
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2007



Soda Springs Complex
Yosemite National Park

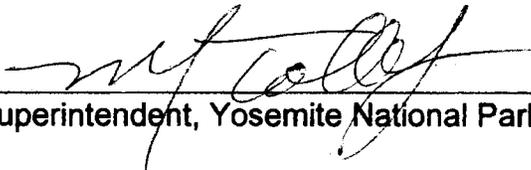
**National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2007**

**Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic
District
Yosemite National Park**

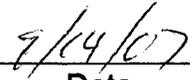
Yosemite National Park concurs with the findings of the CLI, including the management category and condition assessment as identified below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: B: Should be preserved and maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good



Superintendent, Yosemite National Park



Date

Please return to:

John Hammond
Historical Landscape Architect
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office-Oakland
1111 Jackson St. Suite 700
Oakland, CA, 94607

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS SODA SPRINGS HISTORIC DISTRICT
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

California SHPO Consensus Determination of Eligibility

Actions Requested:

1) SHPO concurrence with the eligibility of the Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District for the National Register of Historic Places:

I concur X, I do not concur _____ that the Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District is **eligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

2) SHPO concurrence that the landscape characteristics as identified in the attached Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) documentation contribute to the historic character of the district (see the following landscape characteristics within the CLI: buildings and structures, natural systems and features, spatial organization, circulation, small scale features, and archeological sites):

I concur X, I do not concur _____ that the **landscape characteristics** as described in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District.

3) SHPO concurrence with the lists of contributing and non-contributing structures to the Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District (see tables below).

Existing National Register Status: The following structures are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

Structure Name	NRIS Number
McCauley Cabin	77000359
Soda Springs Enclosure	79000282
Parsons Memorial Lodge	79000283

Contributing Structures: Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following **structures** have been identified as **contributing** features of the Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District:

Structure Name	Date Built	Concur	Do not Concur
Soda Springs Trail	Pre-1937	✓	
Road to Parsons Memorial Lodge	1912-1937	✓	
Bruin Baffle	1937	✓	
Soda Springs Bridge Pier and Abutments	1915	✓	
Stone Grills (2)	1937	✓	
Trash Vault	1937	✓	

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures are **not contributing** to the Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District:

Structure Name	Date	Concur	Do not Concur
Sewage Pond Service Road	Ca. 1970	✓	
Trail from Tuolumne River (due to lack of integrity)	Unkn.	✓	
Soda Springs Bridge Girders, Deck, and Railing	1969	✓	
Soda Springs Comfort Station	1990	✓	

Reasons/comments why any 'Do Not Concur' blocks were checked:

Stephen S. Wilkes @ DSHTO
 California State Historic Preservation Officer

9/21/07
 Date

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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Cultural Landscapes Inventory – General Information

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a database containing information on the historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved inventory records when all required data fields are entered, the park superintendent concurs with the information, and the landscape is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places through a consultation process or is otherwise managed as a cultural resource through a public planning process.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two goals are associated with the CLI: 1) increasing the number of certified cultural landscapes (1b2B); and 2) bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (1a7). The CLI maintained by Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, WASO, is the official source of cultural landscape information.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated and approved at the regional level. Each region annually updates a strategic plan that prioritizes work based on a variety of park and regional needs that include planning and construction projects or associated compliance requirements that lack cultural landscape documentation. When the inventory unit record is complete and concurrence with the findings is obtained from the superintendent and the State Historic Preservation Office, the regional CLI coordinator certifies the record and transmits it to the national CLI Coordinator for approval. Only records approved by the national CLI coordinator are included on the CLI for official reporting purposes.

Relationship between the CLI and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)

The CLI and the CLR are related efforts in the sense that both document the history,

significance, and integrity of park cultural landscapes. However, the scope of the CLI is limited by the need to achieve concurrence with the park superintendent resolve eligibility questions when a National Register nomination does not exist or the nomination inadequately addresses the eligibility of the landscape characteristics. Ideally, a park's CLI work (which many include multiple inventory units) precedes a CLR because the baseline information in the CLI not only assists with priority setting when more than one CLR is needed it also assists with determining more accurate scopes of work.

In contrast, the CLR is the primary treatment document for significant park landscapes. It, therefore, requires an additional level of research and documentation both to evaluate the historic and the existing condition of the landscape in order to recommend preservation treatment that meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties.

The scope of work for a CLR, when the CLI has not been done, should include production of the CLI record. Depending on its age and scope, existing CLR's are considered the primary source for the history, statement of significance, and descriptions of contributing resources that are necessary to complete a CLI record.

Inventory Unit Description:

The Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District is a component landscape of the parent Tuolumne Meadows Historic District. It comprises about 140 acres on the northern edge of Tuolumne Meadows. The Soda Spring Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the contextual theme of outdoor recreation and environmental preservation beginning with Jean Baptiste Lambert and ending with the Sierra Club; and under Criterion C for its association with architecture, landscape design, and the construction of the visitor experience as an early precursor to Park Service rustic style architecture and naturalistic landscape architecture. The period of significance for the district is 1885 to 1937. These dates reflect the period during which most development associated with the significance of the district occurred. This period begins with the year John Baptiste Lambert homesteaded the land and ends with the construction of the Bruin Baffle, the last substantial addition made by the Sierra Club. The period of significance does not include the construction of the Great Sierra Wagon Road, which occurred in 1883, because that structure is associated with a different contextual theme—the mining frontier—and should be documented separately.

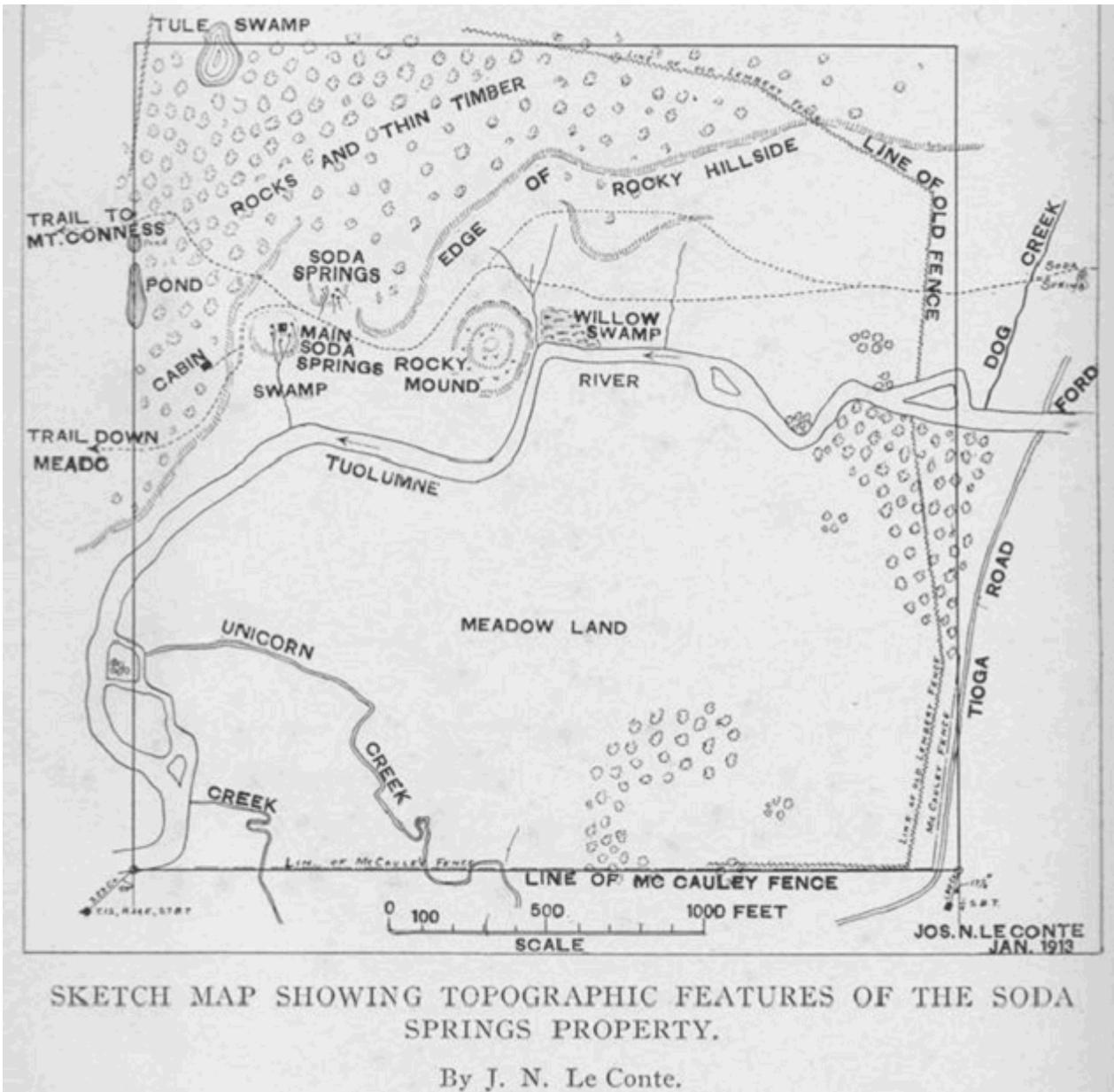
The most heavily developed part of the district lies on a granite bench slightly elevated above the meadow and overlooking the Tuolumne River from the north. Lodgepole pine forest covers a portion of this area. The district also extends south of the Tuolumne River, following the historic property boundaries of the original homestead. This part of the district lies within the lowland meadow but little physical development exists here. The Soda Springs Historic District derives its name from several mineral springs that lie on the edge of the bench just north of the river. These were enclosed in a log structure by the original homesteader, John Baptiste Lambert, in the late nineteenth-century. Other contributing historic features stand nearby and include the McCauley Cabin and Parsons Memorial Lodge. All three structures are listed on the National Register. Parsons Memorial Lodge has also been designated a National Historic Landmark. The district also includes several structures and small-scale

