
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2004



Drakesbad Guest Ranch
Lassen Volcanic National Park



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pacific West
Regional Office

Cultural Resource
Programs

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY (CLI) PROGRAM
2009 Condition Assessment Update for:

Drakesbad Guest Ranch
Lassen Volcanic National Park

Lassen Volcanic National Park concurs with the condition assessment update for Drakesbad Guest Ranch as identified below:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **FAIR**

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 disturbance 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 appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics 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 cultural and natural values.


Superintendent, Lassen Volcanic National Park

7-18-09

Date

Please return to:

Vida Germano
PWR CLI Coordinator
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807
(510) 817-1407
(510) 817-1484 (fax)

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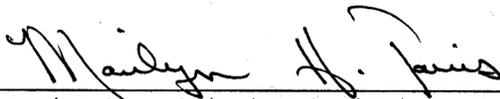
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Cultural Landscape Inventory:
Drakesbad Guest Ranch

Lassen Volcanic National Park concurs with the general findings of this Cultural Landscape Inventory, including the Management Category and Condition Assessment as listed below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY B: **Should be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **FAIR**



Superintendent, Lassen Volcanic National Park

09/15/04
Date

Please return this form to:
Shaun Provencher
Pacific West Region Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator
National Park Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1062

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Drakesbad Guest Ranch

other name/site number: Drake's Baths; Drakesbad Resort; Hot Springs Valley

2. Location

street & number: N/A

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: Head of Warner Creek Valley, Lassen Volcanic National Park

city/town: Chester

state: California

code: CA

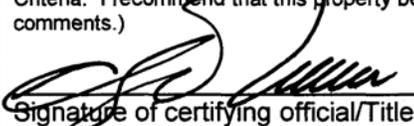
county: Plumas

code: 063

zip code: 96020

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Acty Assoc. Director
Signature of certifying official/Title Cultural Resources,
Nat. Park Service

9/22/2003
Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

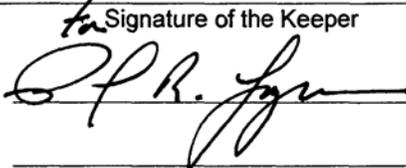
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <u> </u> see continuation sheet	<u>for</u> Signature of the Keeper 	Date of Action <u>10/22/03</u>
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register <u> </u> see continuation sheet		
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register <u> </u> see continuation sheet		
<u> </u> removed from the National Register <u> </u> see continuation sheet		
<u> </u> other (explain)		

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Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, as well as other valuable information for park management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for querying information associated with the CLI.

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, NPS Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998). Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report on an annual performance plan that is tied to 6-year strategic plan. The NPS strategic plan has two goals related to cultural landscapes: condition (1a7) and progress on the CLI (1b2b). Because the CLI is the baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System, it serves as the vehicle for tracking these goals.

For these reasons, the Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers the completion of the CLI to be a servicewide priority. The information in the CLI is useful at all levels of the park service. At the national and regional levels it is used to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI assists managers to plan, program, and prioritize funds. It is a record of cultural landscape treatment and management decisions and the physical narrative may be used to enhance interpretation programs.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Region/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development projects, lack of landscape documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and Region/Support office priorities. This list is updated annually to respond to changing needs and priorities. Completed CLI records are uploaded at the end of the fiscal year to the National Center for Cultural Resources, Park Cultural Landscapes Program in Washington, DC. Only data officially entered into the National Center's CLI database is considered "certified data" for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a multi-level process with each level corresponding to a specific degree of effort and detail. From Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey through Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions are made regarding if and how to proceed. The relationship between Level 0, I, and II is direct and the CLI for a landscape or component landscape inventory unit is not considered finished until Level II is complete.

A number of steps are involved in completing a Level II inventory record. The process begins when the CLI team meets with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI and is followed by historical research, documentation, and fieldwork. Information is derived from two efforts: secondary sources that are usually available in the park's or regions' files, libraries, and archives and on-site landscape investigation(s). This information is entered into CLI database as text or graphics. A park report is generated from the database and becomes the vehicle for consultation with the park and the

SHPO/TPO.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment is a distinct inventory level in the CLI and is optional. This level provides an opportunity to inventory and evaluate important landscape features identified at Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape, not listed on the LCS. This level allows for an individual landscape feature to be assessed and the costs associated with treatment recorded.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a complete inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and where appropriate, associated landscape features in the National Park System. The end result, when combined with the LCS, will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI Level II is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI Level II provides information to establish historic significance by determining whether there are sufficient extant features to convey the property's historic appearance and function. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR, which involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material.

