

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MUNSON VALLEY'S DESIGNED LANDSCAPE HABS No. OR-144

Location: Crater Lake National Park
Klamath County
Oregon

This site serves as park headquarters and is approximately one mile south of the lake. The landscaped area is about 7.5 acres of the 183,224 acre park. Bounded by an entrance road to the administrative complex on the southeast corner and the old Superintendent's Residence on the northwest corner, this designed landscape is located near the upper end of a formerly glaciated valley.

Present Owner and Use: Crater Lake is administered by the National Park Service. The park headquarters area has administrative offices, maintenance buildings, a visitor contact facility, and residences for park staff.

Dates of Construction: 1926-1941

Significance: Although Crater Lake was established as the nation's sixth national park as early as 1902, development of a headquarters for the park was hampered by meager appropriations until 1926. At that time, what had been a camp for Army road crews began a metamorphosis into summer quarters for the National Park Service. The aim of its designers was to convert what had become a barren area with vernacular log structures into three contiguous permanent complexes. Battered stone was used for building construction and landscaping to tie the agency to the site through use of native materials, but also suggested an imposition of order and unity on a natural setting. By 1941, Munson Valley was home to the most coherent and concentrated expression of rustic architecture in the park, and one of the most extensive developments ever undertaken using this type of naturalistic design.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. The Site

1. Setting

Located at the crest of the Cascade Range in southern Oregon, Crater Lake National Park varies between 4400 and 8900 feet in elevation. Its central feature is located within the caldera of the dormant volcano Mount Mazama and, at 1932 feet, is the deepest lake in the United States.

Munson Valley is one of three prominent glacial valleys on Mount Mazama's south flank. It is north-south trending and holds Munson Creek, a spring-fed tributary of Annie Creek that eventually reaches the Klamath Basin southeast of the park. Most of Munson Valley displays hummocky moraines intermixed with pumice, with the proportion of pumice gradually diminishing in the upper part of the valley.

Park headquarters is situated at a road junction where the main north-south highway to the lake meets a summer route that allows visitors to drive around the east side of Crater Lake. The development was originally designed to be a summer headquarters because the site can have snow on the ground for more than eight months of the year. A mean elevation of 6500 feet makes it the highest all year headquarters in any U.S. national park.

2. Name

Munson Valley is named for an early visitor who died on a ridgeline two miles southwest of the headquarters site in 1872. Until 1938 park headquarters was known as "Government Camp". It was changed by Superintendent Ernest P. Leavitt in order to avoid confusion with Government Camp on Mount Hood, some 180 miles north of the park. (1)

3. Design Summary

Only the northern half of the headquarters development is covered in this documentation because it was this

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area where design efforts were concentrated from 1926 to 1941. The architectural structure of the area generally preceded the planting plan and other landscaping features. Plantings and other landscape treatments were intended to integrate structures and circulation features into the natural surroundings, while weathered boulders, stone masonry features, and rustic wood signs with raised lettering helped accentuate their appearance.

In addition to the main north-south highway that bisects upper Munson Valley, there exists a group of service roads that provide access to the maintenance, administrative, and residential complexes at park headquarters. The maintenance complex, like the rest of the historic development, is west of the highway. It is accessed by a road that parallels the route to the lake which links the seasonal residence area south of maintenance to the administrative complex immediately north. Much of the maintenance complex was landscaped historically to sublimate structures like the Warehouse and the Machine Shop, but also covers traces of an auto camp that was situated on Munson Creek for several seasons in the 1920s.

The park's administrative complex is where most of the landscaping effort was concentrated. Six structures are located there, the most prominent being the Messhall, the Ranger Dormitory, and the Administration Building. Situated next to the Messhall are the other three buildings, which are two comfort stations and a meathouse.

Just west and upslope of the administrative complex is the residential area. It was designed in a hierarchical manner, beginning with a lower level that has three cottages and a hospital. A winding one-lane road connects these cottages with another set of three slightly larger residences. Somewhat north and uphill of them is a house originally built for the park naturalist. The road terminates on a knoll located above the rest of the complex, which serves as the site for the largest residence in the park. Historically occupied by the superintendent during the summer season, this five-bedroom house embodies the characteristics of Crater Lake's rustic architecture to the extent that it has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

The planting of native trees and shrubs near buildings was one of a variety of landscape treatments used in Munson Valley. This was largely done by Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees from 1933 to 1936, who were able to move plant material by various means from areas in the southern part of the valley. Trees and shrubs were considered part of the structures because they cast shadows that changed the appearance of buildings throughout the day. Esthetically, the plantings lent interest to the structures in much the same way as the inset windows, battered stone, roofing patterns, and dormers did. The plantings also assisted with the desire of the designers to make their creations appear to have "grown from the ground." (2)

In the administrative complex, naturalistic groupings of plants were used not only for their decorative effect, but also to help obliterate traces of old roadways. This is apparent in the enclosed ellipse and the area north of the Administration Building. Stone was used for these purposes also, as evidenced by the weathered boulders that were placed in the administrative complex and near the largest residences.