Soda Springs Complex Yosemite National Park

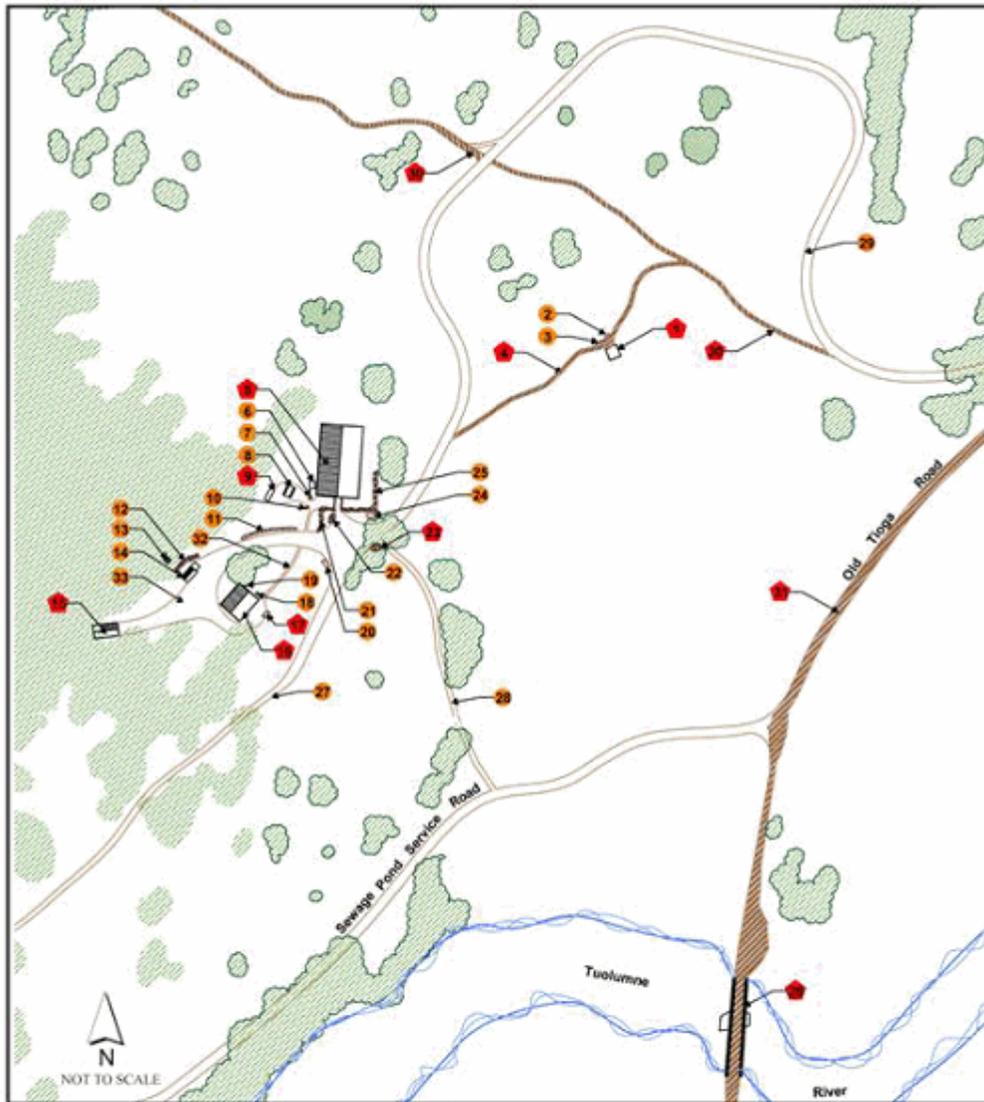
features introduced by the Sierra Club, which owned the land from 1912 to 1973. A segment of the historic Great Sierra Wagon Road is still extant within the district, though it is used now only as a foot trail. Other segments of the district's circulation reflect the original alignment of this road but have been substantially altered in other respects and no longer retain historic integrity.

The Soda Springs Historic District is currently owned and managed by the National Park Service, which bought the land from the Sierra Club in 1973. In 1976, only three years after this land transfer, the Park Service closed down the Sierra Club campgrounds and allowed the landscape on which this historic use had occurred to naturalize. The Park Service has otherwise retained, preserved or restored the remaining contributing features within the historic district, and the district as a whole retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance in history. The principal character-defining features embodied in the design, workmanship and materials of the district's architecture and landscaping remain intact and convey its significance under Criterion C. The district's location overlooking Tuolumne Meadows, its setting as a place of outdoor recreation and scenic delight, its feeling of rustic development and informal community and its association with the western frontier all remain intact and convey its significance under Criterion A. The landscape features that contribute to the significance of the district include natural systems and features, spatial organization, circulation, buildings and structures, small-scale features and archeological sites.

Site Plan



Map showing Soda Springs Historic District in 1913. [From Sierra Club Bulletin, 9.1 (January, 1913): 37].



Legend		Key			
Contributing Feature		1. Soda Springs Enclosure	11. Lined-up Rocks	21. Stone Wall	31. Old Tioga Road
Noncontributing Feature		2. Interpretive Panel	12. Rock Wall	22. NHL Monument	32. Foot Path
Contributing Circulation		3. Bench	13. Electrical Box	23. Bear Box	33. NPS Parking
Noncontributing Circulation		4. Trail From Soda Springs	14. Comfort Station	24. Interpretive Panel	
		5. Parsons Memorial Lodge	15. Bruin Baffle	25. Stone Wall	
		6. Utility Box	16. McCauley Cabin	26. Soda Springs Bridge Abutments and Pier	
		7. Utility Box	17. Barbecue	27. Campground Trail	
		8. Reconstructed Picnic Table	18. Utility Box	28. Trail from River	
		9. Barbecue	19. Utility Box	29. Road to Parsons Memorial Lodge	
		10. Water Valve	20. Interpretive Panel	30. Glenn Aulin Trail	

Detail of Soda Springs Historic District showing principal features in the developed areas. (YOSE 2006) (See Boundary Description for full representation of district boundaries).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:

Soda Springs Complex

Property Level: Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number: 725311
Parent Landscape: 725308

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code: Yosemite National Park -YOSE
Park Organization Code: 8800
Park Administrative Unit: Yosemite National Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

The Soda Springs Historic District is a component landscape within the Tuolumne Meadows Historic District parent landscape.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Data for the Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs CLI was collected in the summer of 2006 by Heidi Y. Granke, Daniel Schaible, and Steven Torgerson. Data was entered into the CLI database in 2007 by Daniel Schaible.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/14/2007

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 09/27/2007

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

Soda Springs Historic District is being documented as part of the Tuolumne Meadows Historic District. It has been singled out for separate documentation, because its unique history and patterns of development distinguish it from the surrounding Tuolumne Meadows Historic District, of which it is a part. This Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) record elaborates on some of the details which define its character and convey its special significance in history. For documentation of the larger district and a more detailed discussion of the history and historical contexts of Tuolumne Meadows, please see the CLI record for the Tuolumne Meadows Historic District.

This CLI will be submitted to the California SHPO for concurrence determination during fiscal year 2007.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Soda Springs Historic District is defined by the original boundaries of John Baptiste Lambert's homestead in the SW Quarter of Section 5, Township 1 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Meridian. This boundary is adjusted for the wilderness boundary, established in 1983, which excludes several acres on the north and northwest sides of the original tract.

State and County:

State: CA

County: Tuolumne County

Size (Acres): 140.00

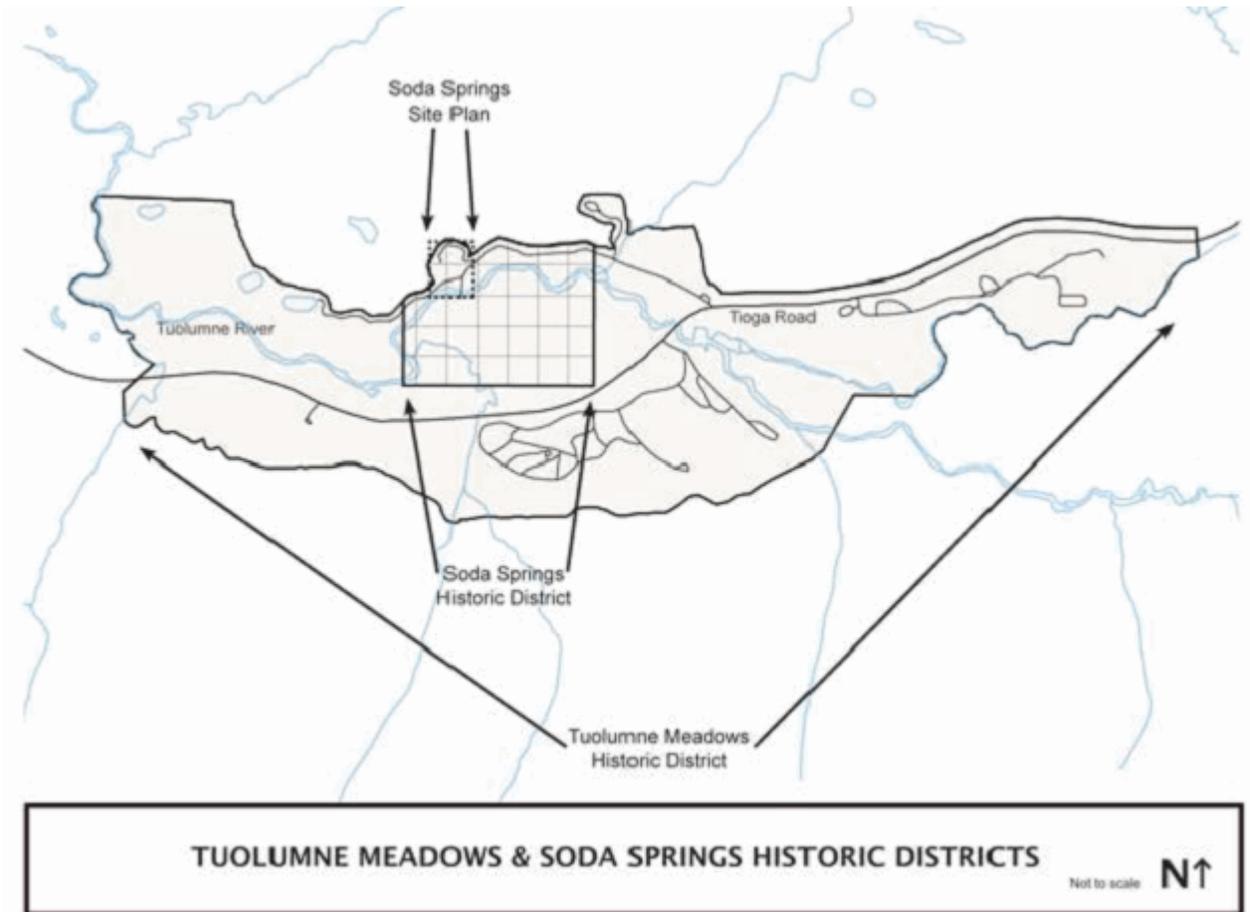
Boundary UTMS:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11	291,849	4,194,687
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11	291,816	4,194,762
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11	291,915	4,194,881
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11	292,020	4,194,811
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11	292,602	4,194,855
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11	292,602	4,194,205
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11	291,849	4,194,205

