sup>298</sup> Ibid., 51.

<sup>299</sup> Ibid.

Year	Event	Description
1915	Expanded/ Altered	To make room for an additional 300 tents at Camp Curry and expand trails, many of the large boulders in the area are blasted level. This brought the number of Camp Curry guest tents to 540. <sup>300</sup> 11,715 guests stayed at Camp Curry during the season. <sup>301</sup>
1915, October	Altered	Secretary of Interior moves towards consolidation of all concessions in Yosemite NP. Desmond Company is favored. At negotiations in Washington, D.C., Desmond acquires Camp Ahwahnee, Camp Lost Arrow, Thorton's general store, the butcher shop, Coffman's stables, Sentinel Hotel transportation business, and the Mountain House at Glacier Point. Desmond granted twenty-year lease. Camp Curry only given year-by-year lease and restricted to American plan service for lodgers. <sup>302</sup>
1915	Expanded	Formalized onstage campfire entertainment dates to at least 1915. This year Mrs. Jilson begins her long career as a vaudeville entertainer at Camp Curry. Performances were held on the south-facing veranda of the Registration Building (current Lounge). A projector was also set up on the stage to show movies on a screen hung in the trees. <sup>303</sup>
1916, 23 <sup>rd</sup> August		The National Park Service was created within the Department of the Interior under the Organic Act of 1916. <sup>304</sup>
1916	Expanded	Automobile visitation to Yosemite increases to 4,043 from 2,270 in 1915 and 739 in 1914. <sup>305</sup>
1916	Built	Brochure reports that Camp Curry includes a barber shop, swimming tank, and the "largest and best hardwood dancing floor in Yosemite – experts say it is not surpassed in California." <sup>306</sup>

<sup>300</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-79, 2-80.

<sup>301</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 53.

<sup>302</sup> *Ibid.*, 57, 58.

<sup>303</sup> A 1921 "Camp Curry" brochure reported Mrs. Jilson had been performing programs for the "past five seasons." A photo image in the 1923 brochure shows the veranda stage with the retracted movie screen behind the audience. The 1923 Camp Curry Housekeeping Brochure contains a plat (the oldest known map of the camp) indicating the stage was a veranda. A 1928 Camp Curry brochure contains a photo of the stage taken from the same angle as the 1923 brochure, but the screen for motion pictures is let down. Yosemite Research Library brochures collection.

<sup>304</sup> The National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 12 3, and 4); "The [National Park] service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

<sup>305</sup> Johnston, *Yosemite Grant*, 219.

<sup>306</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 59.

Year	Event	Description
1916	Built	Foster Bungalow is built by Foster Curry (later renamed the Tressider Residence). Originally, three walls of the two-room cottage were enclosed only with canvas curtains. <sup>307</sup> This was apparently a compromise with his father who insisted on maintaining a rustic tent camp atmosphere. A hand split palisade fencing is erected behind the Bungalow. <sup>308</sup>
1917	Appointed	Stephen Mather, a Californian and Yosemite enthusiast is appointed the first Director of the National Park Service.
1917, March 8	Expanded	Secretary of Interior Lane grants several concessions to the Curry Company. The operation was given a five-year lease, the Ledge Trail was to be improved, and Currys are authorized to sell “pictures and postcards.” <sup>309</sup>
1917, March	Restored	The NPS reinstates the Firefall as a nightly attraction. <sup>310</sup>
1917, March	Damaged/Built	The Foster Bungalow (present Tressider Residence) is severely damaged by a collapsed oak tree. <sup>311</sup> When it was repaired, the structure was probably entirely framed in and the additional room added.
1917, Spring	Transferred	David Curry dies at Palo Alto’s German Hospital from diabetes complications on April 30 after a minor accident earlier in the month. <sup>312</sup> Foster Curry assumes management of Camp Curry while Jennie “Mother” Curry continues to supervise day-to-day operations. It is no secret that Foster wants to see the Camp evolve into a more permanent structures type lodging facility, something his father fiercely resisted. In Washington D.C., Stephen Mather has a nervous breakdown and Horace Albright assumes Director’s duties at NPS. Albright and Mother Curry have long-standing excellent rapport. More favorable relations between NPS and Camp Curry are immediately noticeable. <sup>313</sup>

<sup>307</sup> Ibid., 61.

<sup>308</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-84

<sup>309</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 62.

<sup>310</sup> Ibid.

<sup>311</sup> Mother Curry correspondence quoted in Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 63. Former Yosemite NPS Historian Jim Snyder has indicated the western portion of the Foster Curry cabin was rebuilt only a few years after it was constructed as a result of rock fall damage. Correspondence from Yosemite Historian Jim Snyder to USGS Geologist Gerry Wiczorek, Dec 2000. It is possible that Snyder confused the rock fall with storm damage that was apparently widespread throughout the camp. The Camp Curry nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (1979, p. 7) indicated the damage was caused by a tree uprooted by a rock fall. This seems unlikely since Jennie Curry’s letter reported trees down throughout the camp and no other property damage except some downed power lines.

<sup>312</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 63.

<sup>313</sup> Ibid., 64.



Year	Event	Description
1917	Expanded	Curry Company records reflect a dramatic increase in borrowed financing after David Curry's death. Apparently, this was to finance new construction. <sup>314</sup>
1917	Built	An 800 foot "ash can lid" toboggan run was cleared west of Camp Curry. <sup>315</sup>
1917	Alteration Considered	Desmond Park Service Company has a disastrous year: El Capitan Camp and Del Portal Hotel both burn. Management disintegrates and Foster Curry explores the possibility of taking over the Desmond concessions. <sup>316</sup>
1917	Built	The Mother Curry's Bungalow is built in 1917 for Jennie Curry following David Curry's death. It is now divided into four units and used as employee housing. <sup>317</sup>
1917	Developed	Hot water is piped throughout the camp. <sup>318</sup>
1918	Built	First fifteen bungalows are built (each with electricity, hot & cold running water, and "roll-up canvas" on one side). The new Studio building is constructed. Bowling alley/social hall (later men's lounge and/or pool room) is also built. <sup>319</sup> Also constructed were a storehouse, a repair shop and an office addition. A sawmill had been constructed east of the camp to provide lumber for these additions. <sup>320</sup>
1919	Moved	To make way for the bungalows, the LeConte Lodge is moved to its present location from its original site in Camp Curry. Only the roof, windows, doors, and a few stones from the wall could be successfully moved. Mother Curry pays for the costs (\$3,500) to maintain good relations with the Sierra Club. <sup>321</sup>
1919	Transferred	Desmond Park Service Company is reorganized as Yosemite Park Company. NPS Director, Stephen Mather, provides personal cash (\$200,000) to keep the operation afloat. He hopes that it will be able to eventually absorb Curry Camping Company. <sup>322</sup>
1920, Feb. 17	Leased	Department of Interior grants Curry Camping Company first long-term contract (nineteen years). <sup>323</sup>

<sup>314</sup> Various entries, Curry Camping Company Corporate *Minute Book*, Curry Company Collection, Yosemite Archives.

<sup>315</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-50; Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 118.

<sup>316</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 65.

<sup>317</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-82.

<sup>318</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-84.

<sup>319</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 69.

<sup>320</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-82; "Camp Curry Automobile Road Guide," 1921 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>321</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 70.

<sup>322</sup> *Ibid.*, 65.

<sup>323</sup> *Ibid.*, 71.

Year	Event	Description
1920s	Cultivated	The Curry Company hires wildflower expert Carl Purdy to establish wildflower meadows around Camp Curry. Plants commonly grazed by deer were avoided, but after only a few years deer became such a nuisance that the project was abandoned. <sup>324</sup>
1920	Removed	Curry Camping Company removes trees along the Black Spring Road (between the Pohono and EL Capitan Bridges on the north side of the Merced River) that obstructed views of Half Dome and Clouds Rest. <sup>325</sup>
1920	Developed	Camp Curry completely electrified. <sup>326</sup>
1920	Built	Two new bungalows, refrigeration plant, a new bath house, movie booth, auto storage garage, and addition to sawmill are constructed. <sup>327</sup> Also constructed were a new post office, a telephone and telegraph station, a linen building, a transformer “bunker,” and a gas station.
1920	Abandoned	With the completion of the refrigeration plant, ice for Camp Curry no longer had to be cut at Mirror Lake and stored at camp. <sup>328</sup>
1921	Inhabited	During the season, 18,803 visitors stayed in Camp Curry’s 650 guest tents and 17 bungalows. <sup>329</sup>
1921	Maintained	By 1921, Camp Curry service facilities included a beauty shop, barber shop, bowling/pool hall, and the Studio which supplied dark room services as well as general store items. <sup>330</sup> The barber and beauty shop (“hairdresser”) were located in the swimming tank bathhouse. <sup>331</sup>
1921	Built	Kiddie Kamp is constructed west of the bungalows. Its most popular feature was the miniature train that encircled the playground. <sup>332</sup>
1921	Developed	By 1921, electrical power lines ran the length of the valley on both the north and south sides of the Merced. <sup>333</sup>
1921	Built	The soda fountain and its “spotless candy kitchen” are first reported in operation in 1921. It was located in the Studio building. <sup>334</sup>

<sup>324</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-82.

<sup>325</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-56.

<sup>326</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 72.

<sup>327</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>328</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-41.

<sup>329</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 73.

<sup>330</sup> *Ibid.*; “Camp Curry Automobile Road Guide,” 1921 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>331</sup> “Camp Curry Automobile Road Guide,” 1921 brochure; “The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You,” 1922 brochure, both from YPRL collection.

<sup>332</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 76.

<sup>333</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-55.

Year	Event	Description
1921	Altered	In 1921, the kitchen for the dining room was “electrically equipped” and run with an “all-white kitchen crew.” A “full equipped electric grill” was operated “on the European plan” for automobile tourists arriving at odd hours. <sup>335</sup> The grill was located “in connection with the soda fountain.” <sup>336</sup>
1921	Expanded	According to a 1921 brochure, Camp Curry reportedly had its own dairy herd, sanitary dairy and “local” vegetable garden. <sup>337</sup> No mention was made of exactly where these facilities were located.
1921	Altered	The dining room was heated with steam. The rest of the administrative and service structures were heated with fireplaces. “Some of the [guest] tents may be electrically heated and lighted. The “recently constructed” bungalows, reportedly “the most modern accommodations in Yosemite,” had hot and cold running water, electric lighting, and optional electric heat. The water in the swimming tank was reportedly heated to 70 degrees. <sup>338</sup>
1922	Built	Thirty-one new bungalows are built at a cost of \$32,000. <sup>339</sup> The total occupancy was “600 tents and 60 bungalow rooms.” <sup>340</sup>
1922	Built	Bungalow #90 is constructed for Jennie Curry’s cousin Rufus Green and his family. <sup>341</sup>
1922	Built	Additional buildings at Camp Curry by 1922 included a soda fountain, a studio “gay with rugs and Indian baskets,” <sup>342</sup> the Women’s Club (the club house at Terrace), the men’s dormitory and storehouses (the warehouse next to men’s dorm). <sup>343</sup>
1922	Built	Curry Company constructs a new store. It shares the same central complex building as the soda fountain (south end) and Studio (center). <sup>344</sup>
1922	Built	A new service building is constructed to house ice-plant, bakery storehouse, and a cafeteria for the hired help. <sup>345</sup>
1922	Expanded	By 1922 a shoe-shine stand was located in the main office’s “porters’ porch.” <sup>346</sup>

<sup>334</sup> “Camp Curry Automobile Road Guide,” 1921 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>335</sup> Ibid.

<sup>336</sup> “Camp Curry, In the Heart of the Sierra,” 1924 brochure, YPRL collection; “Camp Curry, Yosemite National Park,” 1940 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>337</sup> “Camp Curry Automobile Road Guide,” 1921 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>338</sup> Ibid.

<sup>339</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 76.

<sup>340</sup> “The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You,” 1922 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>341</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 76.

<sup>342</sup> “The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You,” 1922 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>343</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-83.

<sup>344</sup> “The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You,” 1922 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>345</sup> Ibid.

<sup>346</sup> Ibid.

Year	Event	Description
1922	Established	By 1922, Curry Company was boasting hourly bus pick-up at the loading platform. <sup>347</sup>
1923, February 19	Expanded/Built	Camp Curry is authorized by DOI to provide full services at the auto garage and sell “family groceries, meals, and prepared foods to both guests and visitors. A two-pump service station is attached to the east side of the garage.” <sup>348</sup>
1923	Planned/ Expanded	DOI Secretary authorizes construction of housekeeping units at Camp Curry. <sup>349</sup> Brochures indicate the first ten housekeeping units were erected west of the garage in time for the 1923 season. <sup>350</sup>
1923	Altered	A “section of tents” was designated to be used for European plan service (i.e. lodgers to bring their own food). Prior to this a visitors were on the American plan and had to eat in the dining hall. <sup>351</sup>
1923	Built	A private residence is constructed for company accountant Charles Petersen and his family (later named Huff House). <sup>352</sup>
1923	Expanded	Curry Camping Company boasts of owning “refrigerator cars” to transport fresh produce and dairy. The company apparently abandoned the idea of maintaining a dairy herd and garden. <sup>353</sup>
1923	Altered	The road from Camp Curry over Clark’s Bridge to Mirror Lake is widened. <sup>354</sup>
1923	Altered	By expanding out-of-doors the Camp Curry dance floor is doubled to accommodate 400 dancers. <sup>355</sup>
1923, August	Ownership Transferred	Curry Camping Company is reorganized as CURRY CAMPING COMPANY to finance the purchase of Foster Curry’s shares. <sup>356</sup>
1924	Expanded	Camp Curry brochure claims the facility had 800 guest tents. <sup>357</sup> In reality, the camp was made up of eight blocks of tents but not every block contained one hundred tents. In 1925, for example, the 70 block only contained a handful of tents. <sup>358</sup>

<sup>347</sup> “The Gates of Camp Curry are Open to You”, 1922 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>348</sup> Ibid., 81; “Camp Curry,” 1923 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>349</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 81.

<sup>350</sup> “Camp Curry,” 1923 brochure, YPRL collection; “Camp Curry Housekeeping Department,” undated brochure but almost certainly 1923, YPRL collection.

<sup>351</sup> “Camp Curry,” 1923 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>352</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 76.

<sup>353</sup> “Curry Company,” 1923 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>354</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-45.

<sup>355</sup> “Curry Company,” 1923 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>356</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 79.

<sup>357</sup> “Camp Curry, In the Heart of the Sierra,” 1924 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>358</sup> Plat in the “Appraisal Summaries,” Yosemite Archives, Yosemite Park and Curry Company (hereinafter “YA, YP&CCo”) Collection, Acc. 5000, Series II, Subseries S.

Year	Event	Description
1925, February 21	Property Transferred	New DOI Secretary Hubert Work tires of concessioner bickering at Yosemite and insists on merger of CURRY CAMPING COMPANY and Yosemite Park Company. <sup>359</sup> After pressure from Albright and Mather, the merger is completed under new name of Yosemite Park and Curry Company (YP&CC). Don Tressider is named new president. <sup>360</sup>
1925	Built	By this date, “temporary” employee housing had been located at the current site of Boys Town. <sup>361</sup>
1925	Platted	Preparatory to completing the merger of the two companies, an extensive inventory and physical survey of Camp Curry is completed. <sup>362</sup>
1925	Abandoned	Camp Curry laundry facility closed. After the merger all laundry is done at Yosemite Lodge. <sup>363</sup>
1925	Built	The Camp Curry bypass road is completed. <sup>364</sup>
1925	Altered	Maps as early as 1925 denote the southern portion of the Camp Curry parking area as the “Winter Sports Area.” <sup>365</sup>
1925	Graded	Five hundred and fifty feet of the road in front of Camp Curry is raised eighteen inches. <sup>366</sup>
1925	Built	Camp Curry is bisected by a footpath. <sup>367</sup>
1925	Built	In 1925, Camp Curry structures included a vegetable room (semi-attached to dining room), the residence of Mr. Carroll (mill manager?), and a cabinet shop. <sup>368</sup>
1925	Built	A manzanita and rock fence encloses Camp Curry. <sup>369</sup>
1925	Planned	NPS Director reportedly approves construction of crude “bungalows.” <sup>370</sup>

<sup>359</sup> The Yosemite Park Company was also becoming a hopeless money pit. See correspondence from Supt. Lewis to T.E. Farrow (YNPCo), April 17, 1922 (Yosemite Archives, Old Central Files [hereinafter “YA, OCF”], Series 10, Box 52, Folder 425).

<sup>360</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 82.

<sup>361</sup> “Appraisal Summaries,” Yosemite Archives, YP&CCo Collection, Acc. 5000, Series II, Subseries S.

<sup>362</sup> “Appraisal Summaries,” YA, YP&CCo Collection, Acc. 5000, Series II, Subseries S.

<sup>363</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 104.

<sup>364</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-46.

<sup>365</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-81.

<sup>366</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>367</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>368</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-83.

<sup>369</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-84.

<sup>370</sup> Correspondence, Don Tressider to Supt. Lewis, February 24, 1927. (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, File 426).



Year	Event	Description
1926	Planned	YP&CC pleads with NPS for permission to rebuild “central unit for Camp Curry” (dining room, etc.). The camp is serving 1,200 to 1,400 guests per day in the peak season and the central facilities were only designed to serve 500 guests. <sup>371</sup>
1926	Maintained	By 1926, the dance Pavilion was operating nightly at Camp Curry. <sup>372</sup>
1926, August	Damaged	The launching structure at the “ashcan” toboggan slide is “damaged to a large extent” by a rockslide. The warming hut is destroyed by fire. <sup>373</sup>
1927	Expansion	The opening of the All-Year Highway (El Portal Road) in 1926 causes an unprecedented 690 per cent boost in visitation to the valley. Valley facilities, including Camp Curry, proved to be vastly inadequate. <sup>374</sup> NPS and YP&CC are faced with demand for expanded visitor accommodations.
1927, March	Planned	Approval given for construction of 100 bungalettes at Camp Curry. It was anticipated that the bungalettes would replace the guest tents. <sup>375</sup> These structures, 28’ long, 12’ wide with 7’ high walls and shallow-pitched roofs, were different from the seven bungalettes already in place along the south side of the road to Happy Isles. The earlier models had hard-sided walls half way up with canvas curtains. <sup>376</sup> The newer models were designed with board and batten siding all the way to eaves. <sup>377</sup> These may have become the cabins with-out-bath (WOBs) south of central Camp Curry complex. They were likely not built until after May 1929 when approval was sought from NPS Director.
1927	Built	Fences are constructed around the swimming pool at Camp Curry to keep people from using the facility without paying and to keep the pool clean. <sup>378</sup>
1927	Built	Permission granted for YP&CC to construct restrooms at the Camp Curry service station. Facility to duplicate the one attached to Yosemite Lodge service station. <sup>379</sup>

<sup>371</sup> Correspondence, Don Tressider (YP&CCo) to NPS Director, November 4, 1926 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 424).

<sup>372</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 105.

<sup>373</sup> Correspondence, Acting Supt. Leavitt to T.C. Vint, November 18, 1927, p. 2 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 425).

<sup>374</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-42.

<sup>375</sup> Correspondence, Supt. W.B. Lewis to Don Tressider, March 31, 1927 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

<sup>376</sup> Physical description of the seven earlier “bungalettes” can be found in the 1925 audit of the Camp Curry facilities done preparatory to the amalgamation with Yosemite Park Company.

