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
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED 4/13/79

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Bagby Stationhouse, Water tanks, Turntable

AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
N/A — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
El Portal — VICINITY OF Yose.Nat'l Pk — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fifteenth

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
California	06	Mariposa	043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
X OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER: Planned for exhibit

4 AGENCY National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36063

CITY, TOWN
San Francisco — VICINITY OF — STATE California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
National Park Service/Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER
Yosemite Village, P.O. Box 577

CITY, TOWN
Yosemite National Park — STATE CA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey (Bagby Stationhouse)

DATE
1960 — X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	_ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	X MOVED DATE 1966
X FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bagby Stationhouse is a 2-story, wood frame structure measuring 16' x 40', and is rectangular in plan. The building is tall and narrow because its original site was a thin strip of land between the tracks and the Merced River. It has a low-pitched hipped roof which overhangs 3', and provides parasol protection from the sun and weather. The roof is wood shingled. The walls are sheathed with 1" x 6" shiplap siding, and painted a mustard yellow color. The building is divided into three rooms on the first floor - at one end a waiting room, an office with a bay window in the middle, and a freight room at the opposite end. The second floor, which is reached by exterior stairs, has five rooms, a livingroom, bedroom, kitchen, bath, and an enclosed porch with a wall of screens. The building, while missing its platform and exterior stairs, is in good condition and has not suffered major alterations. It will be restored as an exhibit for the Transportation Museum.

The Bagby Turntable was evidently custom-built for the Yosemite Valley Railroad; it was prefabricated and assembled on-site. It is a hand-pushed railroad turntable of gallows type construction, made of heavy timbers and iron rods. The gallows is made of timbers, 16' high, and it rests on two large stringers, each consisting of four 3" x 12" bolted together. King post trusses are formed by eight 1" iron rods bent over the gallows and attached to the stringers. The iron tie rods are threaded for the turnbuckles and function as the tension members of the trusses. Timber cross ties, bolted underneath the stringers, carry the rails. The entire carriage revolved on wheels on a single circular rail about 8' in diameter, beneath the carter. The timbers were in a deteriorated condition before the turntable was moved to El Portal, and the intention is for them to function as patterns for the restoration of the turntable.

The Bagby Water Tanks are a pair of wooden tanks on a supporting structure, with an overall height of 30'. The wooden tanks are strapped with metal bands, and are placed on an open platform at 4" x 5" timbers. The tanks are protected by a single, standing seam metal roof, which is gabled. The tanks are supported by a framework of heavy 12" x 12" timbers. This structure was partially dismantled when moved, but remains in good condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Yosemite Valley Railroad

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Yosemite Valley Railroad ran from the San Joaquin Valley town of Merced to the village of El Portal, on the boundary of Yosemite National Park, for 38 years (1907-1945). Bagby Station, built in 1907, is the only remaining Y.V.R.R. stationhouse. Along with the uniquely designed twin water tanks, and the hand-operated turntable, the stationhouse is illustrative of an important era in Yosemite's history and thus is of local significance in transportation.

The structures were moved to the historic railhead of El Portal in 1966 prior to the inundation of Bagby by the raising of Exchequer Dam and the expansion of Lake McClure. The significance of the stationhouse, as the last of its kind on the Y.V.R.R., was recognized and funds were appropriated to salvage it. (The building was recorded for H.A.B.S. on its original site.)

The advent of railroad travel to Yosemite National Park signaled the end of the stagecoach era and significantly altered patterns of tourism and commerce within the park. With the arduous 2- to 3-day stagecoach ride reduced to a comfortable 4-hour journey, visitation increased rapidly. At the same time, visitors stayed in Yosemite for a much shorter duration, causing a high turnover rate and need for expansion of guest accommodations. Yosemite Valley businessmen were able to meet the needs of visitors with greater facility than in the past as the Y.V.R.R. brought supplies as well as passengers - eliminating the 10- to 14-day wait for the horse-drawn freight wagons.

Stagecoaches were still needed to transport passengers from El Portal to the valley floor as the final eight miles up the Merced River Canyon had proven impassable to the railroad. In 1913 auto "stages" replaced the horse-drawn vehicles and set in motion the eventual decline of railroad travel.