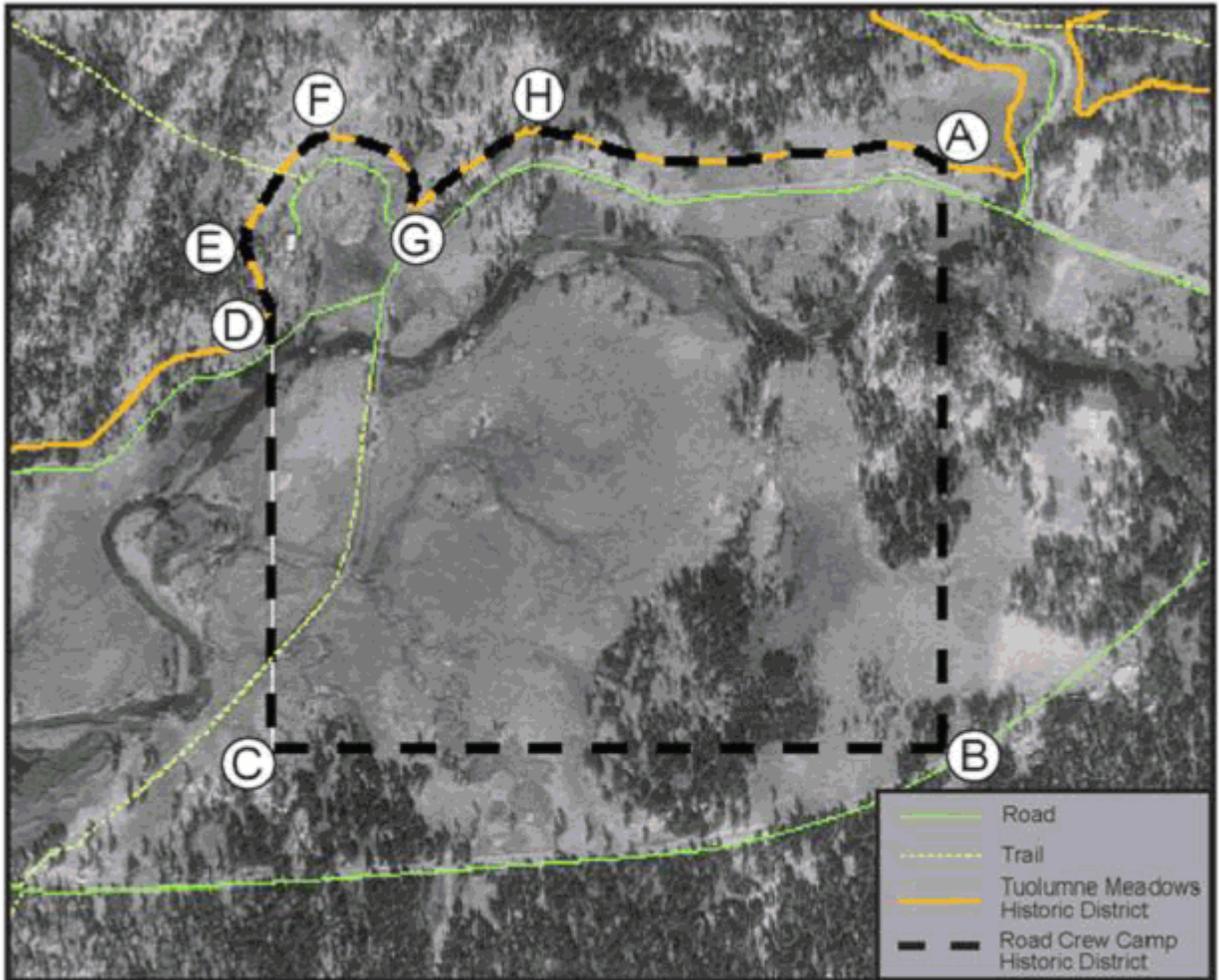
Location Map:



Location of component Soda Springs Historic District and parent Tuolumne Meadows Historic District within Yosemite National Park.



Map illustrating boundary of the Tuolumne Meadows Historic District, the boundary of the Soda Springs Historic District and the area included in the Site Plan #2 map on page 10



Map illustrating boundary description of the Soda Springs historic district with locations of selected reference points. Coordinates of points are given in tables below.

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Soda Springs is a group of natural mineral carbonated springs located at the north edge of the Tuolumne Meadows. To the north of the springs is an upland plateau with natural benches that create ideal locations for camping and building. On this plateau are the primary buildings in the area. John Muir described Tuolumne Meadows as the “finest camp ground in the whole High Sierra.” (Sierra Club Resolution Dec. 16, 1911) The Soda Springs Historic District area includes a portion of the Tuolumne River and the Great Sierra Wagon Road.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Before the formation of Yosemite National Park, shepherders used Tuolumne Meadows for summer grazing of sheep and goats. Travelers to the Tuolumne Meadows area arrived there via the Mono trail until the Great Sierra Wagon Road was built in 1883. This road bisected Tuolumne Meadows and crossed the Tuolumne River near Soda Springs. It is likely this route was chosen because of its proximity to the springs and its ability to easily cross or ford the river.

The Soda Springs Historic District was the only portion of Tuolumne Meadows to be homesteaded. A U.S. Patent was issued to John Baptiste Lumbert in 1895 for the parcel, five years after the formation of Yosemite National Park. Following this, there was a succession of three more private owners before the property became part of Yosemite National Park in 1973: Jacob Lumbert (John’s brother), the McCauley family, and the Sierra Club. Lumbert and the McCauleys grazed cattle on the land while the Sierra Club had campgrounds and the headquarters for their High Sierra Trips on the land.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 11/16/2006

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Management Category for the proposed Tuolumne Meadows Historic District is B—Should be Preserved and Maintained—because it meets the following criteria: the inventory unit meets National Register criteria, is compatible with the park’s legislated significance, and has a continuing or potential purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use or function.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement:

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

Explanatory Narrative:

Public access to some of the historic buildings is prohibited. Access to Parsons Memorial Lodge is limited to special events. The rest of the district is accessible to the public, but motor vehicle access is permitted only for official Park Service vehicles.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Soda Springs Historic District is not currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, Parsons Memorial Lodge is a National Historic landmark and both the McCauley Cabin and the Soda Springs Enclosure are on the National Register of Historic Places. While these structures were documented in their respective nominations, the other resources in the district, including buildings and structures and other landscape characteristics, have not been documented for the National Register.

Existing NRIS Information:

NRIS Number:	79000283
Primary Certification:	
Primary Certification Date:	04/30/1979
Other Names:	Building 3081
NRIS Number:	77000359
Primary Certification:	
Primary Certification Date:	03/08/1977
Other Names:	Caretaker's Cabin
NRIS Number:	79000282
Primary Certification:	
Primary Certification Date:	04/19/1979
Other Names:	John Lembert Homestead

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	Local

Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period: AD 1885 - 1937
Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme: Recreation
Facet: Tourism
Time Period: AD 1885 - 1937
Historic Context Theme: Transforming the Environment
Subtheme: Conservation of Natural Resources
Facet: Scenic Preservation
Time Period: AD 1885 - 1937
Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme: Architecture
Facet: Rustic Architecture

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category	Area of Significance Subcategory
Entertainment - Recreation	None
Conservation	None
Architecture	None

Statement of Significance:

Significant under Criteria N (i), (ii), (iii)

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: No
Landmark Theme: The Parsons Memorial Lodge was designated a NHL on May 28, 1987 and associated with the

theme Recreation and Culture-
Outdoor, however, the entire
proposed district is not a
designated National Historic
Landmark.

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status:	Yes
Date Determined Site:	01/01/1984
World Heritage Category:	Natural

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:	Historic Site
Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Livestock	Historic
Alpine Meadow	Both Current And Historic
Cabin/Lookout	Both Current And Historic
Campground/Picnic Area	Historic
Camp	Both Current And Historic
Hiking Trail	Both Current And Historic
Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)	Current

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Soda Springs	Historic
Lembert's Soda Springs	Historic
Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs	Current

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1869	Inhabited	John Muir first visits Tuolumne Meadows.
AD 1883	Built	The Great Sierra Wagon Road was constructed through Tuolumne Meadows.
AD 1885	Homesteaded	(August 15) John Baptiste Lembert filed claim for 160 acres around Soda Springs.
AD 1886	Built	Approximate date that Lembert built his one room cabin.
AD 1889	Built	Lembert built enclosure over three of the larger Soda Springs.
	Inhabited	John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson visited Tuolumne Meadows and camped at Soda Springs.
AD 1890	Established	Yosemite National Park was established and encompassed Lembert's homestead.
AD 1892	Engineered	The Sierra Club was formed.
AD 1894	Altered	Shed addition was made to Lembert's original cabin to house his donkey.
AD 1895	Homesteaded	(June 23) John Lembert received patent for his quarter section claim in Tuolumne Meadows.
AD 1896 - 1897	Land Transfer	John Lembert was murdered and his property transferred to his brother Jacob Lembert.
AD 1897	Land Transfer	December 27, Jacob Lembert sold the Soda Springs homestead to the McCauley brothers.
AD 1901	Inhabited	First Sierra Club Annual Outing visited Soda Springs in Tuolumne Meadows.
AD 1902	Built	McCauley brothers built a new cabin at Soda Springs.

Soda Springs Complex
Yosemite National Park

	Built	Bridge built over Tuolumne River near Lember's Soda Springs.
	Built	The Army built a trail from Mono Meadow to Lember's Soda Springs.
AD 1903	Inhabited	Army established a patrol station in Tuolumne Meadows near Soda Springs.
AD 1904	Inhabited	Army reestablished patrol station in Tuolumne Meadows.
	Built	Army built trail from Soda Springs to Palmer Trail.
AD 1905	Inhabited	Army reestablished patrol station in Tuolumne Meadows.
AD 1909	Built	Branch telegraph installed from Soda Springs to Yosemite Valley.
AD 1912	Land Transfer	McCauley brothers sold Soda Springs property to the Sierra Club for \$7,000.
AD 1915	Built	Sierra Club built Parsons Memorial Lodge.
	Built	Formal campgrounds were established by Sierra Club at Soda Springs.
	Land Transfer	The Great Sierra Wagon Road was purchased by Sierra Club member William Colby (on behalf of Stephen Mather) and given to Yosemite National Park.
	Altered	The Great Sierra Wagon Road was repaired and reopened. It was referred to as the Tioga Road from this time on.
	Altered	The original alignment of the Great Sierra Wagon Road was altered so that it now entered the Soda Springs property near the southwest corner of the tract (rather than the southeast corner). The Sierra Club granted an easement to the federal government for this new alignment.