Some stone features were a functional part of the headquarters physical plant and could also harmonize with the natural surroundings. Examples include the stone curbing that defines the circulation system in the administrative complex, a stone bridge over Munson Creek between the Ranger Dormitory and the lower cottages, masonry work to hide the ends of culverts that were placed to allow roads to cross the creek, a drinking fountain in front of the Administration Building, and the flagstone walkways in several locations.

The signing of park headquarters was originally done through the use of a standard white enamel sign with green lettering, but this began to change in about 1935. Wooden, oil-impregnated signs with raised yellow-orange lettering were carved by C.C.C. enrollees from plans drawn by resident landscape architect Francis Lange. They served to identify buildings as well as to give directions and mileages, but with only two exceptions have been replaced by metal or routed wood signs that date from the Mission 66 era of National Park Service construction (1956-1966) or later.

Other wooden features, such as the footbridge of 1937 that crossed Munson Creek near the Ranger Dormitory, were replaced due to advanced deterioration. Some were moved, such as the flagpole that is now located in front of the dormitory (it was originally southeast of the of the Administration Building near the parking area). The planting has, however, suffered the most from neglect. Much of it has disappeared from the administrative complex and there are days when the wind blows the pumice around like it did when the Army road crews occupied the site.

B. Landscape Architects and Designers

Earl Russell Bush

Aside from several road segments that have been well disguised through obliteration efforts, the only reminder of the occupation by Army road crews in Munson Valley is the Lady of the Woods. This stone sculpture, carved by Earl Bush in 1917, is approximately three feet high and is located 400 feet west of the Ranger Dormitory. It is identified by a rustic wood sign and can be reached by trail from the administrative complex.

Bush (1886-1970) was a medical doctor for the U.S. Public Health Bureau who was attached to the Munson Valley road camp from July to October 1917. His first try at sculpture took place over a two week period in October and had to be abandoned when snow suspended further road work for the season. Although the Lady of the Woods was created some 15 years before the more systematic efforts of the National Park Service to landscape Munson Valley, its creator had a similar intention. Bush once said that "This statue represents my offering to the forest, my interpretation of its awful stillness and repose, its beauty, fascination, and unseen life. A deep love of the virgin wilderness has fastened itself upon me and remains today. It seemed that I must leave something behind...I shall be satisfied to leave my feeble attempt at sculptural expression alone and unmarked, for those who may happen to see it and who may find food for thought along the lines it arouses in them individually."(3)

Thomas Vint

The comprehensiveness of Munson Valley's expression of rustic architecture is in large part due to the early site planning done by NPS landscape architect Thomas Vint. In November 1925, Vint's plan to construct a summer headquarters consisting of three contiguous complexes was formally accepted so that work could begin the following year. A small warehouse with rustic stone walls was built at the Munson Valley headquarters during 1926, and was the beginning of the site's metamorphosis into a development that demonstrated accentuation and subordination.

Vint (1894-1967) began his career with the National Park Service as an assistant landscape architect in 1922, becoming chief landscape architect in 1927. Although Vint rarely designed individual structures or landscape features, he was responsible for planning the layout of developed areas in western national parks until his transfer to Washington D.C. in 1937. Vint's ability to set and then communicate appropriate rustic themes for the parks lent unity to the development of places like Munson Valley, though the site contains the efforts of at least six different designers.

Merel Sager

Landscaping at the new headquarters development began under Sager's direction in 1933. Using similar methods to those previously employed for the revegetation of the park's Rim Village, Sager directed Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees to plant trees and shrubs around the Ranger Dorm, Superintendent's Residence, Naturalist's Residence, and three employees cottages during the 1933 season. The appearance of the structures were so enhanced by these efforts that it was decided that a more comprehensive undertaking should be made beginning in 1934.

Sager (1900-1982) became an associate landscape architect with the National Park Service in 1928 after obtaining a masters degree from Harvard University. For the next five years his responsibility was to oversee the agency's development of three national parks: Crater Lake, Lassen, and Sequoia. At Crater

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Lake, Sager's duties were to design structures and direct the "naturalization" program at Rim Village. Beginning in 1929, this revegetation effort included transplanting hundreds of trees and shrubs, the construction of a parapet wall along the edge of the caldera, realignment of the roadway, and building features like the Sinnott Memorial. His role in the eventual transformation of Munson Valley was largely that of one who made the earliest design links between Rim Village and Park Headquarters.