<sup>377</sup> “Camp Curry Bungalettes,” H.M. Carroll, Designer, blueprint in Yosemite Archives, Box 52, Folder 425.

<sup>378</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-84; Completion Reports 26 A&B, Final Report on Paved Foot Paths.

<sup>379</sup> Correspondence, Supt. W.B. Lewis to Don Tressider, November 3, 1927 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

Year	Event	Description
1927	Expanded	Four more fuel pumps are added to the service station attached to the Camp Curry garage. <sup>380</sup>
1927	Built	A new four-track, elevated toboggan slide is built near the old “ashcan lid” slide area west of Camp Curry. At the bottom of the run a concession warming hut sold coffee and donuts. <sup>381</sup> The operation was formerly free but is now being run by YP&CC on a “business-like basis.” <sup>382</sup>
1928, Feb. 18	Damaged	The new toboggan slide structure is heavily damaged by an avalanche. <sup>383</sup>
1928	Paved	Paved footpaths from Camp Curry to Happy Isles were constructed. <sup>384</sup>
1928	Built	Footpath constructed from Sentinel Bridge to Camp Curry <sup>385</sup>
1928	Built/Graded	Camp Curry Loop road is cleared and completed. NPS lays gravel fill on the road. Camp Curry had a paving contract with Will Moreing, but the Loop Road is eliminated from the list of tasks pending plans for reconstruction of the Camp. <sup>386</sup>
1928	Paved	Park Engineer O.G. Taylor oversees construction of a paved circulation and parking area with a 750-car capacity. The area is equipped with rock curbs. <sup>387</sup>
1928, September	Demolished	Camp Curry dining room (the second one), cafeteria, and kitchen demolished. Construction starts on new “entirely fireproof” structure. <sup>388</sup>
1928	Altered	“Additional board runway was added to the toboggan slide as an increased safety factor.” <sup>389</sup>
1928	Altered	A wooden “super-elevation” is installed on the Ash Can run curve “to prevent the lids from leaving the track and, incidentally, provide an added thrill when the cans travel up this slope and down again into the track.” <sup>390</sup>

<sup>380</sup> Photographs RL-10632 and RL-10,657 in the Yosemite Park Regional Library collection indicate that the number of pumps increased from two to six between 1926 and 1927.

<sup>381</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-52; National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center electronic archive [hereinafter E-TIC], “Taboggan [sic] Slide Near Camp Curry [undated],” author unknown, Drawing No. NP-YOS-5197; Correspondence, Don Tressider to Acting Supt. E.P. Levitt, November 12, 1927 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 425).

<sup>382</sup> Correspondence, Acting Supt. Leavitt to Chief Landscape Engineer Vint, November 18, 1927. (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 425).

<sup>383</sup> Photo number RL-6255, YPRL collection.

<sup>384</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-47.

<sup>385</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, April 1928, YPRL collection.

<sup>386</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-82.

<sup>387</sup> Ibid.

<sup>388</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, September 1928, YPRL collection.

<sup>389</sup> Ibid., November 1928.

<sup>390</sup> Ibid.

Year	Event	Description
1928?	Built	Sometime between 1925 and 1928 the residence now known as No. 101 (it replaced tent no. 101) is constructed on the south end of Nob Hill Bath House. <sup>391</sup>
1929, May 12	Built	New cafeteria and dining room designed by Eldridge Spencer opens at Camp Curry. <sup>392</sup> Construction had commenced fall of 1928. <sup>393</sup>
1929	Altered	Power and phone lines are removed from in fronts of bungalows and the Registration Building and replaced with underground lines. <sup>394</sup>
1929	Graded/Built	Nearly a mile of Curry Road through Stoneman Meadow north of the orchard area is constructed. This included clearing right-of-way, building up road bed, laying 11 culverts, and landscaping. <sup>395</sup>
1929	Paved/Graded	“Main entrance road with turn around loop and adjacent East parking area” (parking for 750 cars) was graded, paved, and line-painted for traffic control. Curb rocks set in place. <sup>396</sup> Three thousand yards of gravel were dredged from Merced River to fill parking lot. <sup>397</sup>
1929	Graded/Built	Bus entrance road and employee parking area are graded, oiled and curbed with “rock set on each side of same.” <sup>398</sup>
1929	Graded/Built	Abandoned “Y” roads east of parking area that had been used for overflow parking are “rough graded” to a uniform width of 66 feet. New culverts with stone masonry headwalls are installed “and in one instance stone masonry siphon type outlet was constructed.” Culverts with stone masonry head walls are installed “beneath parking area and parking area roads to drain Curry tent area and provide for overflow from swimming tank.” Height of two existing manholes adjusted. <sup>399</sup>

<sup>391</sup> The structure is missing from the plat for the 1925 Camp Curry inventory but it is evident in the map in 1928 “Camp Curry” brochure. “Appraisal Summaries,” YA, YP&CCo Collection, Acc. 5000, Series II, Subseries S; “Camp Curry,” 1928 brochure, YPRL collection. Curiously, a plat completed in 1930 *does not* show the structure, although it does show the bungalows added after 1927.

<sup>392</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 105; *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-84; A brochure describing the design of the dining room is attached to correspondence, Mary Tressider (YP&CCo) to Supt. Kitteredge, August 21, 1941 (Yosemite Archives, Resources Management Collection [hereinafter “YA, RMC”], Box 53, Folder 432).

<sup>393</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 105.

<sup>394</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Report, May 1929, YPRL collection.

<sup>395</sup> E-TIC, “Final Report of Job #501.11, Camp Curry Section,” September 25, 1929.

<sup>396</sup> E-TIC, “Final Report on Camp Curry Parking Area, Job #501.24,” December 2, 1929.

<sup>397</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, May 1929, YPRL collection.

<sup>398</sup> E-TIC, “Final Report on Camp Curry Parking Area, Job #501.24,” December 2, 1929.

<sup>399</sup> Ibid.

Year	Event	Description
1929	Removed/ Planted	“A number of trees” are removed from the orchard as well as “a few small pines” west of the orchard “to provide space for parking roads.” To compensate for environmental damage, YP&CC plants “about 150” pines “in the meadow adjoining the corner of the parking area.” <sup>400</sup>
1929	Paved	Foot paths are paved in orchard area and from garage area (near present Wellness Center) to Camp Curry. <sup>401</sup>
1929	Reconstructed	Culvert under upper road replaced with longer one to provide for “new Camp Curry-Happy Isles Foot path.” <sup>402</sup>
1929	Built	An automobile and bus loading platform in front of the Camp Curry gateway is constructed. <sup>403</sup>
1929	Built	A “saddle kiosk” was constructed and additional board walk was completed for the use of the pedestrians. <sup>404</sup>
1929	Altered	The toboggan slide is rebuilt. Two extra tracks are added to the two already in place. “A skating rink and ski jump are also being constructed.” <sup>405</sup>
1929	Altered	Unspecified and unauthorized alterations were made to the Camp Curry dance pavilion. <sup>406</sup>
1929	Built	The new ice skating rink is completed in the parking lot east of the Cafeteria. Bleachers are built for viewing and portable buildings “of the northern European design” are added for equipment rental and warming. A warming hut/storage shed of similar design is set up at the toboggan slide. <sup>407</sup>
1929	Planned	Plans for “non-bath cabins proposed to be built in the Camp Curry Area” (also referred to as bungalows) are approved by Director Albright on May 2, 1929. <sup>408</sup> The cabins without bath were obviously constructed after this date.
1929	Altered	Sometime between 1928 and 1930, the lanes are removed and the bowling alley is converted to a bicycle rental facility. <sup>409</sup>

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<sup>400</sup> Ibid.

<sup>401</sup> Ibid.

<sup>402</sup> Ibid.

<sup>403</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, May 1929, YPRL collection.

<sup>404</sup> Ibid. June 1929.

<sup>405</sup> Ibid., October 1929.

<sup>406</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Thomson to Don Tressider (YP&CCo), July 12, 1929 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

<sup>407</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, November 1929, YPRL collection. One of the rink’s Nordic designed (“boat roofed”) portable buildings is still extant at the concessioner stable area.

<sup>408</sup> Correspondence, Supt. to Director, May 9, 1929 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

<sup>409</sup> A map in the Camp Curry brochure for 1928 shows the bowling alley was still in use. “Camp Curry,” 1928 brochure, YPRL collection. The plat contracted by YP&CCo in 1925 and completed in 1930, shows the building converted to bicycle rental. E-TIC, “Plat No. 1, Camp Curry Area,” Drawing no. WODC-YOS-9159.

Year	Event	Description
1929	Altered	Addition is built onto west end of the Mother Curry's Bungalow sometime between 1928 and 1930. <sup>410</sup>
1929	Altered/ Demolished	The southwest wing of the old parking garage is demolished and replaced with a small tire shop. <sup>411</sup>
1920s, late	Developed	The South Lamon Orchard is adapted for use as a parking area in accordance with plans drawn up by the Olmsted Brothers firm in 1927. <sup>412</sup>
1920s, late	Expanded	A dog sled concession is added and kennels maintained at Camp Curry. <sup>413</sup>
1920s, late	Altered	Doors replaced canvas flaps on the tents. <sup>414</sup>
1930s	Built	A seasonal fence around the ice rink was constructed and dismantled each year. <sup>415</sup>
1930, January	Expanded	For the first time Camp Curry bungalows are temporarily opened to handle peak visitation during winter months. <sup>416</sup>
1930	Maintained	YP&CC reports difficulty freezing the ice at the rink at Camp Curry parking lot. <sup>417</sup>
1930	Expanded	A yellow pine at the east end of the ice rink is felled to allow more ground to be frozen over for skating. <sup>418</sup>
1930	Planned Alteration	A mechanical conveyance is installed at the toboggan slide near Camp Curry and the nearby ashcan slide to carry toboggans to the top of the slope. However, the slide's wooden frame is reportedly not sturdy enough to support the weight of the chain, so the Yosemite Park and Curry Company proposes replacement with an iron structure. <sup>419</sup>

<sup>410</sup> The 1928 Camp Curry brochure shows the bungalow in its original configuration. "Camp Curry," 1928 brochure, YPRL collection. The 1930 plat shows the addition to bungalow. E-TIC, "Plat No. 1, Camp Curry Area," Drawing no. WODC-YOS-9159.

<sup>411</sup> The 1928 Camp Curry brochure shows the parking garage intact but the 1930 plat shows the wing removed. "Camp Curry," 1928 brochure, YPRL collection; E-TIC, "Plat No. 1, Camp Curry Area," Drawing no. WODC-YOS-9159.

<sup>412</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, pg 2-82.

<sup>413</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 120.

<sup>414</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-83.

<sup>415</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-84.

<sup>416</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, January 1930, YPRL collection.

<sup>417</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-81.

<sup>418</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-82.

<sup>419</sup> *Ibid.*, 2-53.



Year	Event	Description
1930	Altered/ Obliterated	Ditches are dug on the edge of roads adjacent to Valley meadows to discourage vehicle traffic on the meadows. Vehicle tracks in the meadows are obliterated. Presumably, Stoneman Meadow and Curry Road are included in this project. <sup>420</sup>
1930	Expanded	Camp Curry lodging facilities include: 102 rooms in bungalows with bath and heat, 87 rooms in separate cabins without heat or running water and 425 tents. <sup>421</sup>
1930	Planned	The NPS fields an ever growing number of complaints about the lack of cheap accommodations in the park. The concessioner is also feeling the pressure. "...the Housekeeping Department (at Camp Curry) showed an increase of 10% for August [over August 1929] while other hotel units recorded a loss of 28% for the same period." <sup>422</sup>
1930, September	Planned	NPS Director Albright arrives to discuss the "proposed aerial ropeway" (gondola) from near Camp Curry to Glacier Point. <sup>423</sup>
1930, October	Planted	Tree "screens" are planted "near the Camp Curry parking area." <sup>424</sup>
1930, October	Altered	Unspecified improvements are made to the toboggan slide. <sup>425</sup> Perhaps they were safety related. This facility accounted for numerous serious accidents every winter.
1931	Platted	A new map was being prepared by the YNP engineering department of "the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge and Camp Curry with contours and roads shown thereon." <sup>426</sup>
1931	Developed	The first annual San Joaquin Valley-Sierra Winter Sports Carnival is held at Yosemite. The festival is centered on the Curry ice rink. <sup>427</sup>
1931	Developed	An underground telephone cable is laid from Camp Curry to Camp 6. <sup>428</sup>
1931	Built	By 1931 the service yard at Camp Curry had been constructed. <sup>429</sup>

<sup>420</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, July 1930, YPRL collection.

<sup>421</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-84.

<sup>422</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, August 1930, YPRL collection.

<sup>423</sup> *Ibid.*, September 1930.

<sup>424</sup> *Ibid.*, October 1930, p. 6.

<sup>425</sup> *Ibid.*, 7; For description of operational features of the slide see Memorandum Ranger Reymann to Chief Townsley, February 4, 1930 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

<sup>426</sup> *Ibid.*, January 1931, p. 13.

<sup>427</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, January 1931., p. 13.

<sup>428</sup> *Ibid.*, August 1931.

<sup>429</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-82.

Year	Event	Description
1931, November	Altered	Firefalls during the winter months (weekends) are cancelled when an errant spark ignites and burns the entire bark cache at top of Glacier Point. <sup>430</sup>
1932, January	Altered	The power grid system at Camp Curry was updated significantly. Switchboard, oil switches, sectionalizing of relays, and switches are changed. <sup>431</sup>
1932, May 22	Damaged/Built	Fire damages Mother Curry Bungalow. <sup>432</sup> Caused by gasoline fumes “that had come in contact with the electric range.” Four men were “more or less seriously burned” containing the blaze with fire extinguishers. <sup>433</sup>
1932, Dec. 8	Destroyed	Fire destroys YP&CC company office in Cosmopolitan Building. Many Camp Curry company records lost. <sup>434</sup> The fire was caused by a dirty chimney.
1932, Dec. 7	Altered	Greyhound’s first “nitecoach” enters the park on a publicity drive. This event ushers in a new era of mass transit visitation.
1933, Feb.	Visitation	Winter visitation fell off dramatically (37% from 1932) due in large part to the expense involved in winter activities and a lack of accommodations. <sup>435</sup>
1933, March	Established	YP&CC experiments with providing partially furnished cabins with no housekeeping at Yosemite Lodge at a much reduced rate (\$1.50/day). Eleven cabins were set aside for this program. <sup>436</sup> If the scheme works, it will be applied to Curry bungalows or bungalettes.
1933	Altered	“... the Company purchased 100 bicycles [May 27, 1933] which were ... placed at Camp Curry and at the Ahwahnee.” <sup>437</sup> However, the bowling alley had already been converted to a bicycle rental building no later than 1930.
1933	Maintained	“Practically all” of the cabins are re-roofed and much “remodeling, painting, etc.” is done at Camp Curry. <sup>438</sup>
1933, Dec. 22	Altered	The service station at the Curry garage remains open 24 hours a day.
1934	Management Transferred	Mother Curry effectively transfers management of Camp Curry to daughter, Mary Curry Tressider. <sup>439</sup>

<sup>430</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, November 1931., p. 7.

<sup>431</sup> Ibid., January 1932.

<sup>432</sup> Yosemite Park Research Library, Photograph Collection, No. NGG-5963.

<sup>433</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, May 1932.

<sup>434</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 114.

<sup>435</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, February 1933.

<sup>436</sup> Ibid., March 1933, p. 7.

<sup>437</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, May 1933.

<sup>438</sup> Ibid., October 1933.

Year	Event	Description
1934	Planned	YP&CC plans to landscape the area in front of the Curry Cafeteria. They “expected to terrace from the road level to the level of the Curry walk.” <sup>440</sup>
1935	Graded	Dirt floor for the Camp Curry garage improved. Work done by NPS (CCC crew?) at \$0.12 per yard. <sup>441</sup>
1935	Planned	YP&CC proposes “development in vicinity of the present garage.” But JBW (John Wosky, Asst. Supt.) opposes “a commercial and utility development in the <u>very heart</u> of the valley.” <sup>442</sup>
1935	Planned/Built	Asst. Director approves construction of two restrooms in Camp Curry, “one of which replaces Building No. 20 and one replacing half of Building No. 18.” <sup>443</sup> Building 18 became the Rock restroom and the restroom replacing Building 20 is probably the current restroom in the 500 block of tents.
1935	Planned	YP&CC proposes to put an addition onto “House #23” (Peterson residence). Asst. Supt. Wosky objects because it would require removal of two small trees. Existing structure is already outside the area set aside for Company residential purposes, “and the use of a portion of Camp Curry plat for residential purposes is not in keeping with the development plans.” The residence was also “noticeable from the main road, and conflicts with the present housekeeping layout.” <sup>444</sup>
1935	Planned/Built	YP&CC proposes to put in a comfort station in the 600 group of tents, “an exact duplicate of the comfort station approved ... and constructed by [YP&CC] in the 500 section during 1935 [called ‘Unit No. 1’].” Construction in spring of 1936 would hinge on whether visitor traffic improved. <sup>445</sup> It was subsequently constructed, presumably in 1936.
1936	Built	Small addition with twin 6-lite doors added to corner of Registration Building. Considerable remodeling was done to the interior. <sup>446</sup>

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<sup>439</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite’s Innkeepers*, 111.

<sup>440</sup> Correspondence, Don Tressider (YP&CCo) to Supt. Thomson, May 24, 1934 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

<sup>441</sup> Correspondence, George Goldworthy (YP&CC) to Asst. Supt. Wosky, May 25, 1935, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 54).

<sup>442</sup> “Memo for the Supt. from JBW (John Wosky), April 5, 1935, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 54).

<sup>443</sup> Correspondence, Asst. Director Wirth to Supt., April 25, 1935, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 54).

<sup>444</sup> Ibid., Assistant Supt. Wosky to Supt., March 21, 1935 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 54).

<sup>445</sup> Ibid., Don Tressider (YP&CC) to NPS Director, September 19, 1935, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 54).

<sup>446</sup> E-TIC, “Camp Curry, Additions to Office Building, with notes on Maintenance work for 1936,” Drawing NP-YOS-3201; Correspondence, NPS Assistant Director to Yosemite Supt., November 20, 1936, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 426).

Year	Event	Description
1936	Built	Pursuant to plans approved in 1935, a new restroom is constructed in the 500 block of tents and the old restroom labeled A-18 in the 1925 inventory plat is demolished. <sup>447</sup>
1937	Planted	The CCC plants screening vegetation at Camps 11 and 14. In conjunction with the plantings, the CCC installs water lines, removes rocks and poor soil, and hauls fertile topsoil to the campgrounds. <sup>448</sup>
1937	Altered	A set of buildings east of the sawmill are used as Camp Curry dog kennels. <sup>449</sup>
1937	Altered	Log guard rails are installed around the bus loop at Camp Curry to make it a one-way road and to protect vegetation along the roadside. <sup>450</sup>
1937	Planned/Built	Plans are submitted and approved for construction of a shower/restroom facility located near the road at Boys Town. <sup>451</sup> Considerable debate preceded approval. The resident landscape architect opposed approval for several reasons. He did not want YP&CC's lease lines extended 3.4 acres to include the proposed building's location. The Director had in fact made it clear in 1930 male employee housing in the Boys Town area was only temporary and would be phased out. The architect also felt that the building site was too close "to the road passing Camp 14 ... [and] it would prove objectionable to erect any permanent structures here, as that would establish the area quite definitively." <sup>452</sup>
1937	Expanded	YP&CC lease lines are expanded 3.4 acres to include "temporary" male employee housing in present Boys Town area.
1937	Paved	The walkway in front of the Cafeteria is paved. <sup>453</sup>
1938	Alteration Suggested	A fire protection report submitted to the NPS by a Mr. Ahern recommends a minimum of 20 feet spacing between the guest and employee tents. The park superintendent finds he cannot enforce the recommendation because it would require either physical expansion or operational reduction of the camp. <sup>454</sup>

<sup>447</sup> Superintendent's Monthly Reports, March 1936.