The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the significant landscape and its contributing features based on historical documentation, analysis of existing conditions, and the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes. The CLI, on the other hand, records impacts to the landscape and condition (good, fair, poor) in consultation with park management. Stabilization costs associated with mitigating impacts may be recorded in the CLI and therefore the CLI may advise on simple and appropriate stabilization measures associated with these costs if that information is not provided elsewhere.

When the park decides to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, a CLR may be necessary to work through the treatment options and set priorities. A historical landscape architect can assist the park in deciding the appropriate scope of work and an approach for accomplishing the CLR. When minor actions are necessary, a CLI Level II park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

Park Information

Park Name: Lassen Volcanic National Park
Administrative Unit: Lassen Volcanic National Park
Park Organization Code: 8400
Park Alpha Code: LAVO

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Landscape
Name: Drakesbad Guest Ranch
CLI Identification Number: 725057
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 725057

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level I

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 7/1/1988
Level 0 Recorder: Bright Eastman
Date Level 0 Entered: 7/1/1988
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: Bright Eastman
Level 0 Site Visit: Yes

Level I

Date Level I Data Collected: 8/20/2004
Level I Data Collection: Kathleen Fitzgerald, Amy Hoke, Len Warner
Date Level I Entered: 8/20/2004
Level I Data Entry Recorder: Kathleen Fitzgerald
Level I Site Visit: No

Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI is based on material prepared for the draft Drakesbad Guest Ranch Cultural Landscape Report (PWR, 2004). The landscape characteristic analysis and evaluation text has been paraphrased or directly quoted from the CLR. The chronology of this CLI is derived from the CLR site history. The statement of significance, context statements, landscape description, boundary description, and history have been either paraphrased or directly quoted from the National Register nomination form completed by Ann Emmons and Janene Caywood of HRA, Inc, November 2002.

Landscape Description

The Drakesbad Guest Ranch, a 440-acre historic vernacular landscape within the Warner Valley, is located in Plumas County, California. The district is located ten miles northwest of Chester and fifty miles east of Red Bluff and Redding. The park is located at the southern end of the Cascade Range of northern California. Recent volcanic activity has erased some of the evidence of Pleistocene glaciation and is the dominant natural force influencing the landscape of the park.

The period of significance for Drakesbad Guest Ranch is from 1900 to 1952, representing the early developments of the guest ranch. The historic district boundary includes both a 400-acre parcel incorporating Edward Drake's original cash entry and homestead claims and a non-contiguous forty-acre parcel purchased by Sifford from the state of California in 1901 which contains most of Boiling Springs Lake. In addition to defining the area of legal ownership, these boundaries incorporate the core area of use during the period of significance and include landscape elements central to the visitors' experience: the primary guest ranch building cluster, Devil's Kitchen to the west, Dream Lake to the south, Boiling Springs Lake (with its spectacular view of Lassen Peak) to the southeast, and Indian Rock to the east. The historic Boiling Springs Lake Trail, built by Alex Sifford during the period of significance, links the two discontinuous parcels.

The 400-acre parcel contains the primary cluster of guest ranch buildings used for accommodating guests and for keeping saddle horses. This cluster of improvements grew around Edward Drake's "big house," a building constructed specifically for use as a hotel. Located within the forest margin at the north edge of the Drakesbad meadow, the "big house" occupied a slightly elevated spit of land that stood above the surrounding meadow. After 1913, the focus of the operation changed from supplying services to self-sufficient campers, to offering full accommodations to guests. New buildings included a separate kitchen, twenty board tent platforms to support new canvas wall tents, as well as a new hay barn to support an expanded string of saddle horses to be rented to guests. Over the course of decades (1936-1960) the tent cabins would be replaced, in part, with small frame cottages and duplexes.

In addition to improving and adding to the primary building complex, Alex Sifford and son Roy worked continuously on improving the access road into the site, and, for twenty years, on draining and improving the "bog and willow swamp" that originally surrounded Drake's homestead buildings. Expanding upon Drake's original 20-acre field of timothy hay, eventually created the meadow that supported the ranch's saddle horses and later, cattle. The Siffords constructed and/or improved a series of hiking and bridle trails that radiated out from the lodge, leading to the thermal areas located within their own property (Devil's Kitchen and Boiling Springs Lake) and to other scenic areas within the boundary of what is now Lassen Volcanic National Park. In order to provide fishing and boating opportunities, R. D. Sifford dammed a natural drainage in the hill slope above the south bank of Hot Springs Creek to form "Dream Lake," with an area of roughly three acres.