Francis Lange

As resident landscape architect in the park from 1934 to 1940, Lange's impact on the appearance of Park Headquarters is arguably greater than any other designer. His work in Munson Valley began with drawing plans for three structures in 1931 and resumed three years later after he had completed a masters degree at Washington University in St. Louis. Assigned to oversee Civilian Conservation Corps work, Lange directed the planting program for the next six seasons. He also designed most of the site's rustic signs and landscape features, as well as starting efforts to better adapt Munson Valley structures to the harsh winter conditions.

Lange (1904-) came west to work for the National Park Service in 1929 and was made Sager's assistant the following year. He drew heavily on his experience with the Rim Village revegetation program in drawing a planting plan for Park Headquarters in 1934. By the time Lange left Crater Lake in 1940, the work on Munson Valley's designed landscape was virtually complete. Although the park had several resident landscape architects that succeeded him, Lange's recommendations concerning the maintenance of the plantings were never fully implemented. What survives has been affected by neglect and subsequent winterization efforts on the site.

PART II. DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

A. Major Phases of Design Development

1. Army road crews occupy the site, 1913-1918

Munson Valley was originally chosen as a headquarters site by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because of its central location to the park's proposed road system. A 1911 Army survey convinced Congress to fund construction of a road around the lake. Beginning in 1913, money was appropriated for six seasons so that the road could open in late 1918.

The engineers used part of the road appropriation to build six log structures with steeply-pitched roofs in the area of the present administrative complex. The main north-south road to the lake went through an informal plaza which had no defined parking for vehicles. In a few years this "plaza" was completely devoid of vegetation, having been the hub for a network of vehicle tracks made by employees and visitors. Built as a quarters and service area only, there was little esthetic intent behind the design of "Government Camp" and few features meant to last beyond the stay of the road crews.

2. National Park Service site planning, 1924-1929

Rapidly increasing visitation spurred the National Park Service to make Munson Valley its summer headquarters in 1924. Within a year an additional wing had been added to the former engineers' office so that it could serve as an administration building, but park staff were openly critical about how the camp structures had deteriorated to the point where they were a disgrace to the NPS. In October 1925, Superintendent Charles G. Thomson and Thomas Vint agreed to relocate the main road 100 yards east (to its present location) so that Vint could start work on a site plan for the new headquarters development.

The implementation of Vint's plan began in 1926. That summer a small warehouse was constructed in the new maintenance complex. The next year an adjacent utility building was built, as was the first of three employees

cottages located just west and upslope of what was to be the administrative complex. By early 1928, Thomson revised the plan, stating "Of all things, we wish to restrain from the slightest degree of over-development. A fortunate angle of this development is that we, after studying now for four years with Mr. Vint in the Park ten times during that period, have been able to take advantage of topography and forest screening to place out of sight almost every building that is not of direct concern to the visitor. Thus, at Government Camp, the only building that will be in sight when this program is finished, will be the Administration Building, the Museum [later changed to the Ranger Dormitory] and Service Station [razed in 1958 in favor of the present one]...Crater Lake has been very backward in its physical development but as we are now going forward we are glad that this has been the case, as in the meantime a most appropriate type of architecture has been evolved and with the coming into being of our permanent layout, in another three or four years, we will have no mistakes to jar with the general harmony. At Government Camp, for example, the Landscape Division has worked out a type of structure that utilizes the surrounding abundance of native stone for first floor construction with rustic superstructure. This type of building is not only appropriate to its surroundings but has the equal values of being practically permanent in our deep snow and winter conditions, and, by utilizing native material, is economical to build...(4)

At the end of the 1929 season, the new headquarters development was well underway. A messhall, comfort station, and meathouse had been built in addition to the two maintenance buildings and the first three cottages. Their appearance lent coherence to the site's appearance and were an attractive justification for completing Vint's plan as the Great Depression deepened.

3. "Naturalization" efforts, 1930-1933

Although plantings and landscape features were slow in coming to Munson Valley, much was learned from the effort to revegetate, or "naturalize", Rim Village. By 1933, Merel Sager was convinced that the prevalence of pumice and glacial debris in both locations necessitated the use of planting beds for transplanted trees and

shrubs. Dug to a depth of several feet, these beds contained top soil from the southern end of Munson Valley and chopped peat that was taken from a bog about two miles south of Park Headquarters. At Rim Village, sodding was done with native sedges to better control final appearance and give some resistance to trampling. Large trees were also transplanted with great success, either as landscaping for buildings like the Crater Lake Lodge or placed as naturalistic groupings in the vicinity of the promenade.