Soda Springs Complex
Yosemite National Park

	Built	A bridge was built over the Tuolumne River just south of the Soda Springs enclosure. This replaced the original ford east of Dog Creek where the old road alignment had crossed the river.
AD 1923	Built	A new two-span bridge was built over the Tuolumne River, replacing the original 1915 bridge.
	Established	An easement was granted to Sierra Club by the National Park Service to pipe water from Delaney Creek to Parsons Lodge and the Sierra Club campground.
AD 1933	Moved	The Tioga Road was realigned so that it now crossed through the Soda Springs property.
AD 1935	Altered	Parsons Memorial Lodge received a new roof and concrete floor.
AD 1937	Built	Sierra Club built the Bruin Baffle and made other improvements to the property during the summer.
AD 1938	Established	Sierra Club granted the National Park Service an easement for sewer line across Soda Springs property.
AD 1941	Moved	Caretaker residence moved from Parsons Memorial Lodge to McCauley Cabin.
AD 1961	Built	The final 21 mile section of road widening and realignment was completed along the Tioga Road.
AD 1969	Altered	Following damage that the Soda Springs Bridge sustained during a flood, the bridges decking and girders were replaced while the bridges historic pier and abutments were retained.
AD 1973	Land Transfer	Sierra Club sold its Soda Springs property to the National Park Service for \$208,000.
AD 1976	Abandoned	Park Service closed and obliterated the Soda Springs campground.
AD 1977	Established	McCauley Cabin listed on National Register of Historic Places.

Soda Springs Complex
Yosemite National Park

AD 1979	Established	Parsons Memorial Lodge listed on National Register of Historic Places.
	Established	Soda Springs Enclosure listed on National Register of Historic Places.
AD 1987	Established	Parsons Memorial Lodge designated as National Historic Landmark.
AD 1993	Preserved	Parsons Memorial Lodge preserved by Yosemite Historic Preservation Team.
AD 1995	Moved	Transformer moved away from Parsons Memorial Lodge.
AD 1996	Rehabilitated	McCauley Cabin rehabilitated by Yosemite Historic Preservation Team for use as a modern ranger's residence.
AD 1997	Altered	Removable track lighting and interpretive display cases installed in Parsons Memorial Lodge.
AD 2002	Restored	Soda Springs Enclosure restored by Yosemite Historic Preservation Team.
AD 2003	Preserved	Bruin Baffle preserved by Yosemite Historic Preservation Team

Physical History:

Introduction

This section is an update of the information in Linda Greene's Historic Resource Study, *Yosemite: The Park and Its Resources*. Some of the information is copied directly from this source, some has been modified and updated, and additional information has been added. Other information was found in the Sierra Club Records in the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. Also consulted were the Sierra Club Bulletins, Yosemite Nature Notes, historic photos in the Yosemite Research Library and drawings found in the Yosemite Drawing Archive. Personal interviews constituted another valuable source of information.

The history of Soda Springs can be divided in phases according to the successive owners of the property. Each owner added another layer of significance to the site. The structures that John Baptiste Lumbert built comprise the first permanent settlement within Tuolumne Meadows and represent the first attempt, albeit on a small scale, to develop tourist facilities within Tuolumne Meadows. Lumbert also contributed much to the science of lepidopterology, or the study of butterflies, through his collection of local species and the knowledge he shared with visiting students and scientists. Lumbert also pastured angora goats on the property and let sheepherders graze their flock on his property for a fee. The McCauley brothers continued to use the property as pastureland, and constructed a new cabin on the site that was used as a bunkhouse for their sheepherders. The purchase of the property by the Sierra Club marked a new approach to the land and buildings. The Sierra Club centered their club activities in the area, creating a campground and lodge for member use. The Club intended to manage the property in a manner consistent with Park Service management of the surrounding Yosemite National Park. After its ownership of the property became politically controversial and financially burdensome, the Sierra Club finally sold Soda Springs to the Federal Government, and the parcel was incorporated into Yosemite National Park. [1]

Pre-Settlement

In 1863 an expedition of the California Geological Survey reached Tuolumne Meadows while studying the watershed between the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers. These surveyors discovered mineral springs within Tuolumne Meadows and named them Soda Springs. [2]

The Great Sierra Wagon Road was completed in September 1883 to access silver mines in the Tioga Pass area. The road passed through Tuolumne Meadows adjacent to Soda Springs. [3]

First Settlement - Lumbert

The first European settler of Tuolumne Meadows was John (Jean) Baptiste Lumbert, who established a homestead claim at Soda Springs in 1885, patented on June 28, 1895. Originally from New York, where he received a classical education, Lumbert worked in and around Yosemite Valley for several years and also constructed a winter cabin among the Indians on the north side of the Merced River Canyon, below modern El Portal. At his homestead claim in Tuolumne Meadows, a few feet in front of the present-day Parsons Memorial Lodge, Lumbert built a simple, one-room cabin of large, round timbers laid on a granite stone foundation. The

shake-chinked and shake-roofed structure had a crude fireplace and a chimney of granite rocks, adequate for summer occupancy only. On the east side, Lembert added a shed for his donkey. [4]

Around 1889, Lembert erected a small log enclosure over three of the larger soda springs in order to protect them from contamination by flocks of invasive, non-native sheep and cattle. The structure measured nine by eleven feet and had no windows, while its peeled logs interlocked at the corners with V-notch joints. Lembert also fenced in his land, making it available to graze for a fee to parties passing through with stock. Lembert welcomed passersby and was especially friendly with many of the sheepherders frequenting the area. As William Colby recalled, “Lembert missed the companionship of the sheepmen who had furnished him with mutton and made his eremitic life less lonely. He had established firm friendships with some of them, so that after the park was first created, he used to warn those who continued to trespass with their flocks. . .” Lembert also had friends among the Yosemite and Mono tribes who came to the meadows to trade in the summer, although he is rumored to have disturbed burial grounds in search of relics. [5]

In an attempt to secure his homestead rights and provide a source of income, Lembert briefly introduced a flock of angora goats in the late 1880s, but later lost them to a blinding snowstorm in the winter of 1889-90. Anxious over his homestead application, he pursued a mining claim as well—sinking a three-foot ‘mine’ into solid granite—though this claim was never granted. [6] After the winter of 1890, the meadows were visited by Dr. Harrison Dyar, a lepidopterist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Dr. Dyar employed Lembert as a guide in the valley collecting Sierran plant and insect specimens, and reported well on the latter’s classical education and expertise in collection. [7] Dyar would later name the *Hepialis lemberti* species of butterfly in honor of his guide, and Lembert would go on to collect for the Smithsonian Museum and University of California at Berkeley, in addition to Dyar’s home bureau. [8]

Although species collection would provide much of his income in the latter years of his life, Lembert also attempted bottling the water from the Soda Springs, and O’Neill argues he may have sought to create a health spa in the area—a popular business at the time. [9] However, as with his brief stint in goat-herding, these efforts would remain unsuccessful. Although many of his contemporaries regarded Lembert as penniless and eccentric, his frugal lifestyle and multiple sources of income allowed him to accumulate substantial monetary savings. Each fall, he would return to his cabin on the Merced River. He was murdered there during the winter of 1896-1897, reportedly for his unprotected wealth. His murderers were never apprehended. [10]

Second Owner - The McCauleys

Following John Lembert's death, the Soda Springs plot passed to his brother Jacob—who promptly sold the property on December 27, 1897 to John James McCauley, Juliet Alfred McCauley, and Frederick William McCauley of Big Meadow for a sum of three hundred dollars. The McCauleys re-fenced much of the land in 1902 and used it for grazing cattle, while building a new, larger cabin on the rocky knoll west of the springs. The single-story, one-room

McCauley cabin—among the more recently constructed log cabins in Yosemite—still stands in Tuolumne Meadows slightly west of Parsons Memorial Lodge. The McCauleys built the structure as a bunkhouse, and the original character of peeled, round logs on the exterior (flat-hewn on the interior), a rock foundation with mortar chinking, and box-notched corner joints remain. Some modern features do appear in the structure, including such alterations as a shingle roof with flashing (which replaced a corrugated galvanized steel roof), a concrete floor, a screen door, and glass windows.

Third Owner - Sierra Club

Although John Muir and other conservationists were delighted with the preservation of the Yosemite high country through establishment of the national park, they remained concerned that forces bent on the exploitation of the fledgling parks would continue to agitate for mineral, timber, water, and homestead rights. Conservationists began to envision a unified effort to resist those efforts and lobby for preservation of the wilderness. Simultaneously, a growing number of California residents began to express interest in hiking and exploring the Sierras. What they needed was an organization that would provide maps and material related to mountaineering. These two communities were eager allies in the effort to preserve California's natural wonders, especially within the Yosemite region.

On June 4th, 1892, prominent conservationists formed the Sierra Club, with John Muir inaugurated as president. Patterned after the East Coast-based Appalachian Club, the Sierra Club dedicated itself to exploring the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast, publishing reliable information concerning that area, and enlisting the cooperation of the people and government in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada. Momentum, however, was slow to build with the Club, and despite regular meetings and the publication of the Club's monthly Bulletin beginning in 1893, public interest began to wane. In 1897 the Sierra Club sought permission to establish headquarters in Yosemite Valley—where it could provide maps and other information to visitors, and offer both short trips and longer excursions into the high country. A year later it reached an agreement with the Board of Yosemite Commissioners that the latter would repair the Sinning Cottage on the opposite side of the road from the Sentinel Hotel for the Sierra Club's use as a general information bureau. The Club then furnished the house and provided publications, maps, and collections relating to the High Sierra. The Club and the board of commissioners both bore the salary for a summer attendant, who would staff the bureau for the Club and also assist the Guardian by directing campers to campgrounds and by dispensing general information about the valley to visitors in the Guardian's absence.