The completion of the All Year Highway, across the Merced River from the train tracks, occurred in 1926 and the Y.V.R.R. began to depend primarily on revenue from transporting freight for the various lineside industries that had developed during its heyday.

A disastrous flood in 1937 destroyed miles of track and the expense of replacing twisted rails and missing roadbed added to the financial difficulties caused by the loss of passenger traffic. These facts, combined with the loss of freight revenue when the Yosemite Sugar Pine Lumber Company sold its major holdings, put the railway out of business.

"In 1945, wrecking crews took up the track and another pioneer railroad disappeared."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johston, Hank. 1963. Railroads of Yosemite Valley. Long Beach. Johnston-Howe Publications.

Johnston, Hank. 1962. Shortline to Paradise. Long Beach. Johnston-Howe Publications.

El Portal Transportation Museum Prospectus. Yosemite National Park Research Library.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY N/A

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	11	2 5448510	4173100	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated properties are defined by the size and shape of the building or objects.

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/ Historic Architect

ORGANIZATION National Park Service/Denver Service Center

DATE 7/76

STREET & NUMBER 755 Parfet, P.O. BOx 25287

TELEPHONE (303)234-4509-Hart
(303)234-5545-Wilson

CITY OR TOWN Denver

STATE Colorado 80225

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No. 10-301
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Bagby Station House, Water Tanks, Turntable

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
El Portal

___VICINITY OF
Yosemite National Park

COUNTY
Mariposa

STATE
California

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1: 62500

DATE 1947

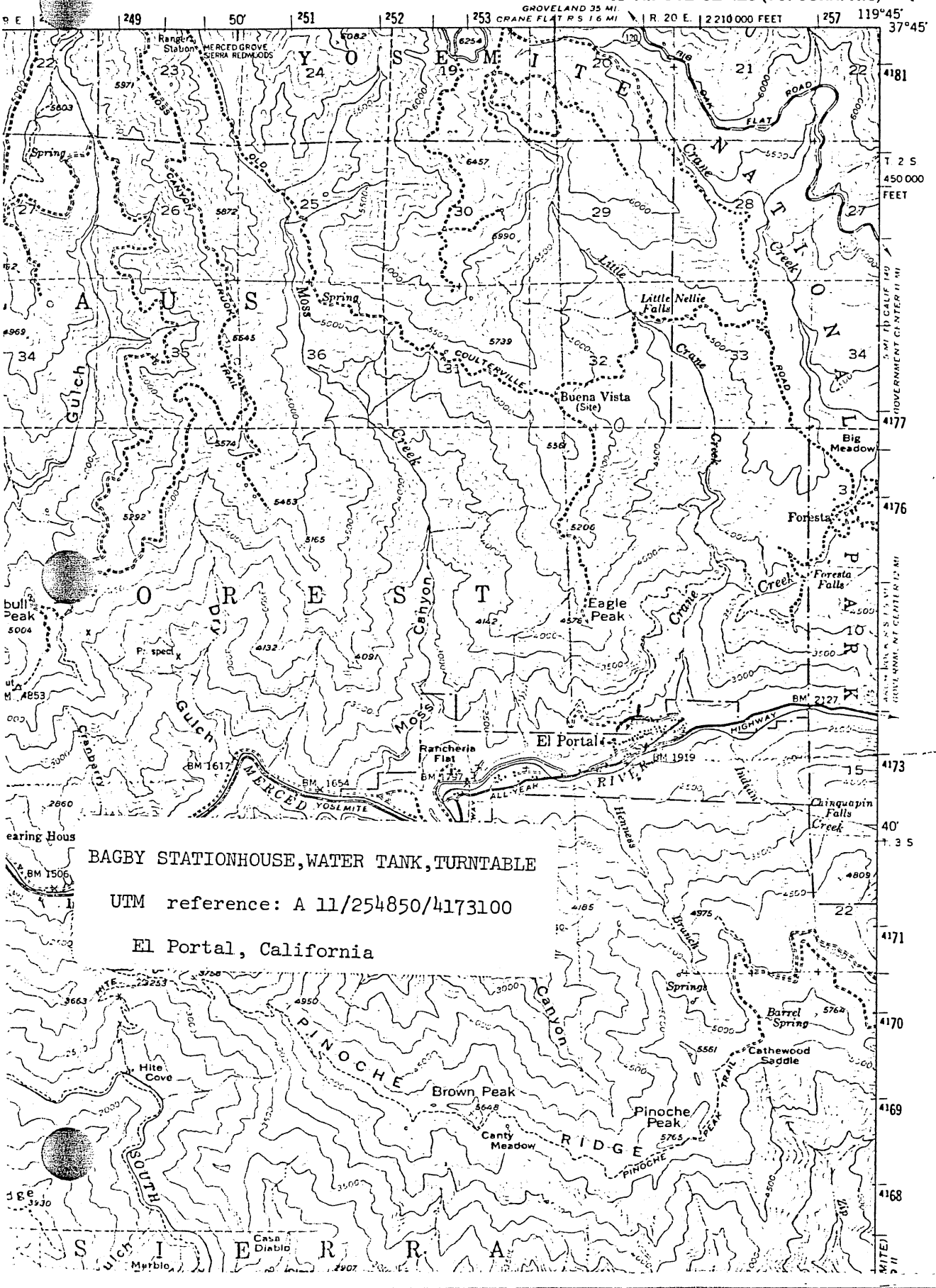
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 3464-75