<sup>448</sup> Ibid., 2-60.

<sup>449</sup> Ibid., 2-84.

<sup>450</sup> Ibid.

<sup>451</sup> E-TIC, "Camp Curry Rest Room, Male Employees' Housing Area, [approved by Supt. March 26, 1937]," Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. NP-YOS-8179.

<sup>452</sup> Correspondence, R. L. McKown to Supt., February 26, 1937; see also Memorandum, Assistant Supt.

Wosky to Supt., February 25, 1937 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 427).

<sup>453</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Reports, April 1937.

<sup>454</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Merriam to NPS Director, July 6, 1938. (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 428).

Year	Event	Description
1939	Planned	YP&CC informs the NPS of its intention to abandon six buildings in the saw mill area, including the mill building. <sup>455</sup>
1939	Planned Diversion	The evening entertainment at Camp Curry proves to be too much of a good thing. YP&CC requests permission to reopen dancing facilities at Yosemite Lodge (this service ceased there in 1931). "The concentration of people around Camp Curry and upper part of the Valley [for Firefall and dancing] has attracted some unfavorable comment." Wary of a "barrage of complaints" from "a minority group of wilderness enthusiasts," the NPS Acting Director deferred the decision to the Secretary of Interior. <sup>456</sup>
1940	Paved	The parking area is resurfaced. <sup>457</sup>
1940	Altered	A brochure advertises a short order grill "in connection with the Soda Fountain." <sup>458</sup> Negotiations were underway to remodel this facility. <sup>459</sup>
1940	Altered?	By 1940, Camp Curry boasted a "tailor shop" on site. Perhaps this was part of the laundry facility. <sup>460</sup>
1940	Altered	In January 1940, the CCC crews were engaged in "landscaping near Camp Curry." <sup>461</sup>
1940, May	Maintained	"A [CCC] tree preservation crew has continued its work in the removal of dangerous snags and dead branches around Camp Curry." <sup>462</sup>
1940	Established	"... some of the Camp Curry cabins are reopened in October and again in January 1941, to accommodate park visitors." <sup>463</sup> In September, for the first time annual visitation exceeded a half million. <sup>464</sup>
1940	Planned	An addition is to be built onto the northwest end of the office toilet located west of the Registration Building (present Lounge building). <sup>465</sup>

<sup>455</sup> Correspondence, Don Tressider to Supt. Meriam, June 3, 1939 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 428).

<sup>456</sup> Memorandum, Acting Director Demaray to Secretary of Interior, June 13, 1939 (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 52, Folder 429).

<sup>457</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-84.

<sup>458</sup> "Camp Curry," 1940 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>459</sup> Correspondence, H. Oehlmann (YP&CC) to Superintendent Merriam, March 23, 1940, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 53, Folder 431).

<sup>460</sup> "Camp Curry," 1940 brochure, YPRL collection.

<sup>461</sup> Yosemite Superintendent's Monthly Reports, January 1940.

<sup>462</sup> *Ibid.*, May 1940.

<sup>463</sup> *Ibid.*, October 1940.

<sup>464</sup> *Ibid.*, September 1940.

<sup>465</sup> Correspondence, H. Oehlmann (YP&CC) to Superintendent Merriam, December 9, 1940, (YA, OCF, Series 10, Box 53, Folder 430).



Year	Event	Description
1941, May	Planned	Architect Eldridge Spencer submits final Fire Protection Plan for Camp Curry. This was an elaborate network of meters, valves, mains, and hydrants. Some or all of the construction was still not completed as late as October 3, 1950. <sup>466</sup>
1941, July	Planned/Built	YP&CC submits plan for adding a restroom onto southeast corner of old Cafeteria. It would be accessible both inside and outside the Cafeteria. <sup>467</sup> Construction completed in November. <sup>468</sup>
1941	Altered	YP&CC adds bathrooms to 10 bungalows at Camp Curry. They also oversee an addition to the Camp Curry restroom (Office toilet) <sup>469</sup>
1941	Altered	The remodeling of Camp Curry Grill inside and out is completed. <sup>470</sup>
1941	Altered	The dark room was removed from the Studio in the Camp Curry central complex. <sup>471</sup>
1941	Altered	Sprinkler system added “in the attic and over the kitchen ranges in the utility building.” <sup>472</sup>
1942	Built	Three hundred feet of log barriers are placed around Camp Curry and Yosemite Lodge. <sup>473</sup>
1942	Curtailed	All YP&CC lodging facilities in the park are shut down. Only Camp Curry and Yosemite Lodge open the following May. <sup>474</sup> The toboggan slide is not operated during winter.
1943	Destroyed	The old Curry sawmill and two nearby buildings burned. <sup>475</sup>
1944, January	Resumed	YP&CC turns the toboggan slide over to the Navy Hospital to run for patients’ entertainment. <sup>476</sup>
1946, August	Planned	Plans submitted and approved for construction of small restroom for children’s play area (a.k.a. Kiddie Kamp). <sup>477</sup>

<sup>466</sup> E-TIC, “Fire Protection Plan, Water System – Floor of Valley, Camp Curry, Yosemite Park and Curry Co., March 1940 [Revised May 15, 1941],” prepared by Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. NP-YOS-5464.

<sup>467</sup> E-TIC, “Rest Rooms for Camp Curry Cafeteria, July 26, 1941,” Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. NP-YOS-8261.

<sup>468</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, November 1941.

<sup>469</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86; E-TIC, Drawing No. NP-YOS-9429, P.R. Gage, “Bathroom Addition to 10 Bungalows at Camp Curry,” August 9, 1940; Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, April 1941.

<sup>470</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86; E-TIC, “Plan & Elevations, Camp Curry Grill, April 8, 1940,” Eldridge T. Spencer, Architect, Drawing No. NP-YOS-8239.

<sup>471</sup> Fire Hazard Report, July 17, 1941 (YA, RMC, Box 53, Folder 432).

<sup>472</sup> Ibid.

<sup>473</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, July 1942.

<sup>474</sup> Ibid., September 1842; Ibid., May 1943.

<sup>475</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86; Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, September 1943.

<sup>476</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, January 1944.

<sup>477</sup> E-TIC, “Restroom for Children’s Playground, Camp Curry, August 11, 1946,” Eldridge T. Spencer,

Year	Event	Description
1947, December	Restored	The toboggan slide resumes seasonal operation for the first time since winter of 1941. <sup>478</sup>
1948, February 28	Management Transferred	Mary Curry Tressider named as president of YP&CC after unexpected death of husband Don the previous month. Mother Curry dies October 10, 1948. <sup>479</sup>
1948	Altered	Due to winter sports demand, YP&CC plans to keep some of the Camp Curry bungalows open on a regular basis “throughout the winter.” <sup>480</sup>
1950s, mid	Altered	An addition is built on the Post Office for use as a registration office. <sup>481</sup>
1951	Demolished	Last official mention of the toboggan slide is January 1951 when George Murphy, son of a government employee, was seriously injured while working on the toboggan run. Over the years the operation had been the site of numerous serious injuries and Murphy’s accident may have provided the impetus to remove it. <sup>482</sup>
1951	Damaged	“On March 5, a building fire damaged a residence owned by [YP&CC] near Camp Curry.” <sup>483</sup>
1952	Altered	Fifty bungalows at Camp Curry were remodeled. <sup>484</sup>
1952	Altered	The Camp Curry Garage was remodeled. <sup>485</sup>
1953	Altered	“Exterior finish on the Camp Curry Garage is completed.” <sup>486</sup>
1953	Altered	Francis Spencer Reynolds “meticulously hand painted the wormholes in the exterior of the [Mountain House] building in order to highlight them and make them decorative.” <sup>487</sup>
1953	Planned/Built	The entertainment stage and amphitheater are built onto the south end of the Registration Building (present Lounge building). <sup>488</sup>
1953	Maintained	“Four bungalows were re-roofed at Camp Curry and other roofs were repaired.” <sup>489</sup>

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Drawing No. NP-YOS-8285.

<sup>478</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, December 1947.

<sup>479</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 152.

<sup>480</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, October 1948.

<sup>481</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86.

<sup>482</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, January 1951.

<sup>483</sup> *Ibid.*, March 1951.

<sup>484</sup> *Ibid.*, July 1952.

<sup>485</sup> *Ibid.*, October 1952.

<sup>486</sup> *Ibid.*, April 1953.

<sup>487</sup> Correspondence, Edward C. Hardy to Supt. Arneberger, April 20, 1976 (YA, RMC, Box 89, File C58).

<sup>488</sup> Eldridge Spencer submitted the final of three plans in September 1953. E-TIC, “Remodeling of Camp Curry Entertainment Platform, September 1953,” Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. 104-70,132. The project was built during the winter. Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, November 1953.

Year	Event	Description
1954	Platted	A circa 1954 plan of Camp Curry administrative area by Eldridge Spencer shows: the central attached buildings complex made up of cafeteria (north end), store/studio/grill (west side), service building (center), service yard (northeast), dining pavilion (south end), swimming pool & bath house (southeast). Historic registration building to west was YP&CC transportation office (north end) and post office (south end). Present Lounge Building was Camp Curry Office (north half) and lounge (south half). The old office buildings toilet southeast of this building was labeled bath house. Stage and seating were attached to south end of lounge. Plan noted that “colored canvas” was to be used for guest tents in vicinity of the office/lounge. The former billiard/community hall building south of dance pavilion was still T-shaped at this time. Its use was not noted on the plan. Bus loading dock of approximately 65 feet is noted at front of dance pavilion. <sup>490</sup> The Superintendent approved only the bus loading dock. <sup>491</sup>
1954	Planned/Built	Plans (YOS-5426) for Additions to Toilets at Nob Hill and Offices Areas are approved by NPS with conditions: 1) tents #35 & #36 to be removed [these tents did not exist in 1925]; 2) fence around Camp Curry Bungalow area to be realigned. This was needed for fire access road. NPS further recommends that YP&CC consider “providing one or two additional structures of this type at convenient locations in the Camp Curry area” because existing toilet facilities were overloaded. <sup>492</sup> Construction completed in December. <sup>493</sup>
1954	Planned	New bus loading dock approved by NPS. <sup>494</sup>
1954	Maintained	“At Camp Curry repairs are being made to foundations, floors and roofs of non-bath cabins.” <sup>495</sup>
1955, February 25	Planned Alteration	NPS proposes to design the new Yosemite Lodge facility so that its “capacity will be ample to . . . handle all of the weekend peak loads for the nine heavy months of the year, and then following this procedure the company will be able to eliminate winter operations at Camp Curry. They plan to eliminate all non-bath units [even at Camp Curry] wherever this is possible.” <sup>496</sup>

<sup>489</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, September 1953.

<sup>490</sup> E-TIC, “Administrative Area, Camp Curry, Yosemite Park & Curry Co., [date illegible], Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. NP-YOS-8351.

<sup>491</sup> Correspondence, Assistant Regional Director Hill to NPS Director, May 27, 1954 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1954).

<sup>492</sup> Correspondence, Acting Supt. Bill to H. Oehlmann, September 16, 1954 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1954).

<sup>493</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, December 1954.

<sup>494</sup> Ibid.; Correspondence, Memorandum, Asst. Regional Director S. Hill to Director, May 27, 1954 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1954).

<sup>495</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, November 1954.

<sup>496</sup> Correspondence, Regional Programs and Plans Control Officer to Regional Director, February 23, 1955 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1955).

Year	Event	Description
1955	Planned Alteration	YP&CC agrees to reduce the number of rental bicycles (presumably at Camp Curry) to 350 and eliminate tandem bicycle rentals altogether. The NPS had expressed some concerns about safety due to increased traffic, both vehicles and bicycles. <sup>497</sup>
1955	Planned Alteration	Upon request from NPS, the YP&CC agrees to “tighten up” on the liberalized dancing (jitterbug, Bunny Hop, “fast” Latin dances) at the Pavilion. The dance floor was extremely congested and rock and roll dancing was too space consuming. Superintendent was mostly concerned that modern dancing was offensive to family values. <sup>498</sup>
1955	Planned/Built	Revised Plans (YOS-8356-A) are approved for “Additions and Alterations to the Nob Hill and Office Area Toilets” located in Camp Curry. <sup>499</sup> Construction was completed.
1955	Paved	Road from parking lot to service yard/pool bath house is to be paved. <sup>500</sup>
1955	Planned/Built	Eldridge Spencer submits a plan for “remodeling” the stage behind the lounge. This proposal suggested that the historic post office and lounge buildings be destroyed and replaced with new buildings of approximately the same floor space on roughly the same sites but on a more north-south orientation. The plans appear to reflect the current design of the stage but not the other buildings. <sup>501</sup>
1956	Platted	General Plan map indicates the former bowling alley was being used for bicycle rentals. The former pool hall attached to the bowling alley’s south side was being used as day room. Auditorium and stage had been constructed. Forty-nine bungalettes of various sizes were at that time situated south of the cafeteria complex where they are currently located. The seven original bungalettes were still located south of the orchard parking lot and across the road. The map was not approved. <sup>502</sup>
1956	Maintained	In 1956, the walkway along the access road and bus loading area north of Camp Curry central complex was a boardwalk. <sup>503</sup> Date of original construction not known but it probably dates to 1929. <sup>504</sup>

<sup>497</sup> Ibid., Supt. Preston to H. Oehlmann, May 16 and May 19, 1955 (YA, RMC, Box 89, Folder C6415).

<sup>498</sup> Ibid., Office Memorandum, Valley Dist. Ranger to Chief Ranger, July 18, 1955 (YA, RMC, Box 89, Folder C6415).

<sup>499</sup> Ibid., Supt. to Regional Director, January 6, 1955 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1955).

<sup>500</sup> Ibid., Supt. to H. Oehlmann, July 12, 1955 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1955).

<sup>501</sup> E-TIC, “Remodeling of Stage Entertainment Area, Camp Curry, January 14, 1955,” Eldridge T. Spencer, Drawing No. NP-YOS-8344 and 104-60,837.

<sup>502</sup> E-TIC, “Camp Curry, Part of the Master Plan, Yosemite National Park, August 1956,” NPS, Landscape Architectural Branch, Western Office, Division of Design and Construction.

<sup>503</sup> Correspondence, Supt. to H. Oehlmann, September 14, 1956 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1956).

<sup>504</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, June 1929, YPRL collection. See also Correspondence, H. Oehlmann to Supt. Merriam, September 27, 1940 (YA, Box 53, Folder 431).

Year	Event	Description
1956	Altered	Tents in guest and Housekeeping Camp are painted “in order to cover the misdirected tendencies of our visiting public to write and draw on the canvas tent walls with charcoal and lipstick.” <sup>505</sup>
1957	Abandoned	The Ledge Trail is abandoned due to safety concerns. <sup>506</sup>
1957	Planned/Built	Plans are proposed and approved for remodeling and expanding a washroom/shower facility in Boy’s Town. <sup>507</sup>
1957, August	Planned Alteration	NPS refused to consider YP&CC proposed plans for remodeling the men’s dorm at Camp Curry. Everything was on hold pending approval of a new master plan. Supt. suggested that the company consider tearing down the existing dorm “in such disrepair” and “reconstruct[ing] this facility outside the area now being used for guest accommodations.” <sup>508</sup>
1957	Altered	To supplement the inadequate garbage incinerator near Yosemite Village, rubbish is hauled to the Curry Dump, an open borrow pit in the southeast section of current Curry Village. <sup>509</sup>
1957	Maintained	“A new 300,000 CN, 5,000 volt cable was installed underground from the main overhead line to the Camp Curry bungalow vault to replace the existing overloaded cable.” <sup>510</sup>
1959	Maintained	Camp Curry maintains almost 500 tents and 200 bungalow/cabin rentals. <sup>511</sup>
1959	Planned/Built	A comprehensive plan for “Redevelopment of Operating Facilities, Camp Curry” is proposed and amended several times. <sup>512</sup> Only minor interim improvements for Post Office and registration office are undertaken. <sup>513</sup> The rest of the proposals will have to await formulation of Master Plan and improvement in YP&CC’s financial situation.

<sup>505</sup> Correspondence, Acting Supt. Kieth Neilson to YP&CC President Mary Tressider, September 28, 1956 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1956).

<sup>506</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-65.

<sup>507</sup> E-TIC, “Preliminary Drawing, Restroom Remodel [unreadable], January 3, 1957,” Eldridge Spencer, Architect, Drawing No. YOS-104-8400; Correspondence, Supt. Preston to H. Oehlmann, February 26, 1957, YA, RMC, Box 90, File C-58-1957.

<sup>508</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Preston to H. Oehlmann, August 14, 1957 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C-58-1957).

<sup>509</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86.

<sup>510</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, December 1957.

<sup>511</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86.

<sup>512</sup> E-TIC, “Redevelopment of Camp Curry Facilities, [date unreadable],” Drawing No. NP-YOS-8417-A [later renamed No. NP-YOS-8447-A?]; Correspondence, YP&CCo to Supt., August 12, 1959 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1959).

<sup>513</sup> Correspondence, Sandford Hill, Chief WODC to Chief, Division of Design and Construction, October 13, 1959 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1959).



Year	Event	Description
1959	Planned	YP&CC anticipates losing 14 cabins and 40 tents at Yosemite Lodge when parking lots are expanded. The demand for these accommodations will have to be absorbed by Camp Curry. <sup>514</sup>
1959	Altered	“Circulation at Camp Curry was improved by re-routing traffic in front of the main entrance and eliminating traffic in front of the cafeteria.” <sup>515</sup>
1959	Planned	The Camp Curry redevelopment plan is submitted by YP&CC and forwarded to Washington office. <sup>516</sup> The “Curry operation interim plans [were] received, approved, and work started.” (details of work missing). <sup>517</sup>
1959	Demolished	The old Camp Curry Grill (remodeled in 1941) is demolished. <sup>518</sup>
1960	Built	Outdoor terrace added to Camp Curry dining facility. <sup>519</sup>
1959	Built	Addition is built onto Post Office and the structure is converted to Registration Building. <sup>520</sup>
1959	Built	Remodeling of old Registration Building into Lounge is completed. <sup>521</sup>
1960	Built	YP&CC builds a new coffee shop in Camp Curry. <sup>522</sup>
1960	Altered	NPS landscapes the entrance to Camp Curry. <sup>523</sup> The new circulation route in the camp and the new registration parking areas are completed. Old routes are rehabbed. <sup>524</sup>
1960	Altered	The Registration Building is converted into a lounge, the former transportation office becomes the main administrative office, and the old Camp Curry Store (Studio?) is transformed into a dress shop. <sup>525</sup>
1960, July	Built	An eight-inch spur water main “to back [north side] of main buildings” and four six-inch fire hydrants are installed at Camp Curry. <sup>526</sup>

<sup>514</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, March 1959.