From 1930 to 1933, enough successful planting was done at Rim Village to allow Sager to begin turning his attention toward landscaping the new buildings at Park Headquarters. During the summer of 1933, Civilian Conservation Corps crews landscaped six structures and the newly built residential road that connected the Superintendent's Residence to the administrative complex. The work largely consisted of planting shrubs that had been successful at Rim Village: Pink spirea (Spiraea densiflora), Mountain ash (Sorbus sitchensis), Scoules willow (Salix Scouleriana) and twinberry (Lonicera). The 1933 season also saw the beginnings of a file system used to record the number of plantings made each year and their success so that future landscape maintenance could be done.

Other features at Park Headquarters were finalized while the first roadway and structures were being landscaped. Defining the circulation system of the administrative complex was stone curbing that allowed for parking in an oval area. This amounted to a circular drive that was to have the Ranger Dormitory and a future administration building on two sides with an ellipse in the middle. The curbing helped to keep cars from adding to the numerous vehicle tracks in the vicinity and had been found to be an attractive alternative to log parapets that had been the initial barriers at Rim Village. As the first summer of C.C.C. work concluded, the National Park Service found itself increasingly dependent on the enrollees to complete the Munson Valley development. Its Branch of Plans and Design accelerated the production of drawings for structures, landscape features, and the plantings in anticipation of the continued availability of labor and emergency appropriations during the next few seasons.

4. Emergency Conservation Work, 1934-1941

The Civilian Conservation Corps were a result of a Congressional relief act known as Emergency Conservation Work which was passed in early 1933. Special appropriations were provided to support the C.C.C. as an employment training program which was to take place on the nation's parks, forests, and other public lands. The emergency funds often exceeded regular allotments for national parks like Crater Lake and allowed the National Park Service to accelerate development plans throughout the 1930s.

What the C.C.C. had started in Munson Valley under Sager in 1933 was intensified the following summer. Funds provided by E.C.W. allowed the Park Service to hire Francis Lange as the park's resident landscape architect and make Armin Doerner and Howard Buford his assistants. In October 1934, Lange wrote "It will be interesting to note the large percentage of this work that has been done since the introduction of the C.C.C. help in comparison to the work that has been done by regular Park appropriations; to have actually done an equivalent amount as that done by the C.C.C. help [in 1934] would have required the regular park appropriation at least five years. It would be safe to say that the cost of this work would be less than that by the regular park method, and surely it would go without saying that the quality of work is better, as men trained in landscape work are in charge, resulting in carefully planned and executed work." (5)

Roadwork at Park Headquarters was one of the first projects attempted during the 1934 season. Surfacing of the residential road was completed and, as a final touch, a small island of trees and shrubs was placed in front of three cottages constructed in 1930 and 1931. Road obliteration was done by tearing up hardened surfaces and placing young trees in random arrangements in road beds. Traffic control was augmented by setting weathered boulders at the road entrance to the administrative complex. The boulders also had a visual effect and could be used as an organizing device for the massing of shrubs and trees that were to be placed in groups near the road entrance and parking area.

Landscaping of the administrative complex went beyond

the work done around the Ranger Dormitory in 1933 because funds had been secured to construct a new administration building. This was going to be a conspicuous structure (in keeping with Vint's original plan) but was also intended to hide a segment of the old road to the lake. Road obliteration was one of the reasons for the ellipse in front of the building, a feature which was sodded and planted by the end of the 1934 season.

The ellipse was at the center of the planting plan drawn in June 1934 by Lange and Buford. In contrast to the four types of shrubs used in 1933, it called for 13 different species. Sedge was to be used for the open areas in the administrative complex, while groups of two to three Mountain hemlock (Tsuga mertensiana), Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta), and Subalpine fir (Abies lasiocarpa) were to be placed near the parking area.(6)

Concurrent with the planting and the construction of the Administration Building were other improvements to the headquarters development. More landscaping around the residences was done while construction projects put additions onto the Warehouse and Messhall. A stone garage/woodshed just south of the original set of cottages was built, as were three frame storage sheds near the Warehouse.