Drakesbad Guest Ranch is significant on a state level under Criterion A for the connection to the broad history of recreation and conservation, retains integrity and is in fair condition. Those landscape characteristic associated with the significance of the site include; Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Land Use, Circulation, Buildings and Structures, and Constructed Water Features.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

Drakesbad Guest Ranch is a single landscape with no component landscapes.

Location Map



Location of Drakesbad Guest Ranch within Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Boundary Description

The historic district boundary for the Drakesbad Guest Ranch includes all of the land owned in fee simple by the Siffords and actively used for the development of the guest ranch. This includes both a 400-acre parcel incorporating Edward Drake's original cash entry and homestead claims and a non-contiguous 40-acre parcel purchased by Sifford from the state of California in 1901 which contains most of Boiling Springs Lake. The coordinates noted below depict the two discontinuous parcels connected by the Boiling Springs Lake Trail and combined represent the limits of Sifford ownership within the Hot Springs Valley: S ½ SE ¼, S1/2 SW ¼ Section 21 T30N R5E; W 1/2 SE ¼, SW 1/4, Section 22 T30N R5E; SE ¼ SE1/4, SW1/4 SE ¼ Section 22 T30N R5E; SE1/4 NE ¼ Section 27 T30N R5E; Boiling Springs Lake Trail.

Regional Context

Physiographic Context

At 10,457 feet above sea level, Lassen Peak is the highest of several lava peaks and pinnacles in the western portion of the park. East of Lassen Peak the park boundary incorporates an extensive lava plateau, dotted with lakes and a few cinder cones. The topography of the park reflects the two geologic forces at work in the Cascades, volcanism and glaciation. Volcanic activity has periodically altered the appearance of the regional landscape. With each succeeding episode of volcanic activity, mountains have been built or deminished, lava flows have altered drainage patterns, and entire forests have been eliminated.

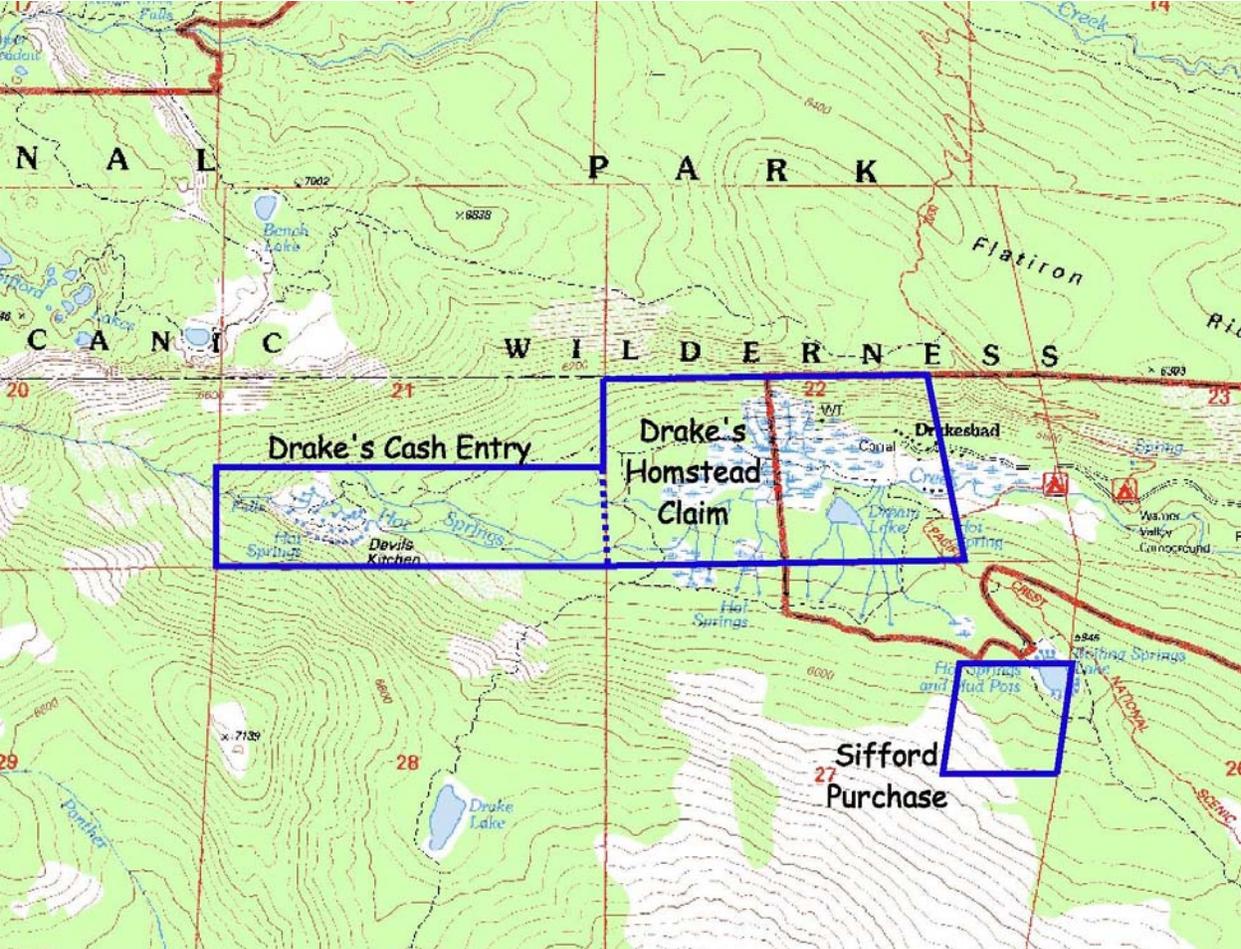
Within the larger park environment, Drakesbad Guest Ranch is located in the Hot Springs Creek valley at an elevation of roughly 5,600 feet above sea level. Hot Springs Creek is one of two major tributaries of Warner Creek, a glaciated drainage basin cut into the southern edge of the Lassen plateau near the park's south boundary. The edge of the plateau is characterized by an abundance of thermal features, including hot springs, steam vents (fumaroles), and mud pots. Hot Springs Creek flows eastward through a narrow valley south of Flatiron Ridge, an irregular mass of andesitic lava that rises over 500 feet above the valley floor. The south slope of this topographic feature is very steep, in some areas forming an almost vertical face above the drainage bottom. The gentler lower slopes of Sifford Mountain and other smaller, unnamed peaks, define the south edge of the Hot Springs Creek valley. From the headwaters of Hot Springs Creek to its confluence with King Creek, the second major tributary of Warner Creek, the valley bottom widens at intervals. Owing to local hydrological conditions, these openings in the valley floor typically contain wet meadows; the land purchased in 1900 for the development of the Drakesbad Guest Ranch straddles the largest of these.