<sup>515</sup> Ibid., August 1959.

<sup>516</sup> Ibid.

<sup>517</sup> Ibid., September, 1959.

<sup>518</sup> Ibid., November 1959.

<sup>519</sup> Ibid.

<sup>520</sup> Ibid.

<sup>521</sup> Ibid.

<sup>522</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86

<sup>523</sup> Ibid.; E-TIC, “Project Completion Report [No. R210], Road Circulation System, Camp Curry,” August 23, 1960 [includes photos].

<sup>524</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, May 1960.

<sup>525</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-86.

<sup>526</sup> E-TIC, “Project Completion Report No. 350, Fire Hydrants Camp Curry;” Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, June 1960.

Year	Event	Description
1960, August 7	Planned	Secretary of Interior approves “Camp Curry, Part of Master Plan” that calls for “obliteration” of all employee tents and bathroom in Camp 14 area (Boys Town). Entrance loop and parking lot to be added to north side of registration building. A new employee parking lot and “concessional seasonal employee quarters” was to be constructed in the area of tents 690-700 and southward well into the talus zone (east end of Camp Curry). The historic Registration Building was to be removed and replaced with a new structure just north of it. The “Stoneman Section” of guest tents west of the old garage (present ice rink) was to be relocated to a much larger area west of the Bungalows although this plan was in “obeyance [sic] by the concessioner, pending further study in connection with Housekeeping Camp 16.” Both areas eventually became employee housing. The service station located at the old garage was tentatively to be relocated to approximately where current Wellness Center is located. <sup>527</sup> The earliest version of Master Plan also called for remodeling the kitchen staff dorm to single story and obliterating the employee tent frames and restroom in the Terrace area instead of Camp 14. <sup>528</sup> The second version of the Plan switched obliteration to Camp 14 and further suggested that dance facilities be shifted to “a portion of cafeteria” so that the old Pavilion (nee Stoneman House) could be refitted as “guest quarters.” It also recommended that housing for employees should continue to be tents rather than structures (dorms). <sup>529</sup>
1960	Demolished	By now the bicycle shop (former bowling alley) and most of the old pool room/day room have disappeared. What little that remains of the day room is designated a “guest room.” <sup>530</sup> The earlier Master Plan submitted in 1956 indicated that both structures were at that time still intact. <sup>531</sup>
1961	Built	A small ice cream/soft drink kiosk is to be constructed on the new dining facility terrace. <sup>532</sup>
1961	Altered	Camp Curry converts the old auditorium and dance pavilion to a new lodging unit, named the Stoneman House. <sup>533</sup>
1961	Destroyed	YP&CC razes most of the old Camp Curry cook’s dormitory (building A-10 in 1925 map). The lower floor bath facilities remained and were to be “reconstructed.” <sup>534</sup>

<sup>527</sup> E-TIC, “Camp Curry, Part of the Master Plan, Yosemite National Park, March 1960,” NPS, Branch of Landscape Architecture, Western Office, Drawing No. NP-YOS-3340C.

<sup>528</sup> Ibid., Drawing No. NP-YOS-3340A.

<sup>529</sup> Ibid., Drawing No. NP-YOS-3340B.

<sup>530</sup> Ibid., Drawing No. NP-YOS-3340C.

<sup>531</sup> Ibid., “Camp Curry, Part of the Master Plan,” Drawing No. NP-YOS-3340.

<sup>532</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, May 1961.

<sup>533</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-87; Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, December 1961; E-TIC, “Project Completion Report [No. U-39]; Fire Hydrants, Camp Curry,” August 22, 1960 [includes photos].

<sup>534</sup> Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, October 1961.

Year	Event	Description
1963	Demolished	The “Camp Curry Dump and Incinerator” was demolished following the construction of a new dump and incinerator in the El Portal Administrative Site. These were Mission 66 construction projects. <sup>535</sup>
1965	Built	Two parking lots on Curry Road between Peterson/Huff house and Stoneman House are to be added with capacity for 160 vehicles. A small office building southwest of Peterson/Huff “bungalow” was to be moved to a location midway between Huff house and old Curry garage. <sup>536</sup> The site of this building eventually became the Wellness Center which also apparently was later situated where the western-most smaller parking lot was to have been constructed. The small office building (or remnants of it) may be currently located across the road from the northwest corner of the ice rink.
1965	Planned	YP&CC proposes to significantly modify the central Curry Village “feeding and merchandising facilities.” Plans called for enlarging the existing deck space and providing “additional seating for the new cafeteria by adding a terrace to the south side of the [old] dining hall.” A grill was to be added to the cafeteria and a snack bar added to the deck. “A second snack bar on the deck of the old cafeteria building will serve hamburgers [etc.] ... throughout the day and evening.” The studio building was to be razed “and the site attractively landscaped.” The “Nawasa shop” would be connected to the cafeteria “of which the western end will be converted to the merchandising operations [from the] studio.” YP&CC was anxious to phase out the dining room due to the “decline in demand for full course meals” there. <sup>537</sup>
1966	Planned	NPS Acting Supt. Condon approves plans for renovations to central facilities at Camp Curry. These included changing the former kitchen space into “high quality merchandise display and sales area,” and utilizing the roof space over the former kitchen “for the display of outdoor paraphernalia, fishing tackle, and the development of a fly casting pond and out door gear sales center,” which Condon deemed “an excellent use of this space.” <sup>538</sup>
1966	Built	Mary Tressider donates \$3,000 for construction of the bicycle trail from Camp Curry to Sentinel Bridge.
1966, June	Built	Rehabilitation of the food service facility at Camp Curry is 90% complete and “several of the units are in operation.” <sup>539</sup> By September 30, \$429,311 had been spent “modernizing cafeteria and Gift shop.” <sup>540</sup>

<sup>535</sup> Completion Report 407, Obliterate Incinerator and Dump; Yosemite Superintendent’s Monthly Reports, January 1963.

<sup>536</sup> E-TIC, “Parking Area – Camp Curry, May 1965,” NPS, Landscape Architecture Branch, Washington DC Office, Drawing No. NP-YOS-3705.

<sup>537</sup> Correspondence, Oehlmann to Supt. Preston, March 31, 1965 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1964-65).

<sup>538</sup> Ibid., David Condon to H. Oehlmann, January 6, 1966 (YA, RMC, Box 90, folder C58-1966).

<sup>539</sup> Ibid., Management Assistant to Supt., June 7, 1966 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1966-67).

Year	Event	Description
1966	Paved	The parking area was repaved with asphalt and curb logs were installed around the parking area's perimeter. <sup>541</sup>
1966, December	Planned	YP&CC develops short-term plans for adding further lodging units at Yosemite Lodge and replacement of "remaining old tents" in the Housekeeping Camp. "Improvement of lodgings at Camp Curry [is] a longer range project." Of immediate concern was the insufficient utility service for any further expansion or improvements. <sup>542</sup>
1968, January 25	Firefall	NPS Director directs that the Firefall cease. <sup>543</sup>
1968, July	Constructed	The Park constructs a weather-proof projector box furnished with a 35 mm projector and a 16 mm projector at the amphitheatre in Curry Village. <sup>544</sup>
1968, October 24	Altered	YP&CC president Stuart Cross suggests Camp Curry be renamed Curry Village to end confused identification with NPS public campgrounds. NPS Director George Hartzog concurs. <sup>545</sup>
c. 1969-1970	Built	The present Curry Village ice rink and changing facility is constructed. It apparently was intended to utilize propane powered cooling compressors to keep ice frozen. <sup>546</sup>
1969, June	Planned	YP&CC contemplates the possibility of shifting more of its accommodations from Curry Village to the "year-round north side of the Valley" The Glacier Point Aerial Tramway idea is resurrected. <sup>547</sup>
1970, October 29	Management Transferred	Mary Curry Tressider dies in her apartment at Ahwahnee Hotel. <sup>548</sup>

<sup>540</sup> Ibid., H. Oehlmann to Supt. John Davis, December 12, 1966 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1966-67).

<sup>541</sup> Completion Report 461, Reconstruct Parking Area, Camp Curry.

<sup>542</sup> Correspondence, H. Oehlmann to Supt. John Davis, December 12, 1966 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1966-67).

<sup>543</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 165.

<sup>544</sup> Completion Report 473, Audiovisual Installation, Camp Curry.

<sup>545</sup> Mary Vocolka notes, "Seirrandipity File," YPRL collection.

<sup>546</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-87; eTIK, Spencer, Lee, and Busse, Architects, Drawing No. 104-70013A, "Site Plan, Floor Plan Camp Curry Ice Rink," August 26, 1969.

<sup>547</sup> Correspondence, Stuart Cross to Supt. Lawrence Hadley, June 25, 1969 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1968-69).

<sup>548</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 166.

Year	Event	Description
1971, May	Planned	Plans for construction of a coffee house in the Curry Garage near the ice rink are blocked. Supt. felt the proposed facility would not be “in keeping with the atmosphere we would like to maintain and foster at Yosemite.” He felt that a coffee house was “in the category of dance pavilions and evening movies. Also, the proximity of the facility to Stoneman meadow and the difficulties [with hippies] experienced in that locale cause us additional concern.” <sup>549</sup>
1971, May	Planned	YP&CC proposes to replace the seventy tents eliminated at Yosemite Lodge with seventy additional cottages at the Ahwahnee. “If the success is as anticipated, we will plan to do future units of this sort both at the Ahwahnee and at Curry Village.” Company intends to maintain pillow count of 1200 at Curry Village with bungalows slated for “eventual replacement ... sometime in the future.” <sup>550</sup> The expressed intention was to completely phase out tents at Curry Village. <sup>551</sup>
1971, December	Planned	YP&CC changes direction and decides to defer plans to build cottages at Ahwahnee till fall 1972. Instead, they propose to immediately build “approximately 50 units with 140 beds” at Curry Village. They anticipate this would allow for removal or relocation of 20 tents at Curry Village as well as the 70 already removed from Yosemite Lodge area. Plans were submitted for units to be constructed off-site during the winter. <sup>552</sup> The Supt. approved “ <u>in principle</u> ” hoping that the upgrade would “remove a number of unsightly and outdated tents, and if the design is successful, it could well be used for replacement of all of the tents. At present, the tents rent primarily on a desperation basis.” <sup>553</sup>
1972	Built	A bicycle rental facility had been constructed in the Curry Village area by 1972. <sup>554</sup>
1972, March 24	Planned	YP&CC proposes to increase additional overnight accommodations at Curry Village (“50 units to replace outmoded tent facilities”). There were some problems with upgrading utilities. <sup>555</sup>
1972, April	Altered	NPS approves YP&CC proposal to convert the garage into a teen center. <sup>556</sup>

<sup>549</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Bryan Harry to Stuart Cross, President YP&CC, May 27, 1971 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

<sup>550</sup> Ibid., Stuart Cross to Supt. Lynn Thompson, September 7, 1971 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

<sup>551</sup> Ibid., Stuart Cross to Supt. Thompson, December 7, 1971 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

<sup>552</sup> Ibid., Stuart Cross to Supt. Thompson, December 7, 1971 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

<sup>553</sup> Ibid., Supt. to Regional Director, December 30, 1971 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1971).

<sup>554</sup> *Yosemite Valley CLR*, 2-87.

<sup>555</sup> Correspondence, Acting Regional Director to Supt, March 24, 1972; Ibid., Supt. Thompson to Alan Coleman, YP&CC, April 21, 1972 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1972).

<sup>556</sup> Ibid., Supt. to Alan B. Coleman, President YP&CC, April 4, 1972 (YA Archives, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1972).



Year	Event	Description
1973, Easter	Destroyed	Fire destroys Camp Curry dining room. <sup>557</sup>
1973	Built	NPS approves opening a doorway in the back of the bike rental building and constructing a narrow asphalt path to join it with the “Parking Lot right where the bathrooms presently sit (approximately)”. <sup>558</sup>
1973, August	Management Transferred	YP&CC bought by Music Corporation of America. <sup>559</sup>
1973, September	Planned	YP&CC submits Curry Village Development plans for redesigning the lodging facilities. They are rejected by both Denver Service Center and Regional Office as being “too sketchy” and containing a “number of unanswered questions.” <sup>560</sup>
1974, Feb. to March	Planned	Denver Service Center and Yosemite Superintendent approve “Camp Curry Redevelopment” plans submitted by YP&CC. The DSC decided to allow the company’s architect to use his discretion in “combining the basic units into one, two, and three-story accommodations.” However, the required public approval was deliberately tied into another meeting for the “general planning in Yosemite.” It appears this was the proposal that sank MCA’s public relations boat the following year. <sup>561</sup> Early plans called for 74 units next to ice rink and 76 units adjacent to cafeteria. <sup>562</sup> Eventually all units were supposed to be built east of the cafeteria. <sup>563</sup> All but 250 tents were to be removed. <sup>564</sup>
1974, May	Built	Construction of new “dining pavilion” commences. <sup>565</sup>
1974, May	Altered	YP&CC must agree to rebuild the 40 year-old kitchen if they are going to complete construction of the previously approved dining pavilion. <sup>566</sup>

<sup>557</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 168.

<sup>558</sup> Correspondence, John Good to Terrence Cullinan, February 15, 1973 [approved March 7, 1973] (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1973).

<sup>559</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 168.

<sup>560</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Lynn Thompson to Don Hummel, September 12, 1973 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1973).

<sup>561</sup> Ibid., DSC to Regional Director, February 4, 1974; Ibid., Supt. Arnberger to Regional Director, February 19, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>562</sup> Ibid., Regional Director to Supt., March 11, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>563</sup> Ibid., Regional Director to Supt., 27 March, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>564</sup> Ibid., Regional Director to Supt., May 28, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>565</sup> Ibid., Supt. Arnberger to Ed Hardy, May 24, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 89, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>566</sup> Ibid., Manager, DSC to Regional Director, May 15, 1974; Ibid., Supt. Arnberger to Ed Hardy, May 29, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

Year	Event	Description
1974, May 7 (8?)	Planned Alteration	Public hearing is held on several options for Camp Curry expansion. “Generally, it appeared that the reviewing public was more concerned with the price of accommodations and the lack of advance planning for redevelopment, and not with the suitability of any particular site.” <sup>567</sup> Opposition was almost universal. A letter appeared in Fresno Bee on May 16 soliciting more public opposition. Objections were: getting this approval ahead of Master Plan approval; flaky Environmental Assessment; non-compliance with 1971 Master Plan; “unfair economic impact resulting from replacing low-priced tent units with higher-priced, modern units”; “viewpoint that would appear to advocate at least reducing, if not eliminating, accommodations from the Valley”; too much “big business” influence; water and sewage concerns; State of California concerns that historic structures would be removed.
c. 1960-1975	Altered	Sometime between 1960 and 1975, Camp Curry’s Housekeeping Section of guest tents is removed from the present Huff area (west of the ice rink). <sup>568</sup>
1975	Altered	A maintenance map of Curry Village area indicates, perhaps incorrectly, the Pavilion (later Stoneman House) was the Lounge. <sup>569</sup>
1975, Easter	Built	After a year of problematic construction, the rebuilt “near replica” of the destroyed Camp Curry cafeteria opens. <sup>570</sup>
1975, March	Planned	NPS stops YP&CC (MCA) from constructing “new tent frames or other structures . . . which would represent new capacity over and above that which exists [sic] during the 1974 season.” This was pursuant to a “so-called moratorium” of Assistant Secretary of Interior Reed dated December 6, 1974. Photos of several tent frames under construction were attached. <sup>571</sup>
1975, March	Restored	The Lounge is “returned to its original function . . . making available the beautiful stone fireplace which adorns [its] center.” <sup>572</sup>
1975, October	Excavated/ Altered	A fuel oil line ruptured near the garage. The line was contained and a storm sewer and contaminated soil had to be excavated. The spill may have precipitated the eventual changeover to propane. <sup>573</sup>

<sup>567</sup> Ibid., Manager, DSC to Regional Director, May 23, 1974 (YA, RMC, Box 90, Folder C58-1974).

<sup>568</sup> The tents are last illustrated in a 1960 map and are shown as being gone in a 1975 map. E-TIC, “Camp Curry, Part of the Master Plan, Yosemite National Park, March 1960,” NPS, Branch of Landscape Architecture, Western Office, Drawing No. NP-YOS-3340C; E-TIC, “Curry Village Area, Valley Floor, Yosemite, May 22, 1975,” NPS Maintenance Management, Drawing No. 104-600-15A.

<sup>569</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village Area, Valley Floor, Yosemite, May 22, 1975,” NPS Maintenance Management, Drawing No. 104-600-15A.

<sup>570</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 169; Correspondence, Supt. Arnberger to Ed Hardy, YP&CC, March 18, 1975 (YA, Resource Management Files, Box 90, Folder C58-1975).

<sup>571</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Arnberger to Ed Hardy, YP&CC, March 20, 1975 (YA, Resource Management Files, Box 90, Folder C58-1975).

<sup>572</sup> Ibid., Edward C. Hardy to Supt., March 21, 1975 (YA, RMC, Box 89, File C58-1975).

<sup>573</sup> Ibid., Supt. Arnberger to Ed Hardy, October 24, 1975 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1975).

Year	Event	Description
1975, Summer	Destroyed	The Mountain House gift shop and part of the cafeteria in the Camp Curry central complex are burned by arson. <sup>574</sup>
1975, Dec.	Planned	NPS encourages YP&CC to formulate a “scheme to operate the entire Curry Village area within the limits of available power.” Obviously, the Camp had expanded beyond the limits of the power grid. <sup>575</sup>
1975	Construction Blocked	MCA’s plans to remove some of the 600 guest tents and “uninsulated bungalows built in 1922” meets with fierce resistance at public hearings and plans are dropped (this would have been approximately 31 bungalows, probably B-22 to B-90). <sup>576</sup>
1975 1976	or Altered/ Expanded	Following the suicide of a concessioner employee (and a suicide note found which, at least partially, blamed the poor living conditions at Boys Town for the suicide), all employee quarters at Curry Village are electrified. <sup>577</sup>
1976	Planned/Built	Plans submitted by Smith & Williams, Pasadena architects, for “restoration” of interior of Nob Hill shower and toilet building (Bldg No. A-13 in 1925 map). <sup>578</sup> This is not the current shower/toilet facility. By 2003 both shower/toilet and private residence had been replaced by a larger shower/toilet building.
1976	Planned/Built	Plans submitted by Smith & Williams, Pasadena architects, for “restoration” of interior of the Rock toilet building (Bldg No. A-14 in 1925 map). <sup>579</sup> This facility appears to be extant today. Plans called for new fixtures and refurbishing interior walls and flooring.
1976	Maintained	According to construction plans for new Nob Hill and The Rock toilet facilities, the Camp Curry central complex consisted of post office (historic registration building), recreation room (a.k.a. lounge/post office), small office toilet (northwest of recreation room bldg.), art shop, gift shop, meeting room, “service building,” dining pavilion, old pool and bath house. <sup>580</sup>

<sup>574</sup> Ibid., Edward C. Hardy to Supt., April 20, 1976 (YA, RMC, Box 89, File C58-1975).

<sup>575</sup> Ibid., Supt. Arnberger to Regional Director, December 22, 1975 (YA, RMC, Box 90, File C58-1975).