Much of the 1935 season was spent rebuilding parts of Munson Valley structures damaged by the previous winter's heavy snowpack. Some landscaping was done, but the season was considerably shorter than the previous year. Even so, some 100 trees were moved into the administrative complex and nine species of shrubs were utilized in the landscape work.(7)

Planting continued during the 1936 season, with eight species of shrubs and about 600 small Mountain hemlock two to four feet in height transplanted to the administrative complex. Although this meant that much of the planting work was completed in Munson Valley, other landscape features made their first appearance. A directional sign was placed in the ellipse near the road entrance. The sign was supported by logs and was made of oil-impregnated wood. It had a brown background and raised lettering that was painted yellow-orange for visibility. In the next three years, this type of sign

was to replace virtually all of the standardized metal signs that had green lettering on a white enamel background.

Complementing the new signs was a decorative log footbridge across Munson Creek near the Ranger Dormitory that replaced an earlier bridge built when the trail to the Lady of the Woods was constructed in 1930. To accentuate the messhall's appearance and to regulate parking in front of it, C.C.C. enrollees replaced a concrete slab with a stone porch at the main entry and constructed a stone curb along the south side of the building. Two flagstone walks helped show off the Superintendent's Residence and concentrated foot traffic in much the same way as the Ranger Dormitory's flagstone porch and walk had esthetic and utilitarian functions.

The 1936 season saw other ways in which rustic design was expressed. A wooden flagpole with a base that had mortared stone was placed on the southeast corner of the Administration Building. An employees parking lot was built on the north side of the structure for the dual purpose of hiding traces of old roads and to visually separate concentrations of vehicles. More esthetic was the facing of culvert ends with mortared stone so that the drainage device might better blend with the surroundings near roads or structures in the administrative complex.

At the end of the 1937 season, Lange reported that Park Headquarters was 75 percent landscaped. After a long snow season, some 100 small trees and 500 shrubs were transplanted along old roadways, around residences, and in the vicinity of the maintenance complex. During the following season, headquarters planting increased to 150 small trees and total of 1000 shrubs and/or perennials. This was accomplished largely through the efforts of landscape foremen Edwin Meola and A.F. Lathrop, who allowed Lange to turn his attention to other matters like the design of more than 200 rustic signs produced during 1938.

The 1939 season saw the completion of the rustic sign program. At Park Headquarters, they were posted on buildings and pointed the way to attractions like the Lady of the Woods. Two trails were completed that summer; one went from the Lady of the Woods to the

residential road, while the other went from the Ranger Dormitory to the first set of cottages. The latter trail featured a small masonry bridge that crossed Munson Creek. Stone steps were placed on this trail (so that the west bank of the creek could be climbed), as was a flagstone walk at the top.

Although some landscaping of the residential complex was done in 1940, most of the season's work at headquarters involved construction. The comfort station near the Messhall was converted to a transformer building and its former function assumed by a new structure located across the roadway from it. The new structure, later to become a paint shed, was the last rustic stone building erected in the park. A wood frame hospital was begun during the 1940 season and eventually completed in 1948 as apartments. As soon as the Munson Valley development was complete, however, it was due to undergo change as the result of the decision to make Crater Lake an all-year park.

5. Winterization

It is important to note that Munson Valley was developed as a summer headquarters because the National Park Service expected to establish an all-year headquarters at Union Creek, 25 miles to the west. This plan failed because of U.S. Forest Service opposition, so the park was administered from Medford nine months of the year until 1965. When the newly-invented rotary snow plow came to Crater Lake in 1930 to keep park roads open on weekends, several park employees were housed in the Messhall for the winter.

More staff had to have winter housing in Munson Valley during 1936 because the park was being kept open on an all-year basis as an experiment. In 1939, the first alterations to park housing at Munson Valley were made, with one of the justifications being winter conditions. These improvements were limited, however, to the three cottages west of the Ranger Dormitory receiving second story dormer windows, stone porches, and chimneys large enough to facilitate wood heat.

By 1944, many of the difficulties of occupying a site like Munson Valley throughout the winter were clearly

recognized. Efficient snow removal was necessary for winter operations, something that Superintendent Ernest P. Leavitt thought was hindered by certain structural and landscape features. Mentioned as obstacles were the landscaping, narrow roads with curves, buildings set back from roads, and structures that had uncovered or open porches with steep roofs that pitched snow so that entrances and first floor windows were blocked. These difficulties, he said, necessitated the use of wooden snow sheds that were often 50 to 75 feet long. (8)

The problems of winter operations were also seen by Vint, Lange, and other landscape architects who were against the idea of the Munson Valley site being transformed to suit all-year occupancy. Nevertheless, funds were programmed in 1954 to adapt structures and roadways to winter use. That summer the six residential cottages had snow tunnel/storage areas added to their entrances so that the porches could be better utilized. In addition, three wood framed garages with flat roofs were built near the cottages. Work on the roads near both sets of cottages was done to facilitate plowing. Specifically, this meant that lawns and walks had to be eliminated in favor of widened roads. An island of trees and shrubs in front of the upper set of cottages was removed so that the snow plows could turn around.