The idea of sponsoring mountain excursions seemed the most likely prospect for reinvigorating the Club, but the idea received only minimal consideration until the arrival of William E. Colby. In 1900, Colby, a lawyer and enthusiastic hiker, proposed leading organized outings into the High Sierra. Club President Muir agreed with the suggestion and made Colby chairman of the Outing Committee. The Club scheduled the first official Sierra Club Outing for Tuolumne Meadows in the summer of 1901. As planning for the inaugural event continued, successful businessman and accomplished mountaineer Edward Parsons joined the Club. Already a member of several prestigious mountaineering groups, Parsons paired with Colby to lead hundreds of hikers through the mountains over the next several years. Though Parsons would

die in 1914, the same year as John Muir, Colby would live until 1949, serving sixteen years on the Yosemite Advisory Board, forty-four years as secretary of the Sierra Club, and two as its president.

The first of Colby's outings—now an established Sierra Club tradition--consisted of rugged day-long expeditions into the surrounding mountains from the Soda Springs base camp in Tuolumne Meadows. The outings initiated a unique social and instructive institution in the Sierra Nevada, and Club members returned year after year for the popular trips while developing life-long friendships amid active social programming. Occasionally, Muir and other naturalist experts would lead natural history lectures, complete with reading assignments, around evening campfires. The trips were intended to instill in Club members an appreciation of the beauty and inspiration of the mountains, and also were designed to attract new members and provide a pleasant recreational experience. Soda Springs, where the Sierra Club established a campground and later a lodge, became the center of field activities for Sierra Club members, perhaps at the urging of Muir himself, who often described the land as his favorite camping spot. [11] The Club sponsored various summer and winter activities in that area, including hiking, sightseeing, cross-country skiing, and mountaineering. The Sierra Club's Outings had a strong impact on backcountry use, providing the impetus for additional trail building and map work, while they also encouraged public awareness of natural conservation.

Regarding the Club's Outings, President Muir explicitly sought greater public use of the parks, and once wrote of Soda Springs, "let those contemplating health journeys to fashionable Bethesdas bear Tuolumne in mind," referencing the Biblical font of healing. [12] Sierra Club historian Michael Cohen argues "the Club's outing style had a major influence on the style of recreation and ecological education which [first national Director Stephen] Mather brought to the national parks, and which has continued to predominate this day." [13]

The Sierra Club aimed at the promotion of both a recreational and aesthetic appreciation of the entire High Sierra country, but it was especially protective of Yosemite. Its genuine concern for the future of that great preserve became apparent in the early twentieth century during the battles over recession of the Yosemite Grant and the proposed development of the Hetch Hetchy Valley. The Sierra Club's dedication to the preservation of Yosemite National Park would be severely tested during the latter controversy. The club's leading members, although disheartened by the outcome of the issue, nevertheless had acquired knowledge of political processes and skills in political maneuvering that would prove invaluable in the future. After this fight, the Club acquired a reputation of considerable influence, ensuring its participation in important public policy decisions on conservation matters. [14]

In the first several years after its founding, the Sierra Club acquired various properties in the mountains of California, including undeveloped lands as well as lodges or huts, either on their own property or on sites leased from the federal government. The Club received some parcels of land as gifts and purchased others to protect important holdings from exploitation or use as building sites. The lodges served as recreational centers for members and their guests, as repositories of mountaineering information, or as emergency shelters.

One such property—Soda Springs—was made available in the fall of 1911 by J.J. McCauley. Seeing the opportunity to prevent undesirable development, as well as a chance to utilize the area as a Yosemite meeting ground for the Club, a broad fundraising campaign was undertaken by the Sierra Club to purchase the land. Having raised over \$208,000, the Club acquired the land fee simple on June 13, 1912. In a letter to Stephen Mather, one Club member explained: We acquired the Soda springs property originally because the Government was not in a position to acquire it and we saw no hope in its doing so. We did it primarily with the interest of the public in mind, and only incidentally with the idea of establishing a headquarters for our Club. [15]

They acquired the property with “the idea of ultimately turning it over to the Federal Government, with of course a reservation in favor of continued use of the property as headquarters for our Club.” [16] The property was purchased with funds raised by subscriptions of \$100 each. The subscribers owned their proportional amount of the property. Some of the subscribers donated their shares to the Club initially, others exchanged the balance of their shares for lifetime memberships, and others were purchased by the Club. Subscribers included John Muir, William Colby, Edward Parsons, J. N. LeConte and many others. [17] The subscription money was also raised to erect a small lodge, for which plans were drawn in 1913.

With the death of Sierra Club director Edward Taylor Parsons after a brief illness in 1914, the Club decided to dedicate the lodge as a memorial to him. The dedication would commemorate his devoted work on behalf of the Sierra Club and his strong opposition to the Hetch Hetchy Project as well as his contributions to conservation and the mountaineering work of the Club.

The Parsons Memorial Lodge was built during the summer of 1915. Bernard Maybeck (1862-1957), chief architect of the firm Maybeck and White of San Francisco, designed it with the assistance of his partner Mark H. White. Maybeck was by that time a well-known American architect and had recently designed the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco and several buildings on the University of California campus at Berkeley. The lodge was a rustic stone building with a single large room and fireplace. It served as a reading room, library and as a gathering place in the evenings for the surrounding Sierra Club campground, which was established the same year for the exclusive use of Sierra Club members and their families. Parsons Memorial Lodge also served as headquarters for members of the Club who visited the meadows. At first a custodian lived in the lodge, while the adjacent McCauley Cabin was rented out to visitors. [18] Later custodians and their families lived in the McCauley Cabin. The old Lembert Cabin had by that time been crushed by snow and had largely disintegrated. The original fences around the property had been removed at the request of NPS Director Stephen Mather. [19]

In the subalpine setting of the Tuolumne Meadows, the Parsons Memorial Lodge appears more relaxed in style than the LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley. It calmly reflects the surrounding natural environment in terms of texture, color, and shape. Utilizing new building methods, concrete cores were inserted into the battered stone walls, creating the impression of the application of pioneer building techniques while adding structural stability. In the late 1920s, the Ahwahnee Hotel would utilize this same construction technique. [20]

The Sierra Club also contributed to the development of the rest of Tuolumne Meadows, through their promotion of the area and through their support for the rebuilding of the Great Sierra Wagon Road, which was already being referred to as the Tioga Road. On December 16, 1911, the Sierra Club Board of Directors passed a resolution in support “of the acquisition and improvement by the Federal Government of the Tioga Road in Yosemite National Park.” When Mather tried to acquire the road in 1915, he enlisted Sierra Club member William Colby to execute the transaction. The Club contributed \$1,000 toward the purchase of the road. At its November 20, 1915 meeting, the Sierra Club Board of Directors authorized a right of way for the new Tioga Road through the Sierra Club property and the construction of a bridge over the river near Soda Springs. A stone on the bridge pier still bears the legend “September 1915”. Given the speed at which the Tioga Road was rebuilt, it is likely that the bridge was built before the official authorization was granted by the Sierra Club board in November. When the Tioga Road was later realigned in 1933, the section through the Sierra Club property was abandoned but the Park Service maintained a portion of the historic road alignment for use as a spur road connecting Soda Springs and the base of Lembert Dome. This spur road is still used for maintenance access to the Soda Springs property. The section of the Old Tioga Road alignment between the Visitor Center and Soda Springs was converted into a pedestrian and equestrian trail.

The Sierra Club also actively advocated for the construction of trails to improve access to Tuolumne Meadows. In 1921, the trail from northern Yosemite to the Yosemite Valley was partially completed with Club support. In 1925, the trail down the Tuolumne Canyon from Waterwheel Falls to Pate Valley was completed, as recommended by John Muir and urged by the Sierra Club. In 1933, the Club advised the Park Service on the realignment of the Tioga Road. Three years later, the section of the John Muir Trail over Mather Pass was completed. The Club launched high profile service trips to remove litter from the backcountry as a means of enacting change to wilderness regulations that would force people to pack out their waste. [21]

Over the years that it owned Soda Springs, the Sierra Club made several other additions and alterations to the property. Many of these changes were made under the direction of Albert Duhme, who was the caretaker from 1934 to 1941. Changes to Parsons Memorial Lodge included replacing the roof, pouring a concrete floor, installing wood plank seats at the interior of the windows, adding temporary displays and partitions, procuring furnishings, and general maintenance. Work on the campgrounds included installation of stone fire rings, trails, tables, pit toilets (which were moved several times), and the access road. Other changes to the property included the construction of miscellaneous buildings including the Bruin Baffle, and small-scale features such as the grills, the picnic table by the lodge, and the trash vault.

Several factors persuaded the Sierra Club to sell its Soda Springs property to the National Park Service. The first issue concerned the parking lot at Soda Springs—it had become impossible to limit the number of cars parking in the area and the result was damage to the surrounding meadows. The heavy use of the campground was causing management problems including difficulty enforcing the rules, inadequate sanitary facilities, trampling of vegetation, challenges

of running a drive-in campground, and the complexity of balancing fees with costs. This problem culminated in a negative public relations situation for the Club. [22] In July of 1973, the Sierra Club Foundation passed a resolution to authorize the sale of the property to Yosemite National Park. The details of the resolution included authorization to sell the furniture, books, and maps in Parsons Memorial Lodge to the Park Service so the lodge could continue to be used by the general public as a repository of information. [23] The deal was accepted on November 6, 1973 and the Federal Government bought the property for \$208,750. [24]

Current Ownership - National Park Service

For three years after its acquisition of Soda Springs, the Park Service maintained the area as a walk-in campground. However, social trails being cut from the campground to the Tuolumne Meadows Store and Visitor Center led the Park Service to discontinue this use. To prevent further damage to the landscape, the Park Service banned camping at Soda Springs altogether and designated a portion of the Tuolumne Meadows Public Campground south of Tioga Road for walk-in camping instead. [25]

The Yosemite Historic Preservation team has done work on most of the buildings in Soda Springs, including Parsons Memorial Lodge, the Bruin Baffle, the McCauley Cabin and the Soda Springs Enclosure. In 1993, they replaced rafter ends, some rafter braces, the metal roof, and the roof flashing on Parsons Memorial Lodge. [26] In 1997, work on McCauley Cabin included replacing the lower logs in the walls, repairing the foundation, rerouting the utilities underground, and replacing the chinking. [27] The Soda Springs Enclosure was restored in June 2002 through a grant of \$18,000. [28] Deteriorated logs were removed and replaced with new materials cut with the original V-notching style using tools of the period. Most of the original logs had deteriorated too far to be reused in the restored structure. Logs that closely resembled the original materials of the Soda Springs Enclosure were harvested from downed, dead trees at Crane Flat and treated with a preservative to reduce weathering.[29] The Bruin Baffle was preserved in 2003 with repairs made by the Yosemite Historic Preservation team to stabilize the existing staircases.