<sup>576</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's Innkeepers*, 169.

<sup>577</sup> Oral interview with Curry Village Facilities Manager and DNC employee Don Evans by NPS Landscape Architect Daniel Schaible, January 13, 2009.

<sup>578</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village – Nob Hill Shower and Toilet Building, March 12, 1976,” Smith and Williams, Architects, Drawing No. 104-70056.

<sup>579</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village – The Rock Toilet Building, [no date but reference made to June 1976 construction],” Smith and Williams, Architects, Drawing No. 104-70057.

<sup>580</sup> Ibid.

Year	Event	Description
1976	Destroyed	Lengthy and bitter dispute ensues between NPS and concessioner about rebuilding or destroying the partially burned Mountain House. The concessioner felt it was a savable historic structure allegedly dating to “approximately 1921.” <sup>581</sup> Eventually company concedes and razes the building. <sup>582</sup>
1977	Destroyed	The Curry Village Garage Building is completely destroyed by arson fire. <sup>583</sup>
1977	Destroyed	The bathhouse at the Curry pool is destroyed by arson fire. <sup>584</sup>
1977	Destroyed/ Built	Curry Village Ice Rink facilities are damaged by arson fire. YP&CC was authorized to make renovations to “warming hut and snack/ticket sales facility, required due to smoke and heat damage.” Due to dispute over “possessory interests” and pending Master Plan, company was not allowed to construct any new facilities.” <sup>585</sup>
1978, January 31	Demolished	NPS condemns the fire-damaged historic swimming pool bathhouse at Camp Curry. <sup>586</sup> It is subsequently razed.
1978	Removed	Several fire damaged trees “in the area of the Curry Village garage building” were slated for removal. <sup>587</sup>

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<sup>581</sup> Correspondence, Edward C. Hardy to Supt., April 20, 1976 (YA, RMC, Box 89, File C58).

<sup>582</sup> Ibid., Edward C. Hardy to Supt., June 30, 1976 (YA, RMC, Box 89, File C58).

<sup>583</sup> Ibid., Supt. to Edward C. Hardy, January 26, 1978 (YA, RMC, Box 89, File C58-1978).

<sup>584</sup> Ibid.

<sup>585</sup> Ibid., Supt. Arnberger to Edward Hardy (YP&CCo), December 6, 1977 (YA, RMC, Box 89, File C58-1977).

<sup>586</sup> Ibid., Maurice L. Paul, Senior Structural Engineer to Asst. Manager, DSC, January 31, 1978 (YA, RMC, Box 89, C58-1978).

<sup>587</sup> Ibid., Ed Hardy (YP&CCo) to Supt. Arnberger, March 24, 1978.

Year	Event	Description
1978, May	Planned	Plans are proposed for dealing with rock fall problems and other issues in Curry Village. What appears to be the preferred plan suggested: removal of the Curry Village dump parking lot (96 parking spots); removing 83 guest tent cabins and an unspecified number of employee tents in the “rock fall zone;” removing all the employee tents in Camp 14 (Boys Town); eliminating 68 guest tents and redesigning the remaining visitor guest tent areas to accommodate 350 sites; retaining all 90 cabins without baths and all bath houses; retaining 250 parking spaces in orchard and removing the rest; remove ice rink and replace it with grocery store/ bike rental facility; remove historic Peterson/Huff house and adjacent shed; remove historic Foster Curry Bungalow and Terrace Club House; construct dorms on east end of Village to house 300 employees to “replace scattered housing;” retain the 19 units in the Stoneman House. <sup>588</sup> “Alternative One” proposed relocating 83 guest tent cabins and 30 employee tent cabins (containing two residents each) from the Terrace and Sugar Pine areas that were in an “active rock fall zone.” The guest tents removed would be relocated west of the Bungalows (present day employee housing) and a dormitory was proposed for the east end of Curry Village in the 700s section of guest tents to house the 60 displaced employees. Alternative One also proposed dropping the mountain shop and gift sales from cafeteria complex and removing day parking in orchard but retaining overnight parking. <sup>589</sup> “Alternative 3” proposed building 150 “spartan motel rooms” in the area west of the bungalows. The grocery store would be constructed next to the ice rink and the mountain and gift shops would stay in the cafeteria complex. Day and overnight parking would be retained as is in the orchard. No employee tents would be removed. One hundred fifty guest tent cabins would be eliminated by simply reducing the overall density throughout Camp Curry. The concept of delineating a hazardous “active rock fall zone” was dropped. <sup>590</sup> A final option was to do nothing. <sup>591</sup>
1978, June	Altered	The old fence around the pool is replaced with six foot high chain link with cedar posts. Several other safety modifications relative to the pool were implemented. <sup>592</sup>
1978	Facilities	In 1978, Curry Village contained 14 residences, 99 cabin units with bath (bungalows), 90 cabins-without-bath (bungalettes), 418 guest tent cabins, 1 guest bath house, 3 employee bath houses, 168 employee tent cabins, and 19 units in Stoneman House/Lodge. <sup>593</sup>

<sup>588</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village Development Concept, May 1978,” NPS, Drawing No. 104-20055B.

<sup>589</sup> Ibid., “Alternative One, May 1978,” Drawing No. 104-20064A.

<sup>590</sup> Ibid., “Alternative Three, May 1978,” Drawing No. 104-20065A.

<sup>591</sup> Ibid., “Curry Village, No Action Alternative/Existing Conditions, May 1978,” NPS, Drawing No. 104-20066A.

<sup>592</sup> Correspondence, Supt. Arnberger to Edward Hardy, YP&CC, June 12, 1978 (YA, RMC, C58-1978).

<sup>593</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village, No Action Alternative/Existing Conditions, May 1978,” NPS, Drawing No. 104-20066A.



Year	Event	Description
1978	Altered	YP&CC attempts to upgrade facilities to ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standards. One cabin with bath at Curry Village is remodeled “to provide semi-ambulatory handicapped access.” One phone in “each cluster” of public phones was to be lowered and converted to push-button as soon as the phone company could adjust circuits. <sup>594</sup>
1978, Fall	Planned/ Altered	YP&CC receives approval to modify and refurbish 80 cabins without baths (WOBs – the old bungalows). Plans called for new interior furnishings, sixty new roofs, new metal steps, new windows (presumably aluminum), insulation, wood paneling, linoleum flooring, “and complete exterior painting as well as a change in the method of heating the interior of the cabins.” At least three of the renovated cabins were supposed to meet ANSI standards. Two 1500 gallon propane tanks would be installed “60 feet west of MCB” (250 ft NE of Stoneman House) for new gas heaters to replace old fuel oil ones. <sup>595</sup>
1979, June	Planned	Plans are submitted for new shower house (at the pool). “The form reflects that of the original structure taken from photographs in the archives of the Yosemite Park & Curry Company.” <sup>596</sup>

<sup>594</sup> Correspondence, Edward C. Hardy to Supt. Arnberger, November 3, 1978 (YA, RMC, Box 89, File C58-1978).

<sup>595</sup> Ibid., Supt. Arnberger to Edward Hardy, YP&CC, November 3, 1978; Ibid., Hardy to Arnberger, September 11, 1978 (YA, RMC, Box 89, File C58-1979).

<sup>596</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village Showerhouse, A Project of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, June 26, 1979,” Walter N. Sontheimer, Architect, Concession Drawing 104-70065.

Year	Event	Description
1979, December	Planned	Another plan for the active rock fall zone tent removals was completed. It proposed that all 415 guest tent cabins be jammed into the redesigned Happy Isles Trail area of Curry Village (tent cabins numbers 400s to 600s). An unspecified number of guest tents would be removed from a designated rock fall zone. Boys Town (Camp 14) would be redesigned to accommodate a total of 75 employee tent cabins. The remaining 75 employee tents removed from the rock fall zone would not be replaced. No provision was made to compensate for this lost housing. The historic Foster Curry (Tressider) Bungalow, Peterson/Huff house, and Terrace Club House were all slated for removal. All 90 WOBs would be retained and an additional bath house added. The 99 bungalows would be retained. The “historic” Registration Building would not be modified or removed and Stoneman House would continue as a 19-room lodge facility. The bath house east of the old pool was to be replaced. The Mountain Shop and Gift Shop would be retained in the cafeteria complex. The ice rink was to be replaced with a grocery store/bike rental facility and the ice rink parking lot would be redesigned as a shuttle stop. There would be no structural or tent development west of the bungalows. The Curry Village dump parking lot was to be removed. Two hundred parking spaces were to be removed from the orchard with no compensation elsewhere. <sup>597</sup>
1980	Built	The campground registration modular building was installed near the northeast corner of the Curry Orchard. <sup>598</sup>
1980, July	Planned	The active rock fall zone removal plan of December 1979 was modified slightly to specify that 85 guest tents would be removed from the zone. The Happy Isles Area was to be redesigned to accommodate 335 guest tents. Either the 1979 total tent number was too high or 80 guest tents were going to be removed and not replaced. <sup>599</sup>

<sup>597</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village Development Concept, December 1979,” NPS, Drawing No. 104-20055E.

<sup>598</sup> Campground Reservations building file. Individual Building Data sheet. El Portal.

<sup>599</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village Development Concept, July 1980,” NPS, Drawing No. 104-20055G (published as 104-200055F).

Year	Event	Description
1980, Sept.	Planned	“Alternative 6” was a variation of the May 1979 preferred plan for dealing with Curry Village development. It revived the hazardous zone and called for removal of 75 employee tents from the Terrace and Married Help areas. Boys Town would be increased to a total of 75 employee tents. No dorms would be built. All 418 visitor tents would be jammed into the tent area east of cafeteria complex with an unspecified number removed from rock fall zone. It also called for removal of 200 parking spaces from orchard parking. The ice rink would be replaced with a grocery store/bike rental. The WOBs, Bungalows, Gift Shop, Mountain Shop, and Stoneman House lodging would all be retained. Peterson House, Foster Curry Cabin, and Terrace Club House to be razed and pool bath house to be replaced. <sup>600</sup>
1980, Nov. 16	Significant Event	A rock fall kills three people near Yosemite Falls. <sup>601</sup>
1981	Planned/Built	Second plans are approved for pool bath house. <sup>602</sup> According to one source, this was a modular unit delivered in two pieces. <sup>603</sup>
1982-1983	Planned/Built	Phase 1 bike pathway network through Curry Village approved. <sup>604</sup> Constructed portion of Bikeway that runs adjacent to South Side Drive through Curry Village constructed c. 1983. <sup>605</sup>
1983	Planned	Master Plan submitted by contractor proposes to “remove tents and cabins from rock fall zone as replacements are built in bungalow area.” The “rock fall zone” comprised three areas in the talus to north and northeast of the central cafeteria complex. The old duplex bungalows were to be replaced “as they deteriorate” with 4-plex units. Presumably, the tents from the rock fall zones would be spliced between the old and new bungalows. The cabins-without-bath south of the complex and the tents immediately to the east would remain. The Lounge and Registration Building are labeled “Historic Bldgs.” <sup>606</sup>
1983	Planned/ Altered	Contractor submits proposal to redesign the ice rink facility. Rink would be smaller and service building adapted for river raft concession and bicycle rentals during summer. <sup>607</sup>
1984	Built	Boiler room ramp constructed. <sup>608</sup>

<sup>600</sup> Ibid., “Alternative Six, May 1978,” Drawing No. 104-40117.

<sup>601</sup> Stuart Gordon, “Air Blast Created By Falling Boulder a First,” *Daily News* (Los Angeles), July 12, 1996.

<sup>602</sup> E-TIC, “Bath House, Curry Village, March 3, 1981,” NPS, Drawing No. 104-81001.

<sup>603</sup> Interview, Don Evans, DNC Maintenance, March 17, 2009.

<sup>604</sup> E-TIC, Memorandum: From Yosemite Supt. to Regional Director, re: FONSI and EA for Phase 1 Bikeway in Yosemite Valley between Curry Village and Yosemite Village, undated but drawings dated 1982.

<sup>605</sup> Email correspondence from Don Fox, former Landscape Architect at Yosemite National Park, March 31, 2009.

<sup>606</sup> E-TIC, “Curry Village Master Plan, June 6, 1983,” Thompson Architectural Group, Drawing No. 104-70-085.”

<sup>607</sup> Ibid.

Year	Event	Description
1985-86	Planned	Rough proposal for drastically redesigning Curry Village was submitted by Roma Architects in Dec. 1985 (“Progress Print” dated 8 Jan 1986). Plan called for removal of all tents and cabins “in rock fall zone.” Besides the bulk of Curry Village’s hundreds of tents, the structures removal/natural restoration zone also included bungalows B-90, B-80, B-70 to B-76, B-60 to B-65, B-53 to B-55, the main central bath house behind Mother Curry Cottage (this bath house was rebuilt subsequent to 1985), all the bungalows south of the cafeteria/lounge/pool area, the restroom and clubhouse in Terrace area, and the restroom north of married staff tents. It was proposed that the remaining bungalow area be converted to “1 story [ <i>sic</i> ] development with integrated parking.” The area to the north around the Peterson/Huff house was deemed “suitable for Curry Village employee housing.” The ice rink and adjacent “manmade” features were to be removed and meadow restored. The ice rink could be relocated in the “open area” southwest of the cafeteria. The entry area to Curry Village would undergo several changes. Orchard parking was to become overnight rather than just day-use. The area west of the Bungalows was listed in the proposal as “impacted”, although, it is unclear what the cause was. This area was deemed “suitable for higher density 2 story [ <i>sic</i> ] development.” (Subsequently developed in 2007-2008). The current tent area between the main cafeteria and Boys Town was designated “suitable for mixed density development – 1 and 2 stories with winter accessibility.” These would be fancy, upscale condo-style chalets. The one very limited area for tents would be Camp 14/Boys Town, although a 100’ buffer would have to be maintained between the tents and the main access road on the northeast side. Drawings suggest that the entire Boys Town area would have only had 90 tents and three restroom facilities. Clearly, the intention was to phase out typical cut-rate, high-density guest tents in favor of luxury rental units. <sup>609</sup>
1985	Built	New larger grease trap is constructed in northeast corner of service yard northeast of kitchen. <sup>610</sup>
1986	Removed/ Reconstructed	Tents above the Nob Hill Shower House are removed after a 1986 debris flow. Shortly thereafter, a channel is built to contain future debris flows and to turn them away from a reconstructed shower house. <sup>611</sup>

<sup>608</sup> Ibid., “Curry Village Boiler Room Ramp, April 25, 1984,” NPS, Denver Service Center, Drawing No. 104-70,116.

<sup>609</sup> Ibid., “Specific Area Plans, El Portal/Yosemite Valley, Work Directive – 10002-83-13, Curry Village,” (Drawing no. 104-60978, p. 2).

<sup>610</sup> Ibid., “Grease Trap Additions for YP&CC, July 1985,” NPS, Drawing No. 104-60406.

<sup>611</sup> Correspondence, Yosemite Historian Jim Snyder to USGS Geologist Gerry Wiczorek, Dec 2000.

Year	Event	Description
1988	Construction Proposed	Plans are proposed that would downsize the tent operation to a token 100 guest tents east of cafeteria and 75 employee tents east of the orchard. Most of the former tent complex and all of the historic bungalows would be converted to “Lodge Rooms.” Four dormitories for 214 employees would be added in the area southeast of the orchard. The food services would be expanded at the Pavilion complex (which would also include mountain shop, gift shop, ice cream shop, pizza, meeting rooms, cocktail lounge, cafeteria, pool, and bath house). New parking for 245 vehicles would be added immediately south and southeast of orchard parking. The historic Registration Building would become the post office and admin building. Registration would be moved to the remodeled Stoneman House (former Pavilion). One hundred sixteen “cabin units” (presumably for guests) would be added in the area west of Bungalows (this area became employee housing in 2007). Plans also apparently called for an ice rink utility building at the southeast corner of the rink. It would include Zamboni storage, compressor, bike rentals, raft rentals, restrooms, camp store, mountaineering school, skate rentals, and recycling center. <sup>612</sup>
1992	Planned	Plan is proposed to redesign Curry Village walkways in main use area. Simulated slate “pavers” made of concrete would be used and multiple benches were to be added. <sup>613</sup>
1993, October 1	Transferred	Delaware North Company purchases Yosemite Park and Curry Company.
1993	Planned	Plan is proposed for a Curry Village Kiosk with a tours counter, pay phones, lockers, and vending machines. <sup>614</sup>
1993	Destroyed/ Built	A new bath house is constructed to replace the demolished Nob Hill bath house. <sup>615</sup> It is constructed well inside the talus rock fall zone.
1996, July 10	Significant Event	A rock fall kills a hiker above Curry Village in the Happy Isles area. <sup>616</sup>
1996, December	Reconstructed	Plan submitted for renovation of the current swimming pool. The only significant change in landscape appearance from existing pool was demolition and upgrading of pool equipment room (filters, pumping machinery, etc.). <sup>617</sup>

<sup>612</sup> E-TIC, “Camp Curry Specific Plan, June 6, 1988, Thompson Architectural Group, Drawing No. 104-70-115.

<sup>613</sup> Ibid., Drawing #C6581, Clayton B. Wardel, AIA, “Walk Layout Master Plan, Curry Village,” Project No. 104-70-62.

<sup>614</sup> Ibid., Drawing #104-60977, “Proposed Curry Village Kiosk,” June 16, 1993.

<sup>615</sup> Date is per cornerstone plate at the bath house facility.

<sup>616</sup> “One Dead and 4 Injured,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 14, 1999.; Note: This article made reference to the history of rock falls in Yosemite National Park.

<sup>617</sup> E-TIC, “Swimming Pool Renovation, Curry Village, December 30, 1996,” Rowley International, Drawing No. 104-71,044.



Year	Event	Description
1997	Flood	An 80-year flood inundates Yosemite Valley. Curry Village, located entirely above the floodplain, is not damaged. <sup>618</sup>
1997	Altered	Following the 1997 flood, several cabins-without-bath salvaged after the flood are moved to Boys Town from the Yosemite Lodge area. At this time, the spatial arrangement of Boys Town is altered. <sup>619</sup>
1997-2000	Altered	Following the 1997 flood and subsequent loss of concessioner housing at the Yosemite Lodge, “temporary” employee housing accommodations are developed in the area near the Peterson/Huff residence. The employee housing area becomes informally known as “Huff”. It includes 25 tent cabins, 52 cabins-without-bath, and 7 trailers. <sup>620</sup>
1998, November	Significant Event	A rock fall in Camp Curry area leads to evacuation of 500 visitors and employees. <sup>621</sup>
1999, June 13	Significant Event	A rock fall at Curry Village above the Terrace employee housing area kills one rock climber and injures four others. More than 1,300 campers and employees are evacuated. <sup>622</sup>
1999	Altered	Boys Town (historically all-male employee housing) and the Terrace (historically all-female employee housing) begins gender integration. <sup>623</sup>
2001-2002	Built	The bicycle storage tent/warming hut near the ice skating rink was installed. <sup>624</sup>
2001-2004	Built	Several ADA accessibility improvements were made to pedestrian circulation routes in Curry Village. These new routes provided enhanced accessibility to a representative group of tent cabins, bungalows, bungalettes and other public buildings. <sup>625</sup>
2003	Planned	Plans are drawn up for five new guest cabins (4-beds each) in the area of the former Kiddie Kamp (between Pavilion/Stoneman House and Bungalows B-25, B-8, and B-1). <sup>626</sup> These were never constructed as of 2009.