Political Context

The Drakesbad Guest Ranch is located within the boundary of Lassen Volcanic National Park, in Plumas County, California, Second Congressional District. Lassen Volcanic National Park, first designated as a National Monument on May 6, 1907 and established as a National Park on August 9, 1916, is administered by the National Park Service.

Site Plan

The boundary for Drakesbad Guest Ranch, which follow the boundaries of historic land claims by Drake and the Sifford land purchase, as projected on the Redding Peak (o40121d4) USGS 7.5' Quad.



An existing conditions site map of Drakesbad Guest Ranch core area. A larger version of the map is located in the Appendix.



Chronology

Year	Event	Description
1880 AD	Built	Circa 1880, Edward Russell Drake constructed a road to Warner Valley.
1884 AD	Homesteaded	Edward Russell Drake filed a cash entry for 160 acres within the south quarter of Section 21 Township 30 North Range 5 East, at the head of the Warner Valley and at the heart of the thermal area known as the Devil's Kitchen.
1885 AD	Homesteaded	Drake filed claim to an adjacent 160-acre homestead in Section 22, land incorporating a large natural meadow. Drake eventually purchased 80 acres from the State of California, within the southeast quarter of Section 22, Township 30 North, Range 5 East.
1890 - 1900 AD	Built	Edward Drake built a wooden structure (known as the “plunge”) adjacent to Hot Springs Creek which he filled with mineral springs water for recreational use.
1894 AD	Altered	By 1894, Drake improved the rough wagon road that led to the Warner Valley from the Plumas County town of Chester.
1894 - 1904 AD	Purchased/Sold	Alexander Sifford arranged to pay Drake \$500 a year for a ten-year period for the 400-acre ranch, including, officially known as “Drakes Hot Springs and Ranch.”
1901 AD	Purchased/Sold	Within a year, Alexander Sifford purchased additional land from the State of California, a forty-acre tract located about one-quarter mile to the southwest, which included most of Boiling Springs Lake.

