



Castle Rock  
Photo by Hanako Wakatsuki

### Gettin' Dirty at the Ditch Rider House

On November 26, 2013, Tule Lake and Lava Beds NPS staff participated in a fun day of cleaning up the Ditch Rider house and grounds at the historic Tule Lake Segregation Center site. The Ditch Rider House is located adjacent to the historic Paint and Carpentry Shop (part of the former Tule Lake Segregation Center). It is visible from Highway 139.

This property was recently transferred to the National Park Service from the Bureau of Reclamation and is on 37 acres of the Tule Lake Unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific

National Monument that encompasses part of the historic segregation center. Trash has accumulated on the property through the years and park staff made it a priority to spruce it up. This was a great way for park staff to engage with the Tule Lake



Figure 1. Park staff photo in front of the Ditch Rider House  
NPS Photo, 2013

Unit, create a sense of pride, and to preserve items of potential importance. Some of the unique items that were found onsite and saved were: the top of the guard tower (cupola), glass bottles, and ceramic insulators.

The most recent use of this house was for the Tulelake Irrigation District (TID) ditch rider residence. A ditch rider is a TID employee who maintains and clears the ditches within the irrigation district to



Figure 2. Garbage and historic trash on the property  
NPS Photo, 2013

ensure that the water flows properly through irrigation ditches.

This house was moved to the site sometime after 1948, likely in 1949. A Department of Interior assessment states that the “house is assumed to be moved from a different part of the segregation center to its current location,” but does not provide any context for this statement. Further research is needed to determine the historical integrity of the Ditch Rider House and if it is indeed from the Tule Lake Segregation Center.



Figure 3. Truck half-filled with garbage  
NPS Photo, 2013



Figure 4. Top of a guard tower (cupola)  
NPS Photo, 2014