2059 I
(HETCH HETCHY RESERVOIR

EL PORTAL QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA-MARIPOSA CO.
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



BAGBY STATIONHOUSE, WATER TANK, TURNTABLE

UTM reference: A 11/254850/4173100

El Portal, California

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Bagby Station "Armstrong" Turntable

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN: El Portal
___VICINITY OF: Yosemite National Park
COUNTY: Mariposa
STATE: California

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service
DATE OF PHOTO:

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Yosemite National Park

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Bagby Station Water Tanks

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN	___VICINITY OF	COUNTY	STATE
El Portal	Yosemite National Park	Mariposa	CAlifornia

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT National Park Service

DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT Yosemite National Park

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Form No. 10-301a
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bagby Station House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN: El Portal

___VICINITY OF: Yosemite National Park

COUNTY: Mariposa

STATE: California

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service

DATE OF PHOTO:

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Yosemite National Park, CA

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

REGION WESTERN PARK/AREA NAME YOSEMITE NP NPS ORGANIZATION CODE NO. 8800

STRUCTURE NAME Bagby WaterTower STRUCTURE NO. 779 - B

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National [ ] State [ ] Local [XX]

TREATMENT RECOMMENDED:

Est. Cost of Treatment Recommended: $ 4000.00

[ ] Preservation
[XX] Restoration
[ ] Reconstruction
[ ] Partial Reconstruction
[ ] Adaptive Restoration

Date of this Estimate: 1 September 1976

Est. Interim Cost (other than routine maintenence) pending completion of Recommended Treatment: $

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: El Portal

UTM REFERENCE: A 11 255 020 4170 345
Zone Easting Northing

CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: _____ acres.

STUDIES REQUIRED:

[N] Historical Studies Plan
[N] Historic Resource Study
[N] Historic Structure Report
[N] Historic Furnishing Study
[N] Historic Structure Preservation Guide

KEY:
N - not needed
P - programmed
C - completed
U - underway
R - required, but not yet scheduled

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Railroad WaterTower, Wood

Physical Description: The assembly is in three major pieces, consisting of two wood bases of heavy timber which will support the third piece; a complete unit with two large wood tanks covered by a shingled wood frame gabled roof.

All of the parts appear to be in good condition. The major work consists of re-assembly and painting of the structure, and the reconnection of the water piping to simulate the original. The assembled water tower is to be used for interpretive purposes only. The date of construction is not known.