Changes also took place in the maintenance complex during 1954. The comfort station built in 1940 had a storage space added to it and was converted to a paint shed. A similar but more extensive alteration to the Oil and Gas House involved moving the pumps into an addition put on the structure and flattening its formerly gabled roof. To the west of it was a building constructed in 1927 which enclosed this part of the complex on three sides. This was a problem for the plows, so the Utility Building was removed in favor of a new machine shop constructed in 1955. Widening the road from the maintenance complex to the administrative area was accomplished by removing trees and shrubs from an island between the warehouse and messhall.

Additional changes were made at Park Headquarters in 1958. A "permanent" snow tunnel was put on the south side of the Administration Building to eliminate the need for a wooden snow shed to be put on the building every October. On the other side of the oval-shaped

plaza, one of the road entries to the administrative complex was obliterated and planted with small trees. This was done so that a new concession service station could be built on the west side of the road to the lake and eventual realignment of the adjacent intersection with the Rim Drive might follow.

Except for the removal of the Firehall (a stone building located north of the Machine Shop) in 1969, Park Headquarters remained virtually unchanged until 1986. That year the Messhall and Ranger Dormitory had stone masonry snow tunnels added to them and were renamed the Canfield Building and Steel Center respectively. A similarly constructed snow tunnel was added to the west side of the Administration Building in 1987 so that the tunnel on its south side could be removed. The Sager Administration Building became its new name after an extensive rehabilitation to adapt it (like the other two buildings) to continued winter use.

B. Design Precedents

1. General Statement

The Munson Valley development is unusual because the use of weathered boulders and battered stone is so pervasive in its design. Large boulders were utilized to define roadways and organize plantings, or as a feature like the drinking fountain in front of the Administration Building. They were incorporated into structures as well, growing in size from rubble that had been used in the construction of the Warehouse in 1926 to fifteen cubic feet for buildings completed during the 1931 season. This soon became the most noticeable aspect of of the development. By 1934, the majority of structures at Park Headquarters had large boulders in their first floor walls because they were thought to "age better" than smaller rock, an indication that there was an underlying intention to convey a sense of permanency to the development.(9)

The designers' intent is less obvious in the layout of plantings at Munson Valley. Many precepts of landscape architecture during this time are demonstrated by the effective use of vegetation as framing devices, so that the structures might have their often asymmetrical

appearance augmented by shade and shadow. The blending of site, structures, and landscaping came off so well that Munson Valley's designers tried to create similar effects with stone, structural detail, and plantings in other park areas that corresponded with Crater Lake's volcanic setting. None were as complete, but examples persist at Indian Well in Lava Beds National Monument, Lassen Volcanic National Park's Manzanita Lake, and at Prescott Metropolitan Park in Medford, Oregon.

2. Specific Precedents

Naturalistic landscape design in the United States can be traced back to Andrew Jackson Downing's books about rural estates in the 1840s. Downing was the first American to promote the idea that architecture and landscape design had to blend with the natural surroundings, something that soon caught hold in the development of city parks around the nation throughout the last half of the 19th century. By 1910, appropriate design for developments in mountainous areas was called rustic architecture.

The first plan to use rustic architecture for a comprehensive development in a national park came in 1915 when a landscape architect proposed the relocation of Yosemite Village.⁽⁹⁾ Although the plan was never implemented as intended, landscape architects had an important part to play in the establishment of the National Park Service a year later. Yosemite provided the first headquarters for landscape architects in the new agency and was a testing ground for rustic design throughout the 1920s.

Battered or "rusticated" stone was incorporated into the lower story of park headquarters buildings in Yosemite Valley from 1924 to 1925. The material blended so well with the surroundings that its use was planned for other parks. Rusticated stone took hold at Crater Lake's headquarters development because Park Service designers considered the precedent of trimmed stone in earlier concession buildings at Rim Village to be neither bold nor interesting enough to mesh the surroundings.

