Merced Wild and Scenic River: Cultural Resources & Historic Properties

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Yosemite National Park
Cultural Resources & Historic Properties

Overview

• Context

• Legislative Framework

• Case Studies
National Park Service Mission:

• 1916 Organic Act

“...purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

• 2002 Restatement

“...preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resources conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.”
National Park Service
Cultural Resources Management
Director’s Order 28:

- Research
- Planning
- Stewardship
Legislative Framework:

- 1864 - Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove Grant.
- 1890 – Yosemite National Park.
- 1906 – Antiquities Act.
- 1933 - Executive Order transfers 63 national monuments & military sites from Forest Service and War Dept. to National Park Service.
- 1935 - Historic Sites Act (finalizes transfer).
- 1979 – Archeological Resources Preservation Act.
- 2011 – 393 areas of diverse management types
National Historic Preservation Act 1966
Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

National Historic Landmarks

Rangers’ Club, 1920

The Ahwahnee, 1927

Wawona Hotel, circa 1876
The Hierarchy of Levels of Designation for Historic Properties

Individually eligible for listing on *The National Register of Historic Places* at the national, state or local level

The Chapel in Yosemite Valley

Eligible for listing on the *National Register of Historic Places* as a contributor to a district at the national, state or local level

Yosemite Museum
Criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties

Camp 4 in Yosemite Valley, listed 2003

El Portal School, listed 2011
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Is a four step process:

• Step 1 - Initiate Section 106 process
• Step 2 – Identify Historic Properties
• Step 3 – Assess for Possible Adverse Effects
• Step 4 – If necessary, Resolve Adverse Effects
The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards

with Guidelines for
Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing
Historic Buildings
The Secretary of the Interior’s Four Treatment Approaches (with Standards and Guidelines developed for each):

- **Level of Intervention I** (Lowest Level of Intervention)
  - Preservation

- **Level of Intervention II**
  - Restoration

- **Level of Intervention III** (Highest Level of Intervention)
  - Rehabilitation

- **Level of Intervention IV** (Reconstruction)

Yosemite National Park

*National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior*
American Indian Consultation in the NPS

The NHPA requires consultation with any Indian tribe that attaches religious and cultural significance to *historic properties*.

NPS Management Policies extend this requirement to include:

- Consultation with traditionally associated peoples about the protection, management, study & interpretation of cultural and natural resources with ethnographic meaning for those groups.
- Ethnographic resources are *not* always historic properties.
American Indian Consultation at Yosemite NP

Yosemite National Park consults with
- Five federally-recognized tribes
- Two federally non-recognized groups
- Several interested parties

Yosemite maintains government-to-government relationships with federally-recognized tribal governments

Tribal partners share a commitment to stewardship of the land and resources in Yosemite
Questions/Discussion