1901 AD	Altered	In the late spring of 1901, the Siffords began improving the property, including refurbishing several rooms in Drake's house, working on the road to the ranch, continuing work to remove willows and drain water from the meadow west of the house.
1901 AD	Built	The Siffords added two new tents for campers, and built a log and stone cellar on the slope of the hill to store food requiring refrigeration behind the dining room.
1903 AD	Excavated	Sifford began construction on a new swimming pool adjacent to Hot Springs Creek to replace Drake's plunge.
1903 AD	Ranched/Grazed	The Siffords kept a small number of cows in the meadow each summer to provide fresh milk.
1903 - 1943 AD	Farmed/Harvested	Sifford harvested timothy hay, a practice which lasted for forty years.
1904 AD	Altered	The Siffords widened and smoothed the surface of the narrow, rocky road that Drake had built.
1904 AD	Established	The Siffords drained swampy areas by creating an extensive network of ditches and removed willow shrubs and reseeded the areas with timothy hay. Work on the meadow was ongoing.
1905 AD	Built	An above-ground wooden plunge was constructed near Drake's original pool.
1910 - 1912 AD	Built	To accommodate the campers' horses, the Siffords expanded the fence system built by Drake to include a new corral and additional pasture fencing constructed out of cedar posts and pickets.
1910 - 1912 AD	Built	The Siffords built a water system that tapped Cold Spring with a three-quarter inch steel pipe; a wooden flume carried the pipe across the narrow canyon at the base of Flat Iron Ridge then to and stored in a fifty-gallon whiskey barrel near the house.

1912 AD	Established	With partners including Mr. and Mrs. Jules Alexander, the Siffords incorporated as the Drakes Springs Company, and offered stocks to raise capital.
1912 - 1914 AD	Built	The Siffords built a new kitchen and dining room, and a barn. Wooden platforms were constructed for twenty tent sites.
1914 AD	Built	The Siffords replaced the old wooden plunge with a new rock and concrete pool.
1916 AD	Established	Lassen Peak began a cycle of eruptions in 1914 and 1915, and continued to spew ash and gas periodically through 1921, which led to the designation of Lassen Volcanic National Park on August 9, incorporating Lassen Peak and Cinder Cone National Monuments.
1920 AD	Built	The Siffords built a new bathhouse, to replace Drake's original building. The new bathhouse was located south of the new pool and consisted of eight bathrooms and ten changing rooms. The Siffords added several canvas-walled dressing rooms near the pool.
1920 - 1929 AD	Built	The livestock facilities expanded to accommodate the average of thirty horses the Sifford's kept, including a barn with attached shed, a horse shed, and corral located west of the main house.
1926 AD	Built	The Siffords hired a laborer to build waterbars, stone-laid channels, to carry seasonal water across the Devil's Kitchen and Boiling Lake Trails.
1928 AD	Built	The Siffords built a new picket fence across the meadow from the barn to the creek.
1932 AD	Developed	Sifford built a dam on a "swampy pothole" southwest of the main house which was drained by a tributary to Hot Springs Creek to develop Dream Lake for boating, fishing, and general recreation.
1933 - 1934 AD	Altered	In the 1933-34 season the Park Service made improvements to the section of the Warner Valley Road that was located within the park.

1936 AD	Built	Sifford added four cabins to the property, circa 1936.
1937 - 1938 AD	Destroyed	In the winter of 1937-38, rainstorms, snowstorms and subsequent snowmelt in the high country caused damage to the Drakesbad property; Dream Lake dam failed, the corral and fences collapsed, and the lodge, cabins, and storehouse were destroyed or damaged.
1937 - 1938 AD	Destroyed	The Warner Creek and Kings Creek bridges were washed out and the road to Drakesbad suffered erosion and flooding.
1938 AD	Altered	The Plumas County road crew re-opened the Warner Valley Road.
1938 AD	Built	Construction of the new main lodge began on June 20; the workmen finished the new lodge within ten days with the assistance of as many as thirty laborers led by master carpenter Mike Pappas of the Red River Lumber Company.
1939 AD	Built	Sifford rebuilt Dream Lake dam, and presumably made the necessary repairs to the cabins as well as the fences and corrals which had also been damaged the preceding winter. The Siffords also built a new storage building, known locally as "the Hilton."
1942 - 1951 AD	Ranched/Grazed	The Siffords purchased 100 head of beef cattle. They branded the herd with their newly registered S-Bar brand, and let the cattle graze on their Drakesbad property and surrounding lands.
1942 AD	Built	Fencing and a large corral were constructed where the cattle were sorted before being trucked to market or driven to winter range.
1942 AD	Altered	The trails to Devil's Kitchen, Boiling Springs Lake, and the meadow "circle trail" were widened.
1942 AD	Built	The Siffords constructed two wood frame duplex cabins on concrete foundations southeast of the dining room, and refurbished the four cabins that had been built in 1938.