To most landscape architects of the time, proper tree planting was the most important step in estate (or in

this case park) development. Trees could be used to frame views and provide shadows at certain times of the day across lawns and structures. The most effective shadows fell across the long axis of the house and/or grounds, which meant that a north-south orientation was desirable. (10)

Six of the eight buildings constructed at Park Headquarters in 1931 and 1932 had a north-south axis. All eight are "asymmetrical" because they balance two irregular parts. This is in marked contrast to the Administration Building, which reflects the Renaissance idea of symmetry where static opposition of masses are organized around a central axis. Asymmetrical composition can be traced to Downing, who also popularized several details found in structures at Munson Valley. These are the use of battens for vertical siding as well as dormers and inset windows to accentuate shadows. (11)

Downing, like the landscape architects who were to follow, advocated a better union between structures and grounds. This could be done by planting shrubbery ~~clo~~ to the foundation of the house, or might be accomplished with irregular gardens and rockwork. Foundation planting in the administrative complex at Munson Valley was followed by massing plant material into "gardens" that bordered "lawns" of native grass or sedge. These "gardens" were composed of transplanted trees and shrubs that landscape architects of the time divided into categories of "fillers" and "facers".

"Fillers" were used in plantings for variation of texture and form. In lower elevation projects, they were shrubs that served to pull or hold together the "interest" shrubs, and accent the group. At Munson Valley, transplanted trees, generally Mountain Hemlock or Subalpine fir, were used for "filler" instead of shrubs because of the high-elevation setting.

"Facer" shrubs were supposed to have a sweeping appearance, throwing out boughs so that an unbroken reach of green went from the top of the shrub to meet the ground. Foundation "facers" such as Twinberry, Spirea, Scoules willow, and Mountain ash are still evident at the Superintendent's Residence because the site has been relatively undisturbed. Some landscaping

on either end of the Ranger Dormitory demonstrates how "facers" and "fillers" could be combined to make irregular gardens which might appear as small islands in a "lawn" of native grasses or sedge.

The placement of trees and shrubs into groups was naturalistic, not random, because the landscape architects wanted to walk the thin line between a discernible formal design and revegetating the site. Naturalistic expression could also take the form of planting alpine perennials (some survive in the ellipse near the Administration Building and Ranger Dormitory) or sloping the banks of roads to existing contours instead of leaving undisguised scars. What makes the Munson Valley site worthy of continued study is how rustic architecture was melded with naturalistic design so that much of the expression is masked by blending it with the surroundings.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings:

1. Structural elements and details:

- a. "Employees Residence - Government Camp" [houses 30, 31, 32], n.a. [John Wosky], drawing no. 106-2713, ca. 1927, one sheet, Files, Technical Information Center, Denver Service Center.
- b. "Mess and Bunk House" by William E. Marquard, July 9, 1929, drawing no. 106-91, four sheets, Files, TIC, DSC.
- c. "Employees Residence - Government Camp" [house 25], by John Wosky, drawing no. 106-316, March 12, 1930, one sheet, Files, TIC, DSC.
- d. "Store Room and Garage - Headquarters" [Firehall], by Francis G. Lange, April 27, 1931, drawing no. 106-326, one sheet, Files, TIC, DSC.
- e. "Employees Residence - Government Camp"

[Houses 24 and 28], by Francis G. Lange, May 4, 1931, drawing no. 106-327, two sheets, Files, TIC, DSC.

- f. "Superintendent's Residence" by A. Paul Brown, June 1932, drawing no. 3001-B, nine sheets, Maintenance Division Files, Crater Lake National Park.
- g. "Machine Shop and Utility Shed" by G.H.W., June 20, 1932, drawing no. 3008-B, six sheets, MDF, CLNP.
- h. "Ranger Dormitory" by George W. Norgard, June 30, 1932, drawing no. 3006-B, seven sheets, MDF, CLNP.
- i. "Naturalist's Residence" by Merel S. Sager, July 5, 1932, drawing no. 106-3007-B, three sheets, Files, TIC, DSC.
- j. "Oil and Gas House" by Merel S. Sager, August 2, 1932, drawing no. 3012, one sheet, MDF, CLNP.
- k. "Addition to Mess Hall" by Francis G. Lange, July 3, 1933, drawing no. 3025-A, one sheet, MDF, CLNP.
- l. "Addition to Warehouse" by Francis G. Lange, July 7, 1933, drawing no. 37-A, two sheets, MDF, CLNP.
- m. "Combination Woodshed and Garage" by P.S.B., April 10, 1934, drawing no. 3035-A, one sheet, MDF, CLNP.
- n. "Storage Shed" by P.S.B., April 28, 1934, drawing no. 3037, one sheet, MDF, CLNP.
- o. "Administration Building" by Scofield DeLong, May 25, 1934, drawing no. 3032-B, eleven sheets, MDF, CLNP.
- p. "Remodel Employees Residences" [Houses 30, 31, 32], by A.F. Lathrop, August 2, 1938, drawing no. 106-2072, one sheet, TIC, DSC.