Three of the buildings have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and Parsons Memorial Lodge has been designated a National Historic Landmark. The Bruin Baffle and the Soda Springs Bridge pier and abutments have been listed on the National Park Service's List of Classified Structures, although they have not yet been determined eligible for the National Register. Currently, the McCauley cabin houses a seasonal park ranger. Parsons Memorial Lodge is currently open to the public during the summer months and contains interpretive exhibits and houses interpretive programs. It is also used for Park Service training and for a series of summer events that include lectures, poetry readings and musical performances.

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Soda Springs Complex
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Soda Springs Enclosure, August, 1927. The original Soda Springs Bridge is visible in the left middle ground.



Lembert's Old Cabin in 1894. (P.T. Lukens, Sierra Club Bulletin, 10.4 (January, 1919): Plate CCXXXIV)



Parsons Memorial Lodge under Construction, 1915. (Herbert W. Gleason, Sierra Club Bulletin, 10.1 (January, 1916): Plate CXLIX, p.88)



Original 1915 Soda Springs Bridge in 1931. Following flood damage in 1969, the decking, girders and trusses were replaced with the current ensemble. (Yosemite National Park, Research Library, Neg. No. RL 12,613)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District is significant for its association with outdoor recreation and environmental preservation (criterion A), and for its characteristic design style, which reflects the rustic architecture and naturalistic landscape architecture design principles (criterion C). The period of significance is 1885 to 1937, spanning the years from when Jean Lemberth filed his initial homestead claim at Soda Springs until 1937 when the Sierra Club built their last significant structure within the landscape, the Bruin Baffle. Today, many of the physical features of the district including its buildings and structures, natural systems and features, spatial organization, circulation, small scale features, and historic archeological sites that were present during the period of significance remain and contribute to the property's ability to convey its significant associations. Together, the landscape characteristics of the district contribute to all seven aspects of its integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Evaluation of the integrity of the Soda Springs Historic District relies on the identification of the essential physical components, patterns, and relationships that must be intact in order for the property to convey its significance. To determine if these essential elements are still evident in the property, the associated landscape characteristics must be examined and compared to conditions during the period of significance. The district retains integrity if the essential qualities that convey the sites' significance are still reflected in the spatial organization, physical features, and the natural setting of the property. Identification of the essential elements is reliant upon an evaluation of the site's significance and the period during which the site attained that significance.

Natural systems and features define the location and setting of the district, the integrity of which remain essentially intact. Tuolumne Meadows was the principle attraction for the first settlers, including John Baptiste Lemberth, who made the first homestead claim at Soda Springs. The meadow provided necessary forage for livestock and an aesthetically pleasing vista for tourists, with dramatic alpine crags visible above the surrounding forests from within this natural opening. The same attractions drew later occupants of the property, especially the Sierra Club, which was responsible for the most extensive development of the site and contributed to the district its most significant character-defining features. The eponymous springs are another important natural feature defining the district. Although these were more of a novelty than a useful resource, since any health benefit they provided was dubious and the river more than amply supplied all practical needs, the springs lent a distinctive character to the district and continue to do so.

The spatial organization of the built features within the district reflects the conscious response of their designers to their natural setting. Buildings were sited along natural contours and oriented with respect to existing features like boulders and trees. This resulted in the harmonious integration of artifice and natural environment and fulfilled an important aesthetic goal of the rustic design philosophy, of which the Soda Springs Historic District is an early exemplar.

Much of the circulation in the district reflects patterns that predate the period of significance or grew

out of necessity rather than design. For example, the Army introduced trails to facilitate the movement of backcountry patrols in the area. Many of the Army's circulatory features are still at least partially extant in the alignment of present trails and continue to convey some aspects of their original significance. Other features were introduced by design in order to realize some of the aesthetic goals already mentioned. The realignment of the Great Sierra Wagon Road around 1915 is an example. It was moved from the eastern side of the district to its present alignment, which takes it across the Tuolumne River just below the granite bluff on which the preponderance of development in the district is situated. This provides the traveler with a more dramatic entrance into the district and helps define the built environment relative to its surrounding natural features. The same effect is still conveyed by the present circulation, the alignment of which has remained largely unchanged since the period of significance.

Buildings and structures represent some of the most obvious character-defining features of the district. The earliest extant structures reflect vernacular traditions in design. Later structures, like Parsons Memorial Lodge, are more sophisticated and reflect a conscious attempt to achieve a rustic design aesthetic. This architecture was an important precedent for the historically significant rustic style and a major influence on Park Service designers, who utilized this aesthetic over the following two decades in the development of infrastructure within the Tuolumne Meadows Historic District and throughout the national parks system.

Many small-scale features within the Soda Springs Historic District were also expressions of the rustic design aesthetic—the use of unshaped stone in the construction of the grills and trash vault, for example. They also reflect the response of their designers to natural systems and features through their careful integration within the existing environment.

Finally, many of the archeological sites present within the district indicate earlier patterns of use that existed during the period of significance but are now lost. For example, the Sierra Club campgrounds, which were discontinued by the National Park Service in 1976, are now evident only in vestiges of fire circles and faint circulation routes that endure within the landscape.

- Aspects of Integrity:**
- Location
 - Setting
 - Feeling
 - Association
 - Workmanship
 - Materials

Landscape Characteristic:

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. The most significant

natural systems and features that have influenced development in the Soda Springs Historic District are geomorphology, hydrology, ecology and native vegetation.

Geomorphology

Development in the Soda Springs Historic District was sited in response to its surrounding geomorphology. Its structures were built into a natural bench perched above the floodplain. This relatively level foundation allowed structures to be built without extensive regrading.

Ecology

Development in the Soda Springs Historic District was purposely sited along the natural ecotone where subalpine meadow transitions into conifer forest. This location allowed Soda Springs' early inhabitants to be near the meadow and the mineral springs while enjoying privacy and protection from the wind and sun under the verge of the lodgepole pine forest.

Hydrology

The Soda Springs Historic District is centered on a cluster of naturally carbonated mineral springs. In Elizabeth O'Neill's book "Meadow in the Sky: A History of Yosemite's Tuolumne Meadows Region", she states that John Lambert sought to exploit these springs by bottling their waters and selling them in Yosemite Valley and that he may also have promoted them as a health spa. Neither of these ventures succeeded in generating any significant income for Lambert, however. The proximity of Tuolumne River to the development at Soda Springs was also important because it provided an important reliable source of fresh water for the early inhabitants and their livestock.

Native Vegetation

The vegetation of the Soda Springs Historic District includes both meadow grassland and subalpine mixed conifer forest. Both vegetation types constitute important character-defining features of the district. The forest provided a pleasantly sheltered environment for habitation and camping. The open meadow offered unobstructed sight-lines revealing a dramatic panorama of distant alpine peaks. Most of the development within the district took place within the ecotone, where these two vegetation-types intersected in order to take advantage of the aesthetic benefits of both.

Summary

The geomorphology, ecology, hydrology, and native vegetation of the site influenced how the Soda Springs Historic District was developed. Because these natural systems and features are intact, they help convey the significance of the historic setting.

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is defined as the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape. The developed core of the Soda Springs Historic District is organized as a loose configuration of buildings and structures, small-scale features and circulation networks centered in a radial fashion around the dominant mass of Parsons Memorial Lodge. Some of these constructed features—the McCauley Cabin and the Soda Springs Enclosure—pre-date the lodge and were integrated into the present pattern of spatial

organization only as a result of its introduction. Development subsequent to the construction of the lodge continued this pattern and reinforced the lodge's spatial centrality. The Sierra Club campground, for instance, was organized in a broad semi-circle extending into the forest and meadow openings to the north and west of the building, while the principal circulation systems, including the 1915 alignment of the Tioga Road, created a more publicly accessible zone in the broad semi-circle to its south and east. The lodge itself divided these areas into distinctly separate zones characterized by different types of use and feeling—the one more private or intimate, the other public. At the same time, the lodge also brought these zones together through its historic role as a social gathering place.

The spatial organization of Soda Springs, and in particular the location of Parsons Memorial Lodge exhibits a clear response to the natural systems and features that characterize the district. The building is situated at or near the transition between several distinct habitat types. Below it and to the south is the riparian habitat associated with the Tuolumne River. Beyond these are the open grasslands of Tuolumne Meadows. Behind the lodge and to its west is upland pine forest, and to its east the land slopes down to a grassy swale where the soda springs emerge within their simple log enclosure. The location of Parsons Lodge was carefully chosen to take advantage of its relationship to these natural systems. The slight elevation of the bench on which it sits gives the lodge a visually dominant position relative to them and helps organize the surrounding landscape into the same radial pattern as the constructed features of the district.

The historic pattern of spatial organization centered around Parsons Memorial Lodge remains largely intact. The most substantial modification was the abandonment of the Sierra Club campgrounds by 1976, which diminished the clear distinction between separate zones of land use by contracting the total area of development lying to the north and west of the lodge. Little else, however, has changed since the period of significance, and the remaining features in the developed area retain their original relationship to the central organizing position of Parsons Memorial Lodge. The legibility of this relationship in the physical landscape continues to convey the significance of the historic spatial organization of the district.

Circulation

The Soda Springs Historic District contains several historic road and trail segments. Their concentration within this district reflects the importance of the location within the natural landscape. Soda Springs lies at a natural crossroads of the principal routes passing through Tuolumne Meadows; it is situated on a slow meander of the Tuolumne River, where crossing is relatively easy; and the physical advantages of the site attracted the earliest development in the area, which in turn spurred the construction of roads and trails to access this development. Most of the roads and trails within the district have been regraded or resurfaced, but the alignments of many still reflect these historic circulation patterns and convey the significance of their history.

Contributing Circulation

Two circulation features – a segment of the Great Sierra Wagon Road (Old Tioga Road) and the Glen Aulin-Pacific Crest trail – that lie at least partially within the boundaries of Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District have been documented in the CLI record for Tuolumne Meadows Historic District and have been determined to contribute to that larger district. Those features will not be documented in this report.

Soda Springs Trail

A foot path leads from just South of Parsons Memorial Lodge to the Soda Springs Enclosure and then continues east to join the Pacific Crest-Glen Aulin Trail. Most of the path is about a foot wide but widens to about 10 feet in front of the Enclosure, then narrows back down to about a foot. The section of the trail between the cabin and the Enclosure is dirt. The section from the Enclosure to the Pacific Crest-Glen Aulin Trail has been paved with stones, particularly in the section that transverses the area adjacent to the springs.