<sup>618</sup> Curry Village and East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvements Site Study, 2005, Figure 4.

<sup>619</sup> Interview with DNC’s Curry Village Facilities Manager Don Evans, January 13, 2009.

<sup>620</sup> Ibid., March 17, 2009.

<sup>621</sup> “One Dead and 4 Injured,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 14, 1999. .; Note: This article made reference to the history of rock falls in Yosemite National Park.

<sup>622</sup> Ibid.

<sup>623</sup> Interview with DNC’s Curry Village Facilities Manager Don Evans, January 13, 2009.

<sup>624</sup> Ibid., March 17, 2009.

<sup>625</sup> Email correspondence from DNC’s Curry Village Facilities Manager Don Evans, April 8, 2009.

<sup>626</sup> E-TIC, Drawing No. 104-60865B, USNPS, Denver Service Center, “Site Plan, Curry Village Cabins,” June 23, 2003.

Year	Event	Description
2003	Construction Proposed	Curry Village and East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvements Project is proposed. It included two alternatives besides no action. The alternatives called for, among other things, removal of 253 guest tents (leaving 174 remaining in two different layouts), increasing cabins with baths by 54 (to total of 101), and converting the historic residences to lodging. Several changes to service buildings and parking are proposed.
2005	Altered	“Temporary” modular swimming pool bath house is attached to a permanent concrete slab foundation. This and other improvements were completed as part of a renovation package costing over \$500,000. <sup>627</sup>
2007	Built	Extensive employee housing development was completed in an area west of Bungalows. Included 23 dwellings, three commons buildings, one storage facility, and a wellness center.
2008	Rehabilitated	Construction begins on rehabilitation of Curry Village Lounge, Registration Building and Amphitheatre. Completed in 2009. <sup>628</sup>
2008, October 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>	Damaged and Destroyed	Massive rock falls from Glacier Point do extensive property damage to Curry Village tent cabins and hard-sided cabins. Although no one was seriously injured, this rock fall leads to the permanent closure of 233 tent and hard-sided cabins in Curry Village that were within the high risk rock fall zone.
2008	Altered	Prior to the October 2008 rock fall, Yosemite Institute housed around 200-300 children per night at Curry Village. Following the rock fall, Yosemite Institute decides not to house any of their students at facilities in Curry Village Talus Slope Hazard Zone.
2009	Altered	Employee housing at Boys Town becomes designated as guest accommodations, with priority given for use as Yosemite Institute housing.

<sup>627</sup> Interview with DNC’s Curry Village Facilities Manager Don Evans. March 17, 2009.

<sup>628</sup> Ibid., Drawing No. 104-7016I and No. 104-7016D, Yosemite NP Project No. 084068, “Building Site Plans, Rehabilitate Registration Building, Lounge, Registration Building and Amphitheatre, Curry Village,” June 18, 2007.

# APPENDIX B: CAMP CURRY HISTORIC DISTRICT NR NOMINATION (1979)

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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NOV 1 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Camp Curry HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON

Curry Village

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Yosemite Valley

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Yosemite National Park

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifteenth

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Mariposa

CODE

043

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☒ BOTH

☐ PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

☐ ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

### 4 AGENCY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Ave., P.O. Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

CA 94102

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mariposa County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN

Mariposa

STATE

CA

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Camp Curry (Curry Village) is located at the shadowy base of Glacier Point in the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. The site is strewn with huge boulders from the adjacent talus slopes. Numerous conifers, predominantly cedar, are scattered throughout. Over 400 canvas "tent cabins" as well as wooden cabins without baths, and less primitive bungalow accommodations are massed in closely aligned cleared areas, with an "administrative area" at the entrance to the Camp.

"ADMINISTRATIVE" AREA

When opened in 1899, the Camp had large canvas tents for sleeping, cooking, and dining. In 1901, the first permanent structure, a wooden dining room and kitchen was built, followed in 1904 by a registration office. Fire destroyed the dining building in 1912 and a new structure was erected on the site with connecting buildings to house a gift shop and cafeteria. In 1913 an auditorium/dance hall was built west of the registration office. That same year a 40'x90' swimming tank featuring a cobblestone railing and diving platform and a cobblestone bathhouse were added adjacent to the dining room. Of this original complex only the old registration office, now used as a lounge, and the pool (minus its cobblestone rail and platform) remain. The 1912 dining room had been replaced in 1929 by a spacious rustic structure designed by Architect Ted Spencer and featuring interior motifs and lighting fixtures designed by Jeanette Dyer Spencer. (Both Spencers had been integrally involved in the interior design features of the Ahwahnee Hotel which had opened the previous year). The auditorium/dance hall was completely altered when converted to guest units in the late 1960's. A series of recent fires destroyed the Spencer dining room (1973), the original gift shop and half of the old cafeteria (1975), and the cobblestone bathhouse (1977). A new food service facility and a gift shop have been constructed and plans are underway for a bathhouse replacement.

In addition to the facilities described previously, the administrative area of the camp also has a Post Office/Registration Office facility currently undergoing interior modifications. The original post office dates from the early 1920's and was a log post and beam structure with a wood shingled roof overhanging a veranda that circled the building. The building has been altered several times: a shed addition was built on the west side, enclosing the veranda and extending the roof several feet. In the mid-1950's a space was built on the north side to house the registration office. The construction of this addition again eliminated the veranda and extended the roof, and consists of log posts and beams with multi-panel window panes in between (recent construction has expanded the existing office space into the postal segment and the post office function is now housed in the lounge).

Two architecturally and historically significant structures remain at the entrance to Camp Curry. They are in good condition and are on their original sites:



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET Camp Curry

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The (Original) Registration Office

The Registration Office was built at Camp Curry in 1904 and presently is used as a lounge with postal facilities recently incorporated into office space on the north side.

It is a one-story, three room wood frame building, measuring 50' x 70'. The building consists of an unpeeled log frame, vertical posts, and horizontal beams with infill panels of wood shingles on the upper half of the wall and, below, strips of natural cedar bark and arranged in panels diagonally, creating a herringbone pattern. The porch is supported by unpeeled log columns, 10' on center. The overhanging hipped roof is wood shingled, with several skylights. The building has double casement windows, each with six lights. The interior features a large, free-standing fireplace built of river-run granite boulders, laid in an uncoursed rubble bond. The roof structure is exposed and consists of king-post trusses.

There have been numerous alterations to the building, including a shed addition across the west side, skylights, and the replacement of two original French doors.

Entrance Sign:

The rustic Camp Curry Entrance Sign is located near the present Registration Office. While supporting members may be replacements, the design of the sign is original as built ca. 1914 by Foster Curry.

The sign was constructed in the rustic style, the standard for the original Registration Office and subsequent buildings at the Camp. The sign is about 20' high and consists of unpeeled log supports with the words, "CAMP CURRY" and "WELCOME" spelled out in unpeeled saplings. Fretwork, also in unpeeled saplings, adds rustic decoration to the sign.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The original nomination of Camp Curry as an historic site included several buildings determined to possess intrinsic value for interpreting the history and architecture of this founding enterprise of the present Yosemite Park and Curry Co. The structures are: Old Registration Office; Camp Entrance sign; Swimming Tank Bathhouse (burned 1977); and two units in the accommodations section - Mother Curry's Bungalow and the Foster Curry Cabin (Tresidder Residence). The other accommodations are, for the most part, exemplary of the Camp Curry ideal and enhance the historic setting, but their significance is minimal and exists only in a collective sense. The units are listed in order of importance:



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(Rev. 10-74)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET Camp Curry ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

1. Foster Curry Cabin (Tresidder Residence)

This cabin was built by Foster Curry in 1916 against the talus at the base of Glacier Point. It is surrounded by large boulders and a hand-split palisade fence. It is a one-story wood frame structure, containing about 1000 square feet. It is a U-shaped cabin, and the western wing was rebuilt shortly after it was constructed because it was demolished by a fallen tree uprooted in a rock slide. The building is comprised of an unpeeled log frame with infill panels of cedar bark and log slabs, similar in style to both the Curry bungalow and the Registration Office. The primary decorative element of the exterior is the porch and the overhanging gable on the east wing.

The interior of the cabin is undistinguished except for the bathroom which is very elaborate and completely original and intact. Reportedly, in 1916, it cost \$1000 to install and included custom-built cabinets and very fine tile-work. The building is presently used as a single family employee residence.

Mother Curry's Bungalow:

The Curry residence was built by Foster Curry in 1917 and currently is divided into three apartments, serving as employee housing. It is a one-story (with attic) wood frame structure containing about 1200 square feet. It is T-shaped, with an early addition off the west side of the cabin. The building consists of an unpeeled log frame, vertical posts, and horizontal beams with infill panels of natural cedar bark strips arranged vertically. The upper portion of the walls is sheathed with tongue and groove beaded siding, stained brown, and the gable is filled with log slabs arranged in a decorative pattern. The cabin has river-run stone foundations, steps, fireplace, and chimney. The covered porch and railing are the primary decorative element of the design. Two pairs of multi-light French doors are located on the north facade.

2. Bungalows with Bath

48 units (2 fourplex and 46 duplex) built between 1918 and 1922, and still on their original sites. They are designed in the rustic style and are, (with the exception of No. 90), smaller and simpler versions of Mother Curry's Bungalow and the Foster Curry Cabin. The cabins consist of half-log frame, sheathed on the exterior with diagonal 1 inch by 4 inch tongue-and-groove siding in herringbone patterns. They have split-log gable ends, wood-shingled roofs with overhanging eaves, paneled doors, foundations of river run stone, casement windows and wooden porches. The bungalows are well maintained and are structurally sound. The interiors have recently been refurbished with new bathroom facilities, etc. The bungalows are in three sizes - duplex units are either 14'w x 30'l or 14'w x 35'l. The fourplex units measure 28'x30'.

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CONTINUATION SHEET    Camp Curry    ITEM NUMBER 7    PAGE 4

3. "Canvas Cabins"

The tent cabins are either 2 bed (measuring 9'10" x 11'10") or 4 bed (measuring 11'10" x 14'0"). They have wood framing, platforms, and doors and heavy canvas covers. The original "Canvas Cabins" did not have doors. The wooden frames with doors date mostly from the late 1920's and early 1930's--although the tent idea has been part of Camp Curry from the beginning. Yosemite Park and Curry Company maintenance confirms that the canvas and various wooden structural members are replaced over the years and that an extensive investigation of over 400 tents to check the notching and rails for age is hardly warranted. This type of canvas cabin is not unique architecturally to Yosemite Valley, and is the standard seasonal accommodations in the High Country Camps of Yosemite.

4. Cabins Without Bath

23 Duplex Units - 2 rooms back to back (measuring 12'w x 28'6"l); wood frame with horizontal siding and composition asphalt shingles on low pitch gable roof. These buildings were thought to date from the same era of the bungalow but have had considerable modernization done to the exteriors. Recent interviews and a study of early Camp Curry maps show that they were built after 1928 -- most likely in the early 1930's. The cabins were refurbished in 1978 with thermal pane glass and several units now have handicapped accessibility inside and out.

5. Stoneman House

The former auditorium and dance hall is now fitted with 10 rooms with individual baths. The original window detailing is missing and composition roofing replaces the wood shingle roof.

Miscellaneous

Included within the boundaries of the Historic District are several bathhouses and toilet facilities; an ice skating rink and snack bar/warming room (built in the late 1960's) two employee housing sections with the canvas cabins described earlier, and some cabins without baths behind the central maintenance area used for employee housing.

The new food service facility, a cafeteria, was built in the silhouette of the 1929 Spencer building; however, it appears much more massive because of its light color, centered stone chimney, and lack of structural elements that break the building down visually as one approaches the front entrance. (see photo # 11.)

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**    Camp Curry    ITEM NUMBER 7    PAGE 5

The new gift shop was built within the site boundaries of the old cafeteria and is painted a more compatible dark brown; however, it has a shed roof with clerestory windows - a design element totally out of context with the existing structures in Camp Curry. (see photo # 12).

Construction, including rehabilitation of existing structures, has been on-going in Camp Curry since its earliest days. Replacement of some accommodations or other facilities is part of the on-going process of a commercial venture - this activity should be allowed to continue at Camp Curry if a sensitivity to the existing built environment is established.



## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1899-1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT David A. Curry, Foster Curry

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Through the history of Yosemite National Park's chief concessioner, Yosemite Park and Curry Company, one may trace the evolution of concession philosophy, and the relationship between the concessions and administration in the park over the last 77 years. The Camp Curry Historic <sup>district</sup> ~~site~~ is illustrative of the foundation and early development of the Curry family enterprise and their unique contribution of a character of accommodation still available in Yosemite and other national parks today. The site is of local significance in exploration-settlement and commerce. There are four structures on the site that are important survivors of early Camp Curry and of local architectural, as well as historical, significance.

David and Jennie Curry established their innovative guest camp at the base of Glacier Point in 1899. At that time, only the Sentinel Hotel, part of the Washburn Brothers transportation/accommodation monopoly, was available to the Yosemite Valley visitor who wished to sleep somewhere other than a public campground. The Currys believed that a tent camp, offering a minimum of services and thus economical for guests, would be a success. The Camp was also to be a place where the city dweller could be in close touch with nature, yet have the security and camaraderie that a well managed resort hotel might provide. Camp Curry (briefly called Camp Sequoia) opened with 7 tents, furnished with beds and washstands, a cook, and a student labor force that worked for room and board. Growth was immediate and steady with 292 guests in the pioneering summer.

David Curry was a voluble host who emphasized the "family-style" orientation that evolved from the rustic simplicity of his camp. He began a nightly campfire program, in which guests and staff participated, and reinstituted the firefall, a spectacular attraction initiated by pioneer James McCauley. Over many summers, the nightly firefall (discontinued in 1969) and the campfire program became synonymous with the name Camp Curry. Curry encouraged his guests to make use of the "natural" recreational opportunities in Yosemite - hiking, fishing, and swimming in the river, with only croquet provided as a diversion for those who spent their day in camp. The atmosphere was relaxed and cordial and inspired an enthusiastic, loyal following.

By 1904, a registration office was built to facilitate the increasing flow of visitors. Success bred competition in the form of a Washburn operated "hotel camp" that flourished, but never matched Camp Curry's phenomenal popularity.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Sargent, Shirley, Yosemite and Its Innkeepers, Yosemite Nat'l Park, Flying Spur Press, 1975  
 U.S. Department of the Interior, Annual Report of the Acting Superintendent: Yosemite National Park (1906 - 1916), Yosemite Museum Collections.  
 U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Annual Report of the Director (1916 - 1928), Yosemite Research Library.

continued

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 48  
 UTM REFERENCES

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

A	111	273	180	411	805	50	B	111	273	180	411	805	60
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	111	273	780	411	805	60	D	111	273	780	411	805	70
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at the SW corner of the main Camp Curry parking lot, follow the south edge of the shuttle bus access road, to Happy Isles, heading east for 1325 feet. Turn SW(223°) for 400'; NW (308°) 450'; SW (215°) 330'; SW (245°) 475'; NW (276°) 500'; NW (284°) 600'; NW (294°) 260'; NW (341°) 450'; from the last point follow the west edge of the service road north 300 feet to the southern edge of main road; follow this southern road edge in NE direction to the intersection. At intersection stay on the Camp Curry side of the road, following the southwestern edge to starting point.

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE Leslie Starr Hart/Historian  
 Merrill Ann Wilson/Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION

DATE

National Park Service/Denver Service Center

8/76 rev 5/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

655 Parfet, P.O. Box 25287

(303) 234-4509

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Denver

CO 80225

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

10-13-79

YES ☒NO ☐NONE ☐

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources

9/6/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11-1-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-1-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

NOV 1 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Camp Curry ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Although this popularity was firmly rooted in the Camp's democratic atmosphere and the personality of its proprietor, certain embellishments were being added to insure continued success. Accommodations remained "primitive" and inexpensive, but by 1913, Curry guests could entertain themselves at the new "plunge" (whose cobblestone bathhouse boasted both beauty and barber shops), a billiards room, and an auditorium that doubled as a dance pavillion.

In 1916, Foster Curry built a two-room bungalow for his family in the talus slope behind the Camp. He felt that his rustic cabin should be a prototype of rental units that would replace tents, but his father was unconvinced. After David Curry's death in 1917, another bungalow was built for Jennie Curry and several more soon followed. A compromise evolved, and by the mid 1920's, some cabins with baths, and a greater number without baths, were available for rental along with the tents. The same choice is available today.

The administration of Yosemite Valley had changed hands three times during this era of development and expansion at Camp Curry. From 1899 to 1905, David Curry had dealt with the state-appointed Yosemite Commissioners. Regulations and inspections of concessions were seldom enforced and Curry's major concern was circumventing the Washburn interests. He expanded accommodations and the increased guest count soon overtaxed a nearly new sewage facility. The sanitation problem became a bone of contention between Curry and the Army administration that assumed responsibility for managing Yosemite Valley in 1906 when it was returned to federal jurisdiction as part of Yosemite National Park. Military administrators began an immediate, tough policy of enforcing the myriad regulations previously ignored. Concessioners were issued leases that had to be renewed each year pending approval from the Department of the Interior. Curry felt that the very existence of his camp was threatened by the inability of obtaining a long-term lease that would enable him to secure financing, etc. Where he had been charming to Camp Curry guests, he proved abrasively anti-regimentarian to government administrators. He used the campfire programs as a platform for airing his grievances and enlisted the letter-writing support of Camp Curry loyalists. In 1913, the new Secretary of the Interior, Franklin Lane, appointed Adolph Miller as his Assistant Secretary to oversee the National Parks. David Curry made a tactical blunder in appearing before Miller and demanding a long-term contract. Miller had witnessed some of Curry's campfire tactics and not only refused the demand, but censured him for the speechmaking, and its anti-authority content as conduct unbecoming to a concession operator. Miller barred the firefall to emphasize his point. Upon assuming responsibility for Yosemite in 1916, the National Park Service inherited the concession headaches as well. Director Stephen Mather sought a solution in a proposed monopoly. He selected an outside hotelman, D. J. Desmond, and gave him a 20 year lease to expand, improve, and consolidate concession operations. Pioneer

Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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NOV 1 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET      Camp Curry      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 3

businessmen responded swiftly and unfavorably--when the dust settled a few "special" leases had been arranged, among them one that guaranteed Camp Curry's independence from the Desmond operation. Later documentation showed that the monopoly might have been originally offered to David Curry, whose love for Yosemite and record of successful service was always evident, had he not been so singlemindedly and vehemently devoted to his Camp. After Curry's death, the Camp was operated by his widow and children: the firefall was reinstituted in 1918 and a 5 year contract was awarded to Jennie Curry. In 1920, her daughter Mary Curry married Donald Tresidder, a future president of Stanford University. Tresidder's vision was broader than David Curry's, and his tact and diplomacy won him support and admiration in Yosemite and Washington. The Desmond enterprise was a financial disaster that went bankrupt and was reorganized as the Yosemite National Park Company. Camp Curry's proprietors had organized as the Curry Camping Company, and in 1925, at the insistence of Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work, these major competitors were merged as Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Jennie Curry was on the Board of Directors and Donald Tresidder was the new president. It was the end of one era but the beginning of another--from a tent camp to a near monopoly that offered services and accommodations for all income levels and was soon imbued with the spirit of the family-run enterprise begun 26 years earlier.