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- q. "Hospital" by Cecil Doty, June 8, 1940, drawing no. 106-2015-B, seven sheets, TIC DSC.
- r. "Addition to Transformer House" by Lester H. Anderson, August 27, 1941, drawing no. 106-2161, one sheet, TIC, DSC.
- s. "Revision of Headquarters Area" by Harold Fowler, December 27, 1949, drawing no. 2015, one sheet, RG 79, 67A614, Box 8936, File 601-01 Administrative Sites, FRC Seattle.
- t. "Entrance and Oil Storage" [Houses 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32], by George W. Norgard, April 14, 1954, drawing no. 2107, one sheet, MDF, CLNP.

2. Landscape components:

- a. "Planting Plan" by Francis G. Lange and Howard Buford, June 9, 1934, drawing no. 3039, one sheet, MDF, CLNP.
- b. "Drinking Fountains" by Francis G. Lange, February 2, 1936, drawing no. 3057, one sheet, MDF, CLNP.
- c. "Flagpole" by Francis G. Lange, March 18, 1936, drawing no. 3059, one sheet, MDF, CLNP.
- d. "Directional Sign" by Francis G. Lange, May 15, 1936, drawing no. 3064, two sheets, MDF, CLNP.
- e. "The Master Plan, Crater Lake National Park" coordinated by the Branch of Plans and Design [drawn by Francis G. Lange], 1939-40, nineteen sheets, Library Collection, Crater Lake National Park.

B. Historic Views:

Munson Valley's development in the 1930s was particularly well-documented by park photographers who recorded projects in progress and after completion so that the expenditure of

emergency appropriations could be justified. These and earlier photos of the site were obtained from files housed in the park's Interpretation Division.

C. Notes:

1. Memorandum, E.P. Leavitt, Superintendent; to all employees, August 22, 1938, RG 79, 67A614, Box 4418, File 201-15 Policy, Federal Records Center Seattle.
2. Oral history interview of Francis G. Lange by Stephen R. Mark, September 13, 1988, Vacaville, California. This aim is also expressed by Albert H. Good on page 5 of "Apologia" in Park Structures and Facilities (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1935), which was a National Park Service guide to the use of rustic architecture in state parks.
3. Portland Oregonian, August 28, 1921, sec. 4, p. 7, quoted in Richard M. Brown, "The Lady of the Woods Revisited," Crater Lake Nature Notes XXI (1955), p. 11.
4. General Scheme, Development Program, Crater Lake National Park, n.a. [Charles G. Thomson, Superintendent] Medford, Oregon, January 1928, RG 79, 67A614, Box 8936, File 600-03-01 Development Outline, FRC Seattle.
5. Report to the Chief Architect, through the Superintendent of Crater Lake National Park, Emergency Conservation Work, April 17, 1934, to October 1, 1934, by Francis G. Lange, p. 7, RG 79, Region IV, Central Classified Files 1933-49, File 885-01, Part 1 Crater Lake Reports, National Archives.
6. Ibid., p. 13. Ten perennials and 17 shrubs were used in various locations within the park that season, but the report does not specify how many plant species were used in Munson Valley.
7. Report to the Chief Architect through the Superintendent of Crater Lake National Park, Emergency Conservation Work -- 5th Period, by Francis G. Lange, Assistant Landscape Architect, November 1, 1935, Part 1, History Files, Crater Lake National Park.
8. Crater Lake National Park Development Outline, Park

Headquarters Area, March 1944, by E.P. Leavitt, Superintendent, pp. 9-10, RG 79, Region IV, Central Classified Files, Crater Lake, Box 11, Folder 600.01, Part 1, Master Plans, FRC San Bruno.

9. Preliminary Plans and Tentative Studies of Architectural Character for the New Village, Yosemite National Park, by Mark Daniels, General Superintendent and Landscape Engineer of National Parks, [ca. 1915], 11 p., F.P. Farquhar Papers, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

10. Typescript of a radio talk on landscape architecture entitled "Lawn Shadows," [und.], Radio addresses ca. 1919-1937, Arthur L. Peck Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis.

11. Vincent J. Scully, The Shingle Style and the Stick Style (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1971), pp. xxix-xlv.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a donated recording project from HABS that took place at the Oregon Caves National Monument and Crater Lake National Park during the summer of 1989. From June 5 to August 25, research and measured drawings for the project were completed by HABS Project Supervisor Kurt M. Klimt, Architecture Technician Belinda Sosa, and Landscape Technicians John Nicely and Michael Egan. Coordination of the project was done by NPS regional Chief of Cultural Resources, Stephanie Toothman, and HABS Principal Architect Paul Dolinsky.

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