Road to Parsons Memorial Lodge

This road dates to the sites use by the Sierra Club. Visitors and campers at Soda Springs used this road. This road led to a small parking lot that was located in a clearing southeast of the Soda Springs site. This area was also the Glen Aulin trailhead parking lot. The NPS constructed a gate and restricted use of this road to the general public after the property was purchased in 1973. Today the road is lightly used by park service personnel to access the Soda Springs area, where they mainly park northwest of McCauley Cabin to minimize their visual intrusion from within the meadow.

Non-contributing Circulation

Sewage Pond Service Road

The existing grade and alignment of the sewage pond service road was constructed when the Tuolumne Meadows sewage system was upgraded in the early 1970s. However, an earlier iteration of the road that largely followed the same alignment existed as early as 1957. It is currently surfaced in gravel and follows an alignment just north of the river through the Soda Springs Historic District. It terminates at the sewage oxidation ponds about a mile west of Soda Springs.

Trail from River

A narrow dirt path leads from the Soda Springs Bridge up to the McCauley Cabin. This path is heavily used and well-worn. The upper section, near the cabin, has had rocks placed as steps and gravel applied as surface. The alignment of this path may date to the construction of the McCauley Cabin but its structure and fabric have been recently modified and it lacks historic integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Soda Springs Trail

Feature Identification Number: 126587

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Road to Parsons Memorial Lodge

Feature Identification Number: 126581

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sewage Pond Service Road

Feature Identification Number: 126583

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trail from River

Feature Identification Number: 126585

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Buildings and Structures

Soda Springs Historic District contains six buildings and structures. Of these, five date to the period of significance and are listed as contributing resources. These have all been assessed and found to retain the majority of their character-defining historic features. Three of the contributing structures—Parsons Memorial Lodge, the Soda Springs Enclosure and the McCauley Cabin—are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Parsons Memorial Lodge has also been designated a National Historic Landmark.

The buildings and structures in the Soda Springs Historic District continue to reflect the significance of their utilitarian and recreational history. All three of the private owners of the parcel from the period of significance are represented by at least one contributing structure—John Lambert by the Soda Springs Enclosure, the McCauleys by their cabin, and the Sierra Club by Parsons Memorial Lodge and the Bruin Baffle. These structures have all been preserved or restored in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and retain all seven aspects of integrity. The Soda Springs Bridge is the only contributing structure that appears to have suffered from historically incompatible alterations or modifications. The bridges abutments and pier retain integrity but the girders, decking and rail were replaced in 1969 in an incompatible style. Accordingly, the bridges piers and abutments have been listed as contributing while the bridges girders, decking and rail are listed as noncontributing.

For convenience, buildings and structures are listed in chronological order by the year they were built, beginning with the oldest.

Contributing Buildings and Structures:

Soda Springs Enclosure

Soda Springs Complex
Yosemite National Park

LCS ID: 005828

Structure No: HS-07

Constructed between 1885 and 1889, the Soda Springs Enclosure is a small, log structure with V-notched corner details. It measures approximately 12 feet by 9 feet 9 inches. The structure has been open on top for an unknown number of years, but it once had a corrugated metal roof. The door opening is centered in the north side of the structure, but there are no windows. There is no floor. Several of the soda springs are located inside the walls, including one that appears to have been dug out to facilitate access to the water. The structure was substantially restored in 2002 by the Yosemite Preservation Team, and approximately ninety percent of the original logs were replaced. The location, materials and methods of construction are consistent with the original structure. The historic setting remains intact, and the property still possesses its original feeling and associations. The enclosure's original purpose of protecting the springs from livestock intrusion is anachronistic, since livestock are no longer grazed in Tuolumne Meadows, but the significance of this historic use is still conveyed by the extant structure. The Soda Springs Enclosure was listed on the National Register in 1979.

McCauley Cabin

LCS ID: 005830

Structure No: 3082

[This description is adapted from the 1977 National Register Nomination]. The McCauley cabin is a one-story, one room log building, measuring approximately 18 by 21 feet. It was built in 1902 by one or both of the sons of James McCauley, one of the early settlers in the Big Meadow-Foresta region of Yosemite National Park. The peeled logs that comprise the walls of the structure are round on the exterior and hand-hewn to a flush surface on the interior. The logs are laid in alternating rows and notched together at the corners with half-lap square joints. The logs were originally chinked with mud and grass, which has been replaced with cement. There is a small door on the east side with a board and batten door. Each side of the cabin now has a small casement window covered with exterior board shutters. The structure was rehabilitated in 1996 by the Yosemite Preservation Team for use as a modern ranger's residence. Many of the original logs were replaced, primarily on the lower section of the walls. The roof shingles have also been replaced. Early photos show a corrugated steel roof on the cabin and no windows. The McCauley Cabin was listed on the National Register in 1977. Its current use as a ranger's residence is compatible with its use by the Sierra Club during the period of significance as a caretaker's residence.

Parsons Memorial Lodge

LCS ID: 005829

Structure No: 3081

[This description is adapted from the 1987 National Historic Landmark Nomination]. The 1915

Parsons Memorial Lodge is a simplistic yet massive structure. The building is rectangular and symmetrical in plan. The masterfully executed rubble stone masonry is laid over a reinforced concrete core. The pink feldspar and gray granite stones were gathered on site. The deeply raked mortar joints accentuate the stonework. Walls are battered and approximately 3 feet thick on the bottom and 2 feet thick at the top. The simple semi-circular arch of the south-facing entrance frames a thick wood door that has been covered with galvanized steel on the exterior. The interior of the door consists of heavy planks tied together with massive wrought-iron strap hinges. The voussoirs and keystone are dressed, as are the lintel and jamb stones throughout the building. The low-pitched gable roof is finished with corrugated, galvanized steel.

All of the windows are eight-lite casements. Windows are shuttered during the off-season. Two windows, each measuring 3 feet 5 inches by 5 feet, flank the single entrance door to the south. The east and west walls each have two windows measuring 4 by 7 feet. Within the interior is a massive fireplace that is centered on the north wall, opposite the south entrance door. The floor is scored concrete. The stone benches under the deeply inset windows have thick planks for seats.

The roof structure is exposed on the interior. Peeled log rafters, sawn flat on the top edge, are strapped together at the ridge. The rafters average 1 foot 6 inches in diameter. They are supported by diagonal peeled log braces on the interior and exterior that rest on the low stone buttresses on the east and west walls. Rafter tails (out lookers) project approximately 2 feet out from the metal roof. Smaller peeled logs from 6 to 9 inches in diameter lie side by side, perpendicular to the rafters, completing the exposed interior roof structure. Above those are roofing paper and the galvanized metal exterior finish.

The stone for the construction of the building was gathered locally. Logs, hardware, and cement were packed in by mule. The galvanized steel for the roof was brought in by truck. The building was constructed during the summer of 1915. Work began as soon as the trails were passable.

The building has undergone a few minor changes over the years, but none that mar its integrity. Ansel Adams, Sierra Club custodian of LeConte Lodge during 1920, visited Parsons Memorial Lodge that summer. He noted that the doors and windows had been forced open and that "...the poles intended to support the roof against winter storms had been removed and cut up." Adams and F. C. Holman cut additional poles to fit and wedged them in. This temporary support system may have been unnecessary. No such supports against winter snows have been used in recent history, and the original roof structure seems able to carry the snow load without problems.

A number of changes happened in 1935. The roof was repaired and roofing paper was laid under the galvanized roofing, which made the building easier to heat. A concrete floor was poured at the same time. Presumably, the original floor had been dirt. New window frames

and heavy shutters studded with nails were constructed to keep out bears who frequently vandalized the building when it was not occupied. The cabinet and table that remain in the building were constructed at that time. The summer custodian recommended that canvas sheets be hung from the rafters with wires to partition off areas for the privacy of the overnight visitors. It is not known if this was ever done. His other recommendation—that heavy planks be cut to cover the stone seats under the windows “to improve comfort and appearance”—was done. In recent years electricity was installed. In 1997, track lighting and freestanding exhibits were added by the Yosemite Natural History Association, now simply known as the Yosemite Association. The lighting was attached to the interior wood braces by leather straps, in order to protect the structure and make the system easily removable. Likewise, the exhibits are freestanding millwork, which can easily be moved aside during meetings or completely removed. The Parsons Memorial Lodge was listed on the National Register in 1979 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987. It was preserved by the Yosemite Preservation Team in 1993. The current use of the Parsons Memorial Lodge as a public venue for special events is compatible with its historic use by the Sierra Club as a social gathering place.

Bruin Baffle

LCS ID: 005831

Structure No: HS-07C

The Bruin Baffle, built by the Sierra Club in 1937 to stow food in, is a one-and-a-half-story wood frame structure, measuring approximately 10 by 16 feet (10 by 20 feet if the covered front porch is included). As its name suggests, the Bruin Baffle was an innovative structure that was used to safely store comestibles and other bear attractants. The exterior is covered with corrugated galvanized steel armoring to protect the building from bears. The door, which is covered with flat galvanized steel, is located in the center of the east side. There is a small window in the door and a window on the western facade as well. These windows are filled with a heavy gauge wire fabric (1/8 inch wire at 1 inch on center each way). The east side of the building has a small upper deck, which extends about 3 feet out from the building and is framed with small logs. A ladder from the north side leads up to this deck and provides access to the upper story, known by local campers as the Coo-coo’s Loft. A small shuttered opening leads from the deck into the Coo-coo’s Loft. The floor of the structure is poured concrete on top of a stone foundation. The interior finish has ship-lapped wood paneling and built-in wood shelves. The Bruin Baffle was preserved in 2003 with repairs made by the Yosemite Historic Preservation team to stabilize the existing staircases.

Soda Springs Bridge Pier and Abutments

LCS ID: 205150

The Soda Springs Bridge center pier and abutments are of stone masonry construction and were built in 1915. The stone work in the bridge abutments and pier is similar to the stonework of Parsons Memorial Lodge. The stones used on the bridge are generally larger in size than those used on the lodge, but the recessed mortar joints are very similar. Since the construction of the lodge and the construction of the bridge both occurred during the summer of 1915, it is

possible that they were built by the same construction crew. The top of each abutment and pier has had an approximately five inch concrete pad poured on them following flood damage sustained by the bridge in 1969. This bridge repair work also included the installation of new steel girders (which replaced log girders) and thick wood plank deck and railing (which replaced the triangular trusses). The center pier rests on a large boulder in the middle of the river. There is an engraving etched into stone on the central pier that reads "Sept. 1915". The span from the abutments to the center pier is forty feet, for a total bridge span of about eighty feet. Both the abutments and the piers have some loose stones, which may have been dislodged during past flooding.