The four structures considered most significant to this nomination are representative of the aesthetic which was established as a standard for building the Camp. With few exceptions today Camp Curry still exhibits a continuity of scale and texture. The theme was rustic and was characterized primarily by the use of native materials in their natural state, such as unpeeled logs, and strips of bark. Other elements include horizontal or diagonal sawn wood, river run stone foundations, and strongly expressed structural members. A low profile was expressed through gabled or hipped roofs with widely overhanging eaves and a uniform dark color to all buildings but the tents. The intent behind this style was for buildings to blend into the natural environment and to preserve a sense of primitiveness that enhances the character of the Camp.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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RECEIVED	<b>11 SEP 1979</b>
DATE ENTERED	NOV 1 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Camp Curry ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Whedon, Hazel, The History of Roads, Trails and Hotels In and Near Yosemite National Park, Los Angeles, University of Southern California (MA thesis), 1934.

Hart, Leslie Starr, Yosemite National Park Historic Resources Survey/Non-Eligible Properties. Report on file, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, Denver. 1977.

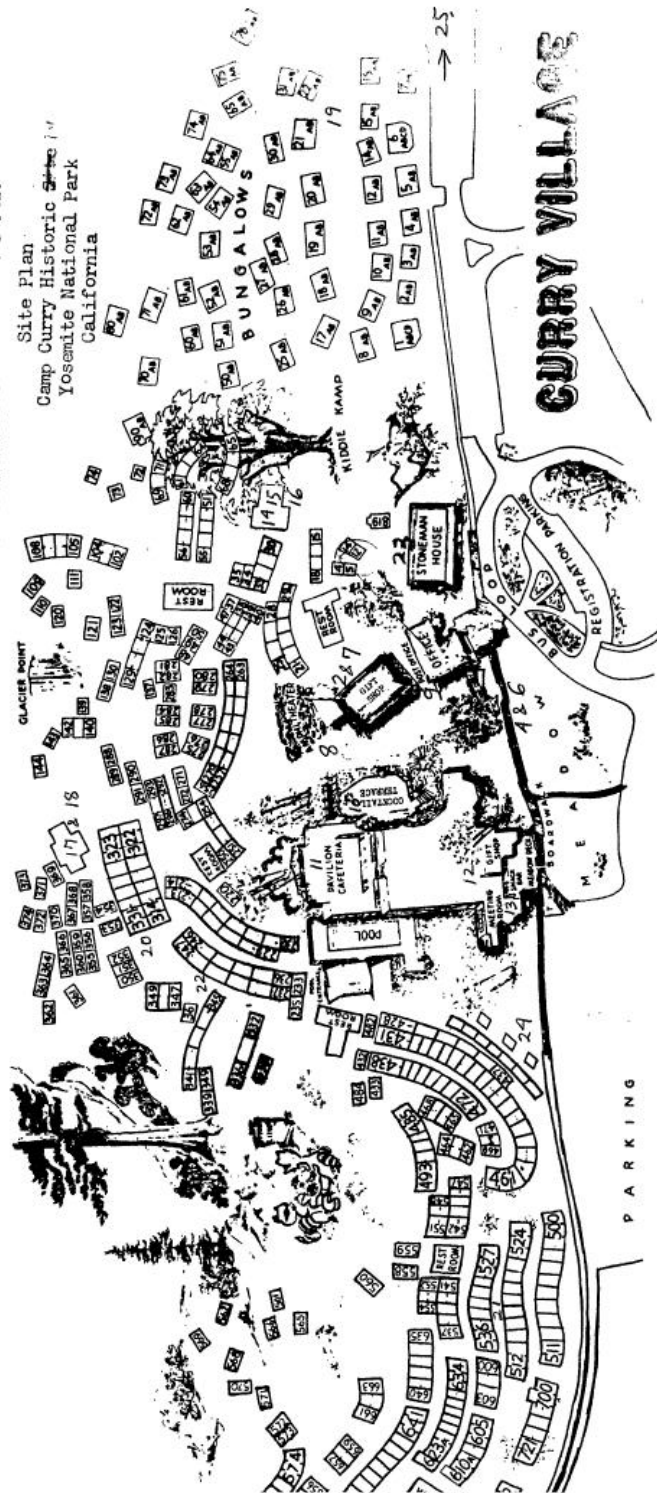
Oral interview with Wendall Otter, Yosemite Park and Curry Co. employee 1923-1967, Personal communication to Hart, January 1978.

Oral interview and correspondence with Shirley Sargent, Foresta California, January 1978. (Miss Sargent is the YP&C Co. Historian).



Historic District  
ance key

1, 5 not shown on this map



APPENDIX C: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN YOSEMITE SUPERINTENDENT AND DNC CHIEF  
OPERATING OFFICER OUTLINING CLOSURE OF THE TALUS SLOPE HAZARD ZONE



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Yosemite National Park  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, California 95389

NOV 21 2008

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
C58 (YOSE004-BRM)  
x C3823

Dan Jensen, Chief Operating Officer  
DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.  
Yosemite National Park, California 95389

Dear Dan:

It has been over a month now since the rockfalls occurred above Curry Village on October 7 and 8, 2008, which resulted in the temporary closure of many of the visitor accommodations for that operating location. During this period the National Park Service (NPS) has, in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and other national and international scientists, continued to conduct extensive investigation and study of rockfalls that have occurred in the area above the Curry Village using the latest scientific mapping and computer modeling techniques. Our mapping analysis has shown that approximately 6,000 cubic meters of rock, in total, were involved in these past events.

Given the overall frequency of rockfall over the past few years, and in light of the geologic research that has been completed, the NPS can no longer treat each rockfall at Curry Village as an isolated incident. Instead, we must look at the area comprehensively and recognize that the geologic processes that have shaped Yosemite Valley since the last glaciers receded will continue to result in rockfalls such as the ones we recently experienced.

The products of early rockfall events have contributed to the character and charm of Curry Village. The experience of sleeping in tent cabins, cabins without bath, or bath cabins nestled among the boulders of Curry Village has been shared by thousands of visitors over the decades. However, these boulders are also a clear indication of rockfall hazard in the area. The increased frequency of rockfall events in the Curry Village area over the past several years, combined with the scientific information we now possess, has resulted in a realization that we can no longer allow the provision of visitor accommodations in all the areas of Curry Village that have historically been occupied.

We are therefore closing select facilities and withdrawing the assignment of facilities and some lands from use under the Concession Contract. A listing that enumerates the facilities to be closed is attached.

Enclosed is a map showing a Geologic Hazard Zone for the Curry Village. This map has been developed using state of the art scientific geological methods. It is a composite created by considering several different factors including the extent of surface talus, prehistoric and historic rockfall events, and simulated rockfall events using computer models in which the area of impact from each event is evaluated. The methods used to generate this map have been peer reviewed by the scientific community and represent the best information available. The area outlined on the map is expected to contain the majority of rock debris from future rockfall events.



The remaining facilities at Curry Village are relatively safe for occupancy, based on the scientific analysis and computer modeling that has been done, and may be reopened immediately. While we cannot say that occupations of the remaining facilities are totally risk free, we can say that current information indicates that the risk remaining at Curry Village is roughly the same level of risk that exists in other areas of Yosemite Valley in which structures are located such as The Ahwahnee and Yosemite Village,. The risk that remains relates to the remote possibility of extremely large geologic events, as well as the potential for flyrock fragments from rockfall to enter the area.

You may also proceed to remove the personal property of DNC from the area that has now been closed. Procedures to be followed by your work crews to help assure their safety are being provided to you separately.

We appreciate the close working relationship we maintain and will continue to work with you to identify and explore the potential of restoring the level of visitor services provided in Yosemite. Our point of contact on this matter is Marty Nielson, Chief of Business and Revenue Management, 209-372-0274.

Sincerely,

/S/ MICHAEL J. TOLLEFSON

Michael J. Tollefson  
Superintendent

Enclosures

Curry Village Talus Slope Hazard Zone Map  
Listing of Facilities Closed to Use

\\Y4\C58\CV Rockfall 2008\Letter to DNC\_RMS.doc  
MNielson:wm:11/21/08

APPENDIX D: CAMP CURRY DECISION DOCUMENTATION FOLLOWING A SHPO VISIT TO YOSEMITE  
ON 09/17/2004

**Yosemite National Park  
Decision Documentation**

<i>Reference</i>
<i>Agency:</i> California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Deputy SHPO and Yosemite National Park (YNP)
<i>Date of Meeting:</i> September 16 and 17, 2004
<i>Purpose of Meeting:</i> Introduction to park cultural resource programs and professional staff, and field orientation at 4 of the parks most valuable historic properties.
<i>Prepared by:</i> Jeannette Simons, Park Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Liaison
<i>Date:</i> September 20, 2004

<i>Participants</i>
SHPO: Milford Wayne Donaldson, Stephan Mikesell. YNP: Michael Tollefson, Kevin Cann, Bill Delaney, Niki Nicholas, Marty Nielson, Mark Butler, Jeannette Simons, Dave Forgang, Randy Fong, Marty Vittorre, Paul Chattey, Laura Kirn, David Louter (from Seattle)

<i>Decisions and Courses of Action</i>
<p>1. During the Curry Village field orientation, Wayne Donaldson made a recommendation for preservation, in addition to the previously agreed upon plan for photo documentation and historic context narrative, for the cabins and tent cabins within the rock fall zone that the park plans to remove. He suggested that the park preserve the cement foundation piers <i>in situ</i>, as archaeological ruins, saying that they would leave a visual pattern for interpretive purposes. Butler, Simons, Fong, and Chattey acknowledged the interpretative value of retaining cement ruins and indicated it would be considered. During the out brief with the Superintendent, Wayne Donaldson repeated his recommendation that the park preserve the cement foundation piers as archaeological ruins to leave a visual pattern to preserve the history and provide interpretive value. Mike Tollefson acknowledged the value and said that we would make sure it happened.</p> <p>2. During the field excursion at the restored Covered Bridge in Wawona, Marty Vittorre informed Stephan Mikesell that the park is preparing video documentation about the restoration effort. Mikesell expressed an interest in receiving a copy when it was completed and Vittorre said he would make sure he received one. At the out brief with the Superintendent, Mikesell mentioned the promise that he would receive a copy of the final video documentation of the Wawona Covered Bridge Restoration. Simons recalled the agreement between Mikesell and Vittoree and confirmed the commitment to send a copy of the final video documentation.</p> <p>3. During the out brief with the Superintendent, Wayne Donaldson requested a copy of the power point presentation that Tollefson had shown during the in brief on the previous day. Tollefson said we would send him a hard copy, since an electronic copy would jam the state's Email system.</p>

### *Assignments*

1. Project Manager for Curry Village ensure that plans for removal of cabins and tent cabins within the rock fall zone implement 2 preservation actions: a) photo documentation and historic context narrative; b) preserve a visual pattern of cabin and tent cabin cement foundations piers, in consultation with the park historical architect, landscape architect and archaeologist, as archaeological ruins for interpretive value.
2. Marty Vittorre provide Jeannette Simons with a schedule for completion of the Wawona Covered Bridge Restoration Project video documentation, and a copy of the final video.
3. Jeannette Simons will email Deputy Stephan Mikesell the schedule with a projected date of completion for the final video documentation of the Wawona Covered Bridge Restoration Project, and send him a copy when it is available.
4. Jeannette Simons will send a printed copy of the power point presentation that Mike Tollefson gave at the in brief to Wayne Donaldson.

### *Approval*

Signature: *Bill Delaney*

Name (please print): *Bill Delaney*

Title: *Chf. of Project Mgmt.*

Date: *9/27/04*

## APPENDIX E: LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act  
CLI: Cultural Landscape Inventory  
CLR: Cultural Landscape Report  
CV&EYVCISP: Curry Village and East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvement Site Plan  
DOE: Determination of Eligibility  
EA: Environmental Assessment  
eTIC: electronic Technical Information Center  
EIS: Environmental Impact Statement  
FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact  
GMP: General Management Plan  
NPS: National Park Service  
LCS : list of Classified Structures  
SHPO State Historic Preservation Office  
WOB: Without Bath  
YOSE: Yosemite  
YP&CCo: Yosemite Park and Curry Company  
YVP: Yosemite Valley Plan

## APPENDIX F: FULL-SIZE 11x17 MAPS

1. CONTEXT MAP
2. CAMP CURRY HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP
3. HISTORIC LODGING AREA AND CENTRAL SERVICE COMPLEX SITE PLAN
4. HUFF AREA AND THE BUNGALOWS SITE PLAN
5. ORCHARD PARKING AREA AND BOYS TOWN SITE PLAN
6. 1925 PLAT MAP
7. CAMP CURRY CIRCULATION MAP
8. TREATMENT PLAN