(continue on reverse if necessary)

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent [ ] Good [ ] Fair [XX] Deteriorated [ ]
Ruins [ ] Unaltered [XX] Altered [ ] Original Site [ ] Moved [XX]

Report prepared by: Robert M. Cox

Robert M. Cox
Signature

31 July 1975
Date

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

REGION WESTERN PARK/AREA NAME YOSEMITE NP NPS ORGANIZATION CODE NO. 8800

STRUCTURE NAME TURNTABLE STRUCTURE NO. 779 - C

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National [ ] State [ ] Local [XX]

TREATMENT RECOMMENDED:

Est. Cost of Treatment Recommended: $ 28,000.oo

[ ] Preservation
[ ] Restoration
[ ] Reconstruction
[XX] Partial Reconstruction
[ ] Adaptive Restoration

Date of this Estimate: 1 September 1976

Est. Interim Cost (other than routine maintenence) pending completion of Recommended Treatment: $

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: EL PORTAL

UTM REFERENCE: A 11 255020 4170345
Zone Easting Northing

CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: _____ acres.

STUDIES REQUIRED:

[N] Historical Studies Plan
[N] Historic Resource Study
[N] Historic Structure Report
[N] Historic Furnishing Study
$1200. [R] Historic Structure Preservation Guide

KEY:
N - not needed
P - programmed
C - completed
U - underway
R - required, but not yet scheduled

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Railroad TurnTable, Wood & Metal.

Physical Description: This structure has been moved from another location and is in bad condition. It sits on grade on a circle of track which is the actual turntable.

The major horizontal wood beams, one on each side are supported on the circular carriage with numerous cross ties to both beams which form the actual track bed. Steel rods now disarranged, were supported on a vertical post at mid-points and formed a suspension truss to carry the ends of the turntable mechanism.

To reconstruct the table it all should be assembled in a pit so that a rail bed will be flush with the bed on the turntable. The major wood elements may need to be replaced in part while most of the metal parts may be re-used after straightening.

The overall dimensions are 60 feet long a nd 14 feet wide.

(continue on reverse if necessary)

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent [ ] Good [ ] Fair [ ] Deteriorated [XX]
Ruins [ ] Unaltered [XX] Altered [ ] Original Site [ ] Moved [XX]

Report prepared by: Robert M. Cox

Robert M. Cox

31 July 1975

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

REGION WESTERN PARK/AREA NAME YOSEMITE NP NPS ORGANIZATION CODE NO. 8800

STRUCTURE NAME Bagby StationHouse STRUCTURE NO. 779 - A

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National [ ] State [ ] Local [XX]

TREATMENT RECOMMENDED:

Est. Cost of Treatment Recommended: $ 7300.00

[ ] Preservation
[XX] Restoration
[ ] Reconstruction
[ ] Partial Reconstruction
[ ] Adaptive Restoration

Date of this Estimate: 1 September 1976

Est. Interim Cost (other than routine maintenence) pending completion of Recommended Treatment: $

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: El Portal

UTM REFERENCE:
A 11 | 255020 | 4170345
Zone Easting Northing

CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: _____ acres.

STUDIES REQUIRED:

[N] Historical Studies Plan
[N] Historic Resource Study
[N] Historic Structure Report
[N] Historic Furnishing Study
[N] Historic Structure Preservation Guide

KEY:
N - not needed
P - programmed
C - completed
U - underway
R - required, but not yet scheduled

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Railroad StationHouse, Wood

Physical Description: The building is of wood frame construction with horizontal wood siding on the walls, and a wood shingled hipped roof with boxed soffit, all in good condition.

All doors are wood. Other openings were closed and covered with plywood panels. The entire building is painted a yellow/gold color.

The building which has been moved now sits on temporary concrete blocks and is raised well above grade. Construction ghosts show where steps led to the 2nd floor, these were attached to the exterior along one side.

The stationhouse sits very close to and behind a large gasoline station.

It is recommended that a proper concrete foundation be insta lled under the building, and that new electric wiring be installed. Also the stairs should be again attached to the exterior and a new loading platform should be built.

(continue on reverse if necessary)

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent [ ] Good [XX] Fair [ ] Deteriorated [ ]
Ruins [ ] Unaltered [ ] Altered [XX] Original Site [ ] Moved [XX]

Report prepared by: Robert M. Cox

Robert M. Cox
Signature

31 July 1975
Date