Non-Contributing Buildings and Structures:

Soda Springs Bridge Girders, Deck and Railing

The upper portions of the Soda Springs Bridge were constructed in 1969 following flood damage that that bridge sustained. Three sets of 40 foot long steel girders now span the distance between the historic bridge abutments and pier. Three by eight inch wood planks span across the girders and are attached with steel bolts. The wood planks are heavily worn in the center of the bridge from horse and pack train traffic. The bolts are loose on many of the planks, which now rock from side to side as weight is put on them. The railings are constructed of twelve-by-twelve timbers. The top of the railing is approximately two feet above the bridge deck. The railing is supported by five twelve-by-twelve timber posts, which are equidistantly spaced across the span. The deck of the bridge is approximately twelve feet wide.

Soda Springs Comfort Station

Structure No: NA

The Soda Springs Comfort Station, built in 1990, is a small pit privy with a concrete floor, wood framing, wood siding and wood shingle roof. Although there have been pit toilets in other locations near the cabin and in the former campgrounds, this building and its location are new.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Soda Springs Enclosure East Elevation (YOSE, 2006)



McCauley Cabin South Elevation (YOSE, 2006)



Parsons Memorial Lodge Southeast Corner (YOSE, 2006)



Soda Springs Bridge West Elevation (YOSE, 2006)



Bruin Baffle East Elevation (YOSE, 2006)

Feature: Soda Springs Enclosure

Feature Identification Number: 126591

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: McCauley Cabin

Feature Identification Number: 126595

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Parsons Memorial Lodge

Feature Identification Number: 126597

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bruin Baffle

Feature Identification Number: 126599

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Soda Springs Bridge Pier and Abutments

Feature Identification Number: 126601

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Soda Springs Bridge Girders/Deck/Railing

Feature Identification Number: 126603

Feature: Soda Springs Comfort Station

Feature Identification Number: 126611

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Small Scale Features

Small-scale features are the elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Small-scale features within the Soda Springs Historic District include stone grills, trash vaults, retaining walls, interpretive signs and a picnic table. The contributing small-scale features within the Soda Springs Historic District were constructed using many locally obtained materials and were designed to blend into the landscape.

Contributing Small Scale Features

Stone Grills

There are two cooking grills, one near Parsons Memorial Lodge and one near the McCauley Cabin. Both appear to have been built by the Sierra Club, likely during the summer of 1937 when several improvements were made to the property. Each grill is approximately 3 feet deep, 6 feet wide and 4 feet tall. They are made of stone masonry using local granite similar to Parsons Memorial Lodge, although with the grills the joints are wider and are not recessed like those on the lodge. There may have been grates at one time, but they are now missing.

Trash Vault

To the south of Parsons Memorial Lodge is a stone vault with a steel lid. This vault was used to secure trash from wildlife. This trash vault appears to have been built by the Sierra Club, likely during the summer of 1937 when several improvements were made to the property. The vault itself is approximately 3 feet 7 inches wide, 3 feet 7 inches deep and 4 feet 6 inches high. The steel lid is 2 feet by 2 feet 6 inches.

Non-Contributing Small Scale Features

Picnic Table

There is a large, custom built wooden picnic table near Parsons Memorial Lodge. The table is approximately 7 feet wide (if the benches are included), 8 feet 10 inches long and 2 feet 8 inches tall. The original table was built by the Sierra Club but had to be replaced due to natural deterioration. The existing table is a careful reconstruction of the original and was built in 1996.

This large picnic table was used for several Sierra Club Board of Directors meetings and Outing Committee meetings. The original table has been cut down in size and is now located in Ranger Camp, near building #3001. Since this table is a reconstruction of the original table it is not considered a contributing feature.

Parsons Memorial Lodge NHL Plaque

The National Historic Landmark plaque is located on a small boulder on the west side of the walk up to the lodge entrance. The Parsons Memorial Lodge was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987, and the plaque was placed shortly thereafter.

Stone Retaining Walls

There are several low dry-laid stone retaining walls to the southeast of the lodge. There is also a similar retaining wall behind the comfort station. These walls are compatible with the rustic character of the built landscape but are not considered contributing resources because they were built after the period of significance.

Water Faucet

A water faucet (hose bib) rises roughly 2 feet 6 inches above the ground on steel pipe and is located near the southwest corner of Parsons Memorial Lodge, between the lodge and the picnic table. The faucet is a recent introduction and is not compatible with the historic character of the district.

Electrical Transformer Box

A large electrical transformer box is located to the north of the comfort station. It was previously located at the southwest corner of Parsons Memorial Lodge but was moved in 1995. The transformer box is a recent addition. It is not compatible with the historic character of the district but its present location makes it relatively unobtrusive.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Stone Grill by the McCauley Cabin (YOSE, 2006)



Trash Vault (YOSE, 2006)

Feature: Stone Grills

Feature Identification Number: 126617
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Trash Vault
Feature Identification Number: 126615
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: Picnic Table
Feature Identification Number: 126621
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing
Feature: Parsons Memorial Lodge NHL Plaque
Feature Identification Number: 126623
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing
Feature: Stone Retaining Walls
Feature Identification Number: 126625
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing
Feature: Water Faucet
Feature Identification Number: 126627
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing
Feature: Electrical Transformer Box
Feature Identification Number: 126629
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Archeological Sites

Archeological sites are defined as the location of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. No archeological research design was formulated for the purposes of this Cultural Landscapes Inventory record and no evaluation or testing was conducted on these features. It is unknown whether any of these features possess further significant data, but their presence helps to understand better the history of the district and the location of abandoned resources and earlier areas of land use. They also help reveal how the district was spatially organized during the period of significance [see section on Spatial Organization for more on this].

Lembert's Mine

Sometime shortly after 1885, John Lembert filed a mining claim on the Soda Springs property. It

is believed that the mining claim was used by Lemberg as a means to ensure his legal hold on the property rather than as a genuine effort to extract minerals. Elizabeth O'Neill writes in *Meadow in the Sky* that Lemberg "...sank a shaft among the granite rocks below where Parsons Lodge now stands...it was later filled in, but traces of the fruitless excavation still remain." [p. 52].

The site today is barely recognizable as a mining shaft. It lies approximately 150 feet south of Parsons Lodge and is marked by a vertical granite outcropping. The base of the mine is littered with what appear to be mine tailings—small, fist-sized shards of granite with sharp, angular edges. As O'Neill observes, the shaft was later filled in with debris, probably during the Sierra Club period of ownership. Numerous artifacts within the historic debris suggest the mine shaft was later used as a garbage dump. Large boulders, shoveled earth and sagebrush now cover up and obscure the mine entrance.

Abandoned Sierra Club Campgrounds

When the Sierra Club owned the Soda Springs property, they maintained two campsite clusters—a group campground and a family campground. While both sites were used exclusively by Sierra Club members, the former was used by large groups associated with the Sierra Club Outings, while the family campground was used by individual members and their families.

There were roughly 15 official campsites within the family campground, and these were often used year after year by the same guests. The family campground is evidenced today by traces of the fire rings, pit toilet foundations and faint circulation routes including foot trails and the campground road. The group campground was not used as intensively as the family campground, and its boundaries were not clearly delineated. The only visible trace marking its location today is a single fire circle.

Road to the Sierra Club Campground

There is an unpaved, abandoned road that leads to the first campsite along what was the Sierra Club's family campground. It begins just south of the McCauley Cabin and continues west a few hundred feet past the Bruin Baffle. Although it used to continue on for a greater distance and provide drive-in access to a multitude of campsites, much of the road has been obliterated and it currently terminates here at the site of the former campground.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Lemberg's Mine

Feature Identification Number: 126631

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Abandoned Sierra Club Campgrounds

Feature Identification Number: 126633

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Soda Springs Complex
Yosemite National Park

Feature: Road to the Sierra Club Campground

Feature Identification Number: 126635

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/14/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Undetermined: not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Impact Description: Yosemite National Park is undergoing a comprehensive planning effort for Tuolumne Meadows. New development and/or restoration have the potential to impact the historic district.

Type of Impact: Visitation

Impact Description: Many social trails exist within the Soda Springs Historic District's subalpine meadow. These social trails lead to increased vegetation loss and soil erosion.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Impact Description: Climate change and the cessation of anthropomorphic fire and livestock grazing have changed the vegetation communities found during the period of significance. These landscape alterations have allowed vegetation, primarily lodgepole pines, to encroach into the meadows thereby changing the historic vegetation patterns.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Impact Description: Some of the historic stonework in the grills, trash vault and bridge abutment and piers needs to be repaired. This deterioration, if left unchecked, could threaten the integrity of these resources.

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

The Vegetation and Ecological Restoration branch within the Resources Management and Science Division at Yosemite National Park is undergoing a three-year lodgepole pine removal project to restore the natural and historic vegetation patterns at the edge of the meadows. The project is to be completed the summer of 2007. After the project is completed, Vegetation and Ecological Restoration will initiate an annual maintenance program to maintain control over the lodgepole pines. The NPS has not yet identified ultimate approved stabilization costs for this project. When estimates of probable cost are determined they will be incorporated into the CLI.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment Document: General Management Plan

Document Date: 01/01/1980

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Development of a Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Plan and a Tuolumne Meadows Development Concept Plan that will be used to inform future land use decisions in the area. Furthermore, user capacity studies are being conducted in Tuolumne Meadows.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 01/01/1980

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

The park is currently working on completing a Tuolumne Meadows Development Concept Plan and a Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Plan. The Development Concept Plan will clarify management intent and guide future development within the Tuolumne Meadows area. The Wild and Scenic River plan will, direct visitor use, development, resource preservation and all other management actions within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor. The NPS has not yet identified ultimate approved treatment costs for this project. When estimates of probable cost are determined they will be incorporated into the CLI.

The Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) branch within the Resources Management and Science Division at Yosemite National Park is currently working on a study that will address user capacity issues within Tuolumne Meadows. Funds requested in this proposal will provide the necessary resources to develop and implement a program for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River and its environs. The estimated cost of this project is yet to be determined.

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Year of Publication: 1951
Citation Publisher: Sierra Club Bulletin

Supplemental Information

Title: List of Acronyms

Description: CLI: Cultural Landscapes Inventory
LCS: List of Classified Structures
GPRA: Government Performance and Results Act
CLR: Cultural Landscape Report
SHPO/TPO: State Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Preservation Officer
YOSE: Yosemite National Park