**CAMP CURRY CONTEXT  
WITHIN YOSEMITE VALLEY**

Yosemite Falls

North Dome

Washington Column

Merced River

Proposed Amended  
Camp Curry  
Historic District

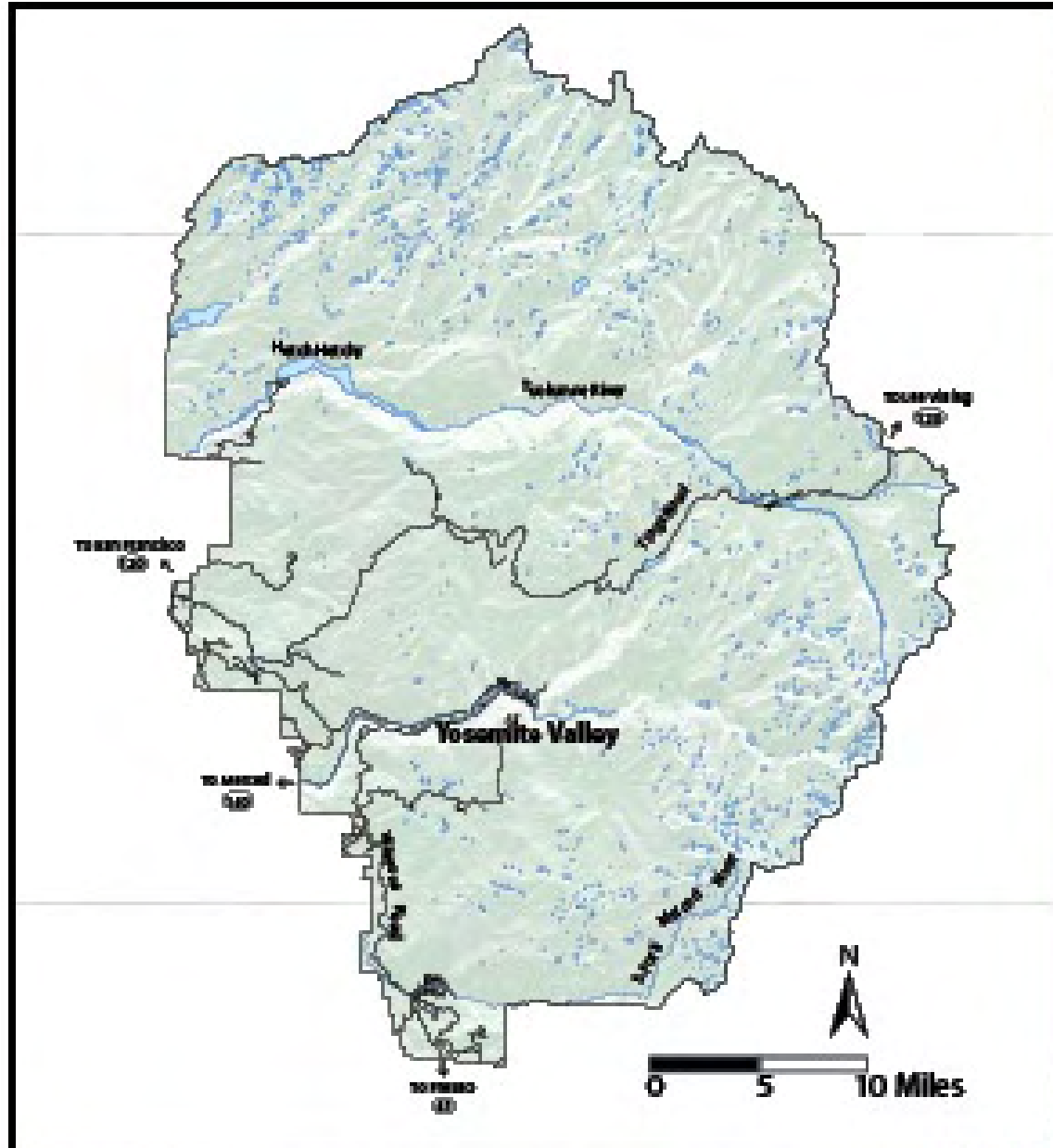
Glacier Point

Northside Drive

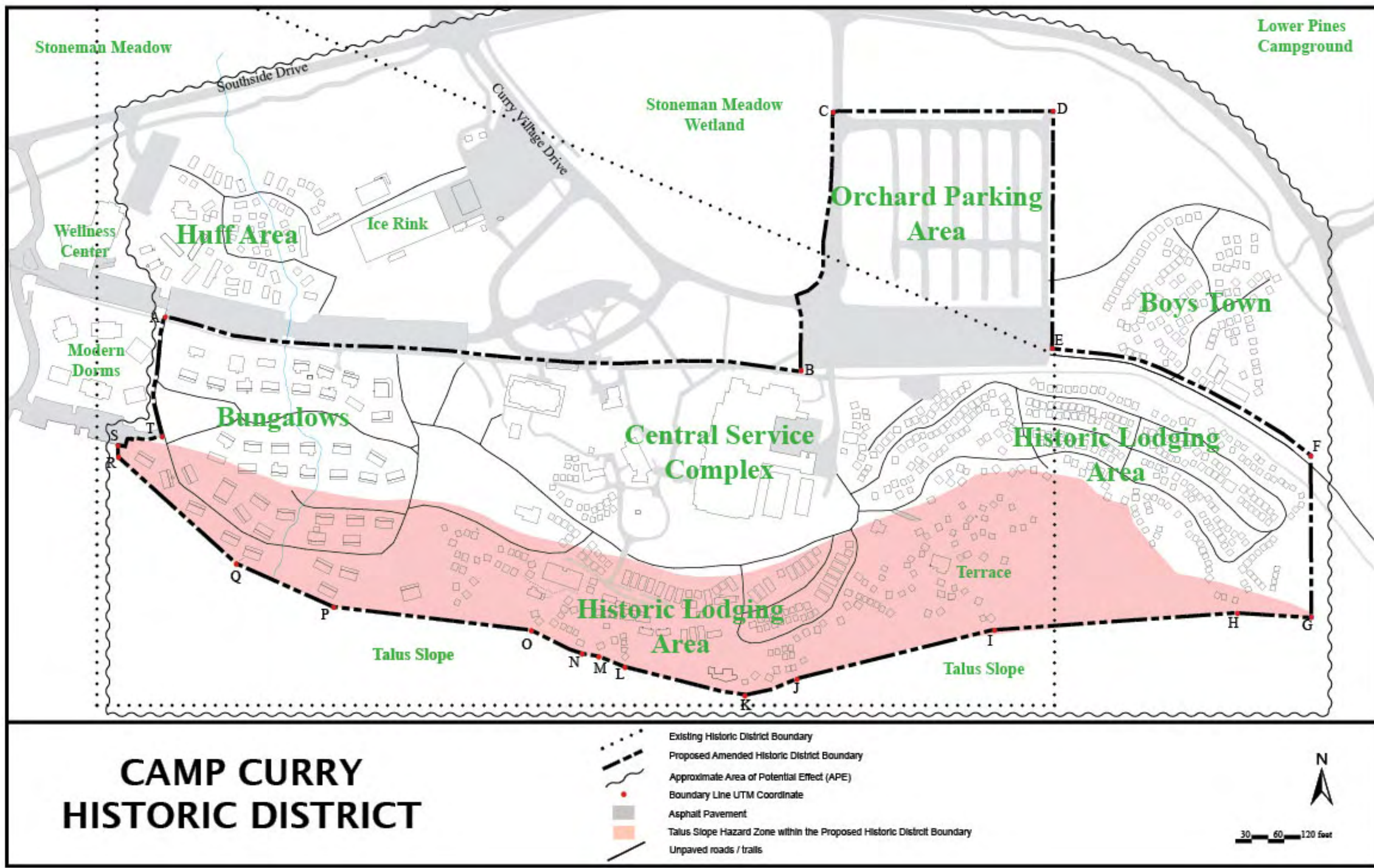
Southside Drive

0.25 .5 1 mile

N

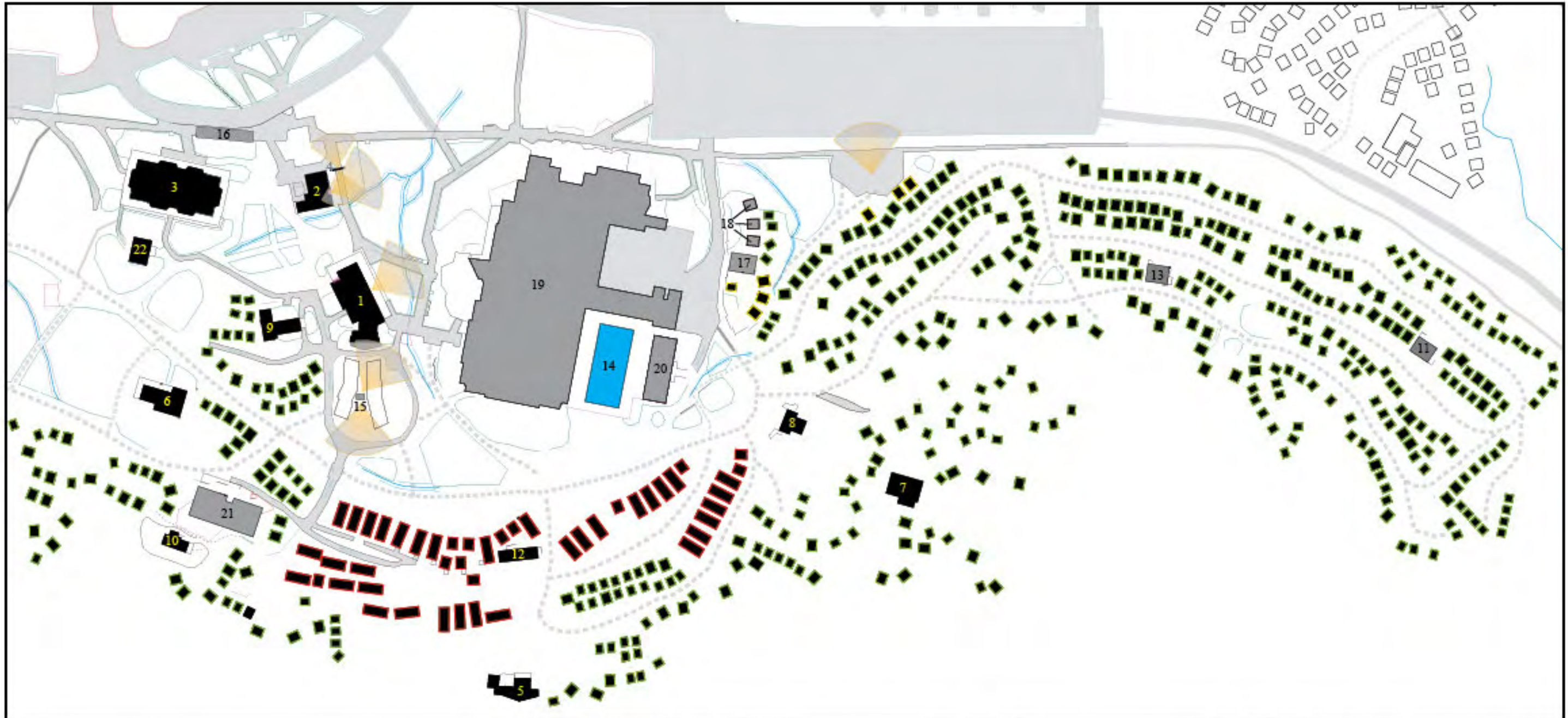












# **CAMP CURRY HISTORIC LODGING AREA AND CENTRAL SERVICE COMPLEX**

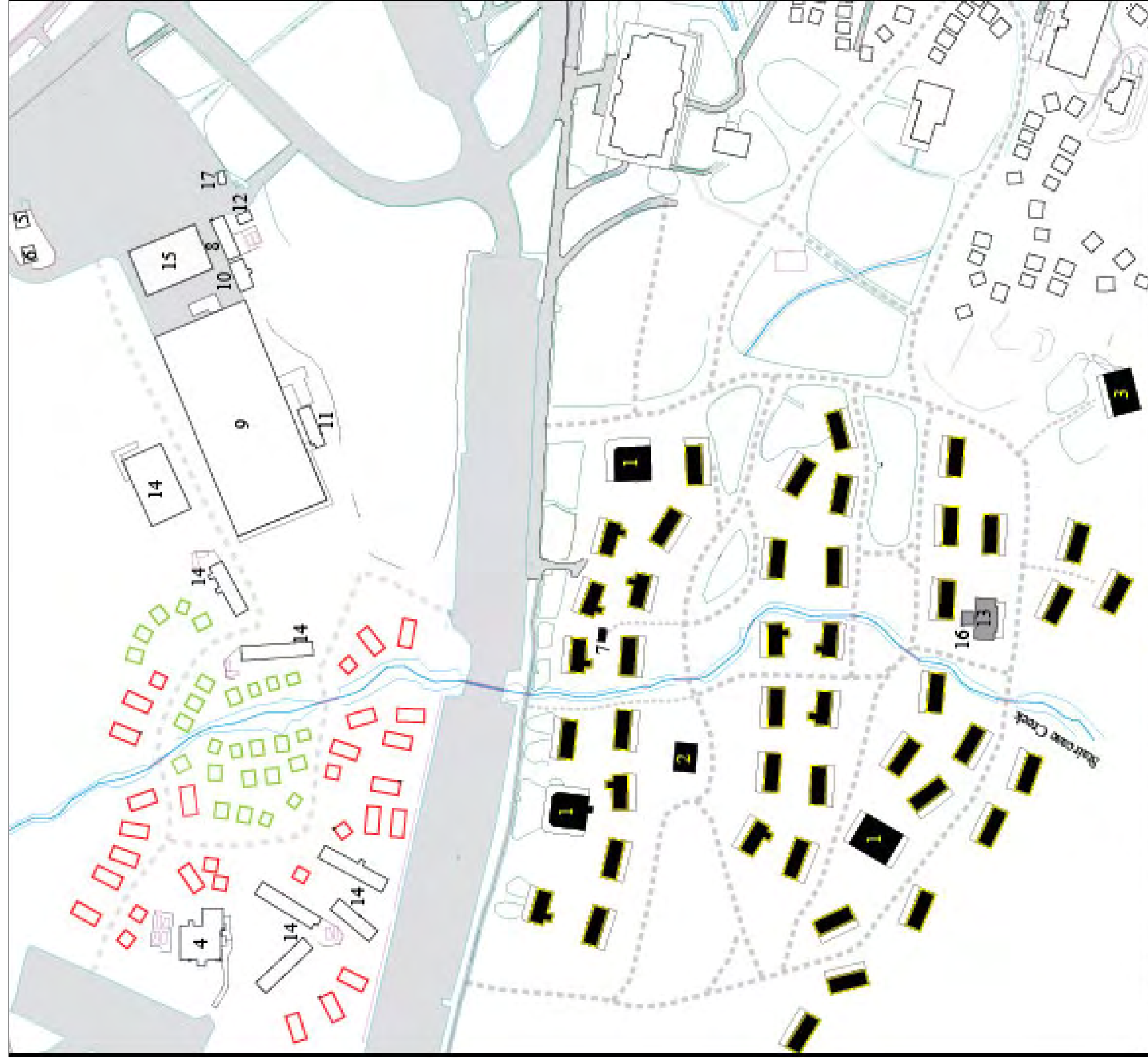


- Contributing features
- Non-contributing features
- Bungalows (contributing; pre-1921)
- Bungalows (contributing; 1930)
- Tent Cabins (contributing)\*
- Contributing Views or Vistas

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Main Office                                | 16 Transit Shelter                 |
| 2 Post Office                                | 17 Cook's Employee Shower Building |
| 3 Pavilion                                   | 18 Cook's WOB's Nos. 2-4           |
| 4 Camp Curry Entrance Sign                   | 19 Visitor Services Building       |
| 5 Foster Curry Cabin                         | 20 Bathhouse                       |
| 6 Mother Curry Bungalow                      | 21 Nob Hill Shower House           |
| 7 Women's Club                               | 22 Mens' Lounge                    |
| 8 Comfort Station at the Base of the Terrace |                                    |
| 9 Executive Guest Comfort Station            |                                    |
| 10 Cabin 101                                 |                                    |
| 11 500's Comfort Station                     |                                    |
| 12 Comfort Station at the Bungalows          |                                    |
| 13 600's Comfort Station                     |                                    |
| 14 Swimming Tank (Non-contributing)          |                                    |
| 15 Amphitheater and Projection Booth         |                                    |

\*Tent cabins within the rockfall zone cluster were being actively moved and dismantled by the concessionaire during the documentation process; hence, many may no longer be present. Several tent cabins were also damaged or destroyed by the 2008 Curry Village Rockfall and by low failure following heavy 2008 snowfall. This map shows the number and position of tent cabins prior to these events.





## HUFF AREA AND THE BUNGALOWS

- Contributing features
- Non-contributing features



30 60 120 feet

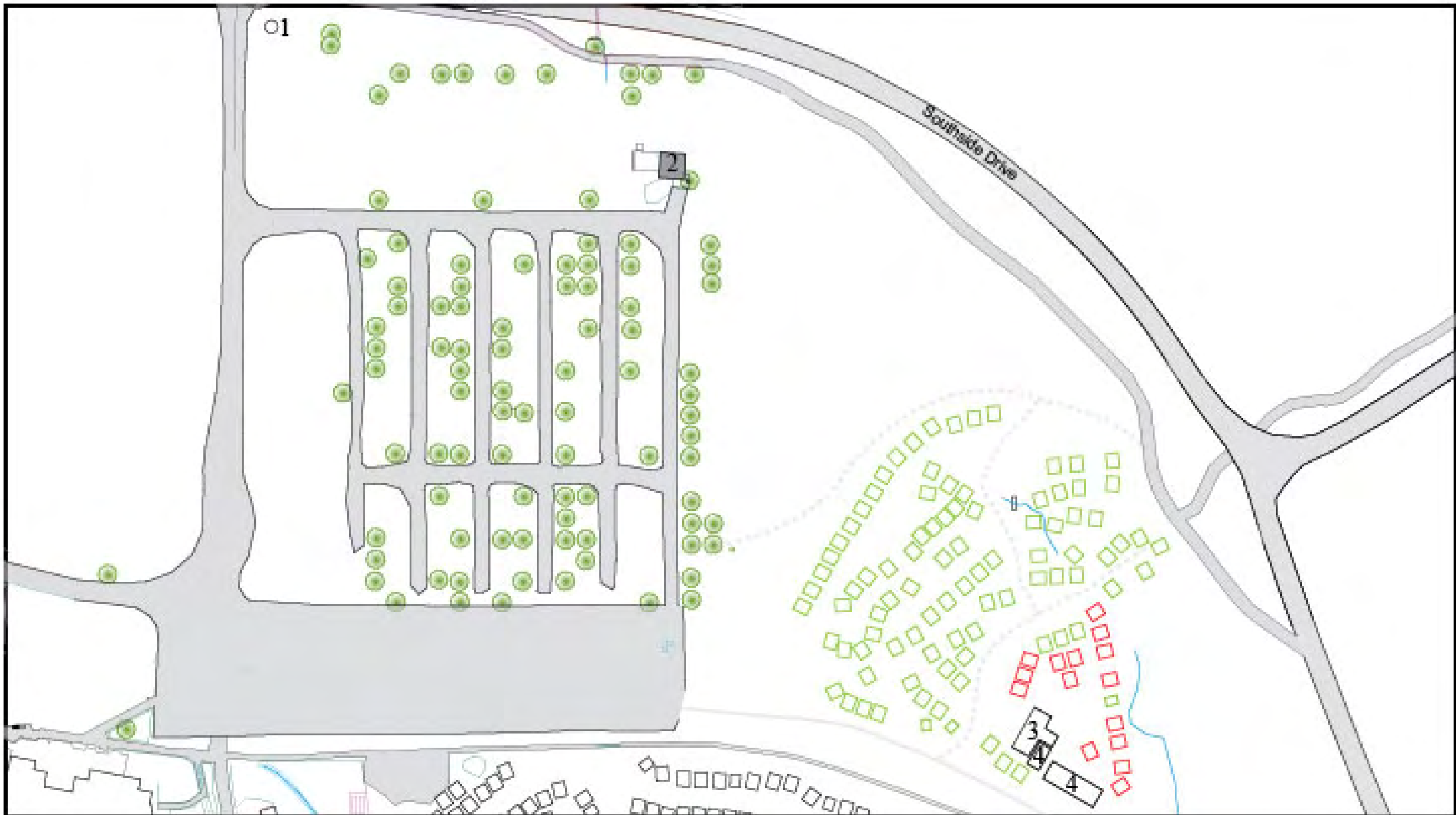
- WOBs (outside proposed boundary)
- Tent Cabins (outside proposed boundary)
- Bungalows (contributing)

- 1 Fourplex Cabins
- 2 Camp Curry Substation
- 3 Bungalow #90
- 4 Peterson Residence
- 5 Service Station Men's Restroom
- 6 Service Station Women's Restroom
- 7 Tall Linen Hut






- 8 Bicycle / Ice Skate Rental Shop
- 9 Ice Skating Rink
- 10 Ice Rink Skate Rental Building
- 11 Chiller / Compressor
- 12 Hot Water Tank Shed near Ice Rink
- 13 Bungalow #61
- 14 Huff Office and Trailers
- 15 Bicycle Storage Tent / Warming Tent
- 16 Linen Shed In Bungalows
- 17 Recycling Shed







# **CAMP CURRY ORCHARD PARKING AREA AND BOYS TOWN**

-  Historic apple trees
-  Contributing features
-  Non-contributing features
-  Boys Town WOBs (outside proposed boundary)
-  Tent Cabins (outside proposed boundary)

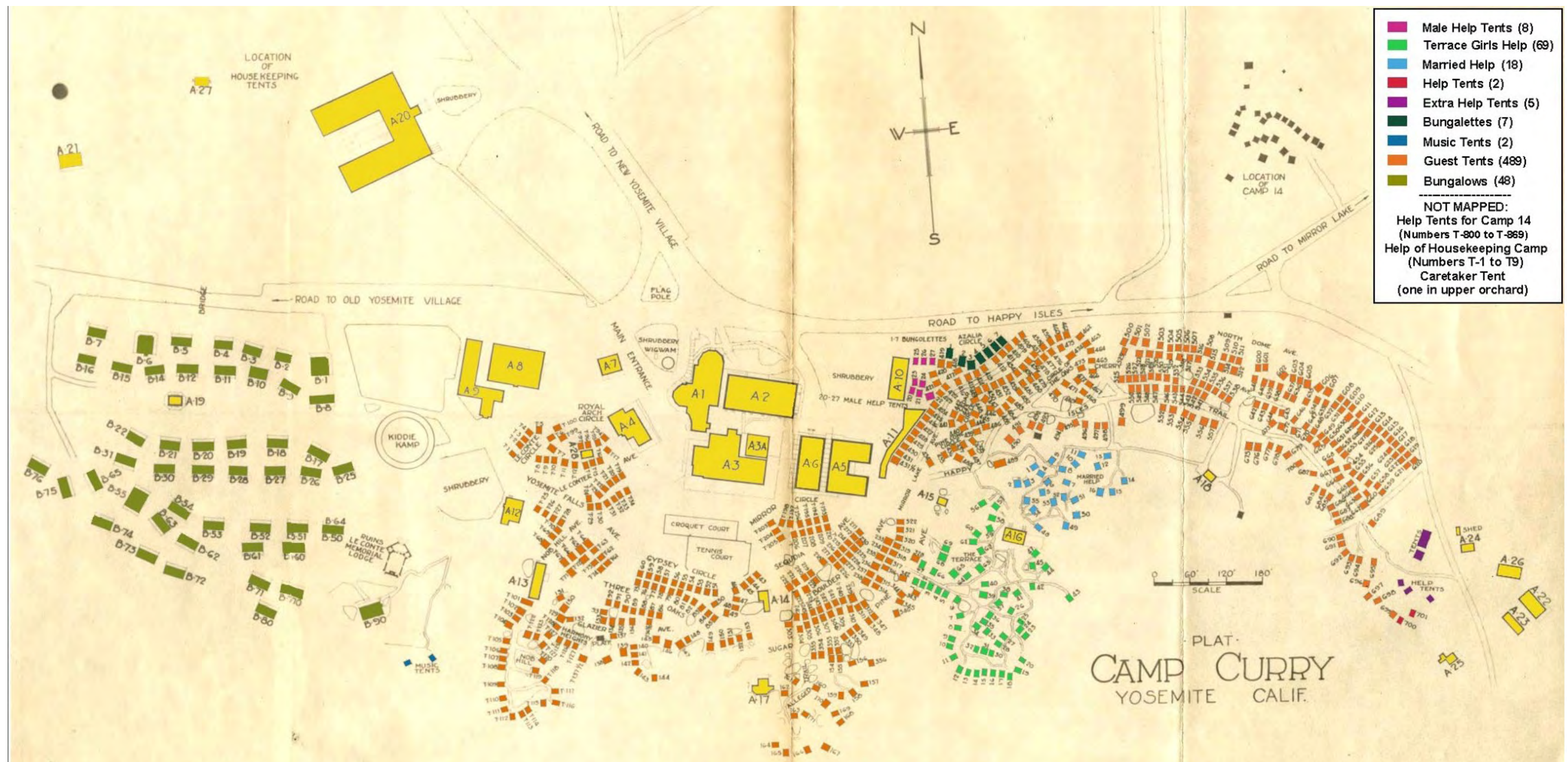
- 1 Bear Breaking Into Auto Interpretive Sign Trailer
- 2 Campground Reservation Building
- 3 Male Employees' Housing Area Restroom
- 4 Boystown Comfort Station / Showerhouse Trailers



30 60 120 feet







CAMP CURRY 1925 PLAT MAP  
RESAMPLED AND COLOR CODED