1951 - 1952 AD	Destroyed	Heavy snowfall of the winter of 1951-1952 damaged the cabins and the corral and destroyed dining room.
1952 AD	Established	The National Park Service contracted the control and management responsibilities to a concessioner who also operated the Manzanita Lake Lodge in the park's northwest corner.
1952 AD	Altered	Repairs to the storm-damaged property were completed by the end of the summer by Don Hummel, the concessioner at Manzanita Lake Lodge.
1952 - 1959 AD	Developed	Electricity was introduced to Drakesbad in the 1950s.
1953 AD	Purchased/Sold	Roy and Pearl Sifford sold their land to the NPS.
1954 AD	Altered	The NPS improved the Warner Valley Road. The park maintenance crew re-graded a short section of the road by moving a berm the county crew had built at the edge of the road onto the roadbed.
1956 AD	Altered	Another heavy snow season in the winter of 1955-1956 caused more road damage, rendering sections of it impassable; the NPS graded the worst sections and installed new culverts.
1960 - 1966 AD	Built	The NPS improved facilities at Drakesbad, including a new swimming pool and bathhouse, and three new duplex guest cabins.
1960 - 1966 AD	Built	The NPS built a small wood frame chlorinator building to treat the water before it entered the pool and a new 40,000-gallon water storage tank.
1960 - 1966 AD	Built	The road that led to the row of four cabins was extended uphill to provide access to the water tank and chlorinator building.
1974 - 1976 AD	Removed	In the mid-1970s, the NPS removed the log cabin known as "the cook's cabin," the building that had been Ida Sifford's Drakesbad residence, as well as the hay barn and shed at the corral.

1974 - 1976 AD	Removed	Some twenty hazard trees were removed from the developed area after a failure of one tree caused damage to two private vehicles.
1974 - 1976 AD	Built	The National Park Service made safety improvements to the section of the Devil's Kitchen Trail that led through the geothermal area, and constructed sections of boardwalk through the wettest areas along the meadow trail.
1975 - 1979 AD	Removed	Both the barn and horse shed were removed by the NPS in the late 1970s.
1988 AD	Altered	The sewer system and water distribution system were upgraded.
1992 AD	Memorialized	The Sifford family's contribution to conservation at Lassen Volcanic National Park was formally recognized when a flagpole and commemorative plaque were placed on the lawn southeast of the main lodge.

Statement Of Significance

Drakesbad Guest Ranch was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district on October 22, 2003. The district was identified as having significance at the state level, under Criterion A for its direct and significant association with regional conservation and with the development of the northern California tourism industry as it evolved near and within Lassen Volcanic National Park. The period of significance extends from 1900, when Alexander and Ida Sifford purchased Edward Drake's homestead, until 1952, when son Roy Sifford first relinquished management duties to the National Park Service. This extended period of significance, which contrasts with the date of construction for most extant buildings and structures on site (1936-1953), reflects the importance of natural - and largely immutable - features to site use and development: the larger site - 440 acres - appears much as it did in 1900 when Alexander Sifford first determined that his family could make a living selling hot baths to tourists and first began cutting trails to the best of the views and the most interesting of the area's myriad natural attractions. Significant dates include 1909 when California Representative John Raker, based out of Drakesbad, first toured the Lassen region and measured its worth to the nation; 1912, when the Siffords incorporated as the Drake Springs Company and embarked on the first aggressive building program; 1916, when Lassen Volcanic National Park was created; 1931, when completion of NPS Route 1 significantly altered local transportation patterns; and 1938 when the current lodge was constructed. Areas of Significance include Conservation and Recreation.

Alex Sifford died September 6, 1957. The once-sickly schoolteacher was 97 years old and had spent fifty-seven summers at Drakesbad. Though buried in Susanville, rather than at Drakesbad as he had asked ("south of that big cedar tree -up back of the bath house on the Boiling Springs Trail") his spirit and the legacy of his hard work and love for his "beautiful valley" remain evident in the built environment; the stories of long-time guests, whose grandchildren now visit the site every summer as their parents visited before them; and in the stories of his son and business partner Roy Sifford.

Regional Tourism and Recreation Context

"Many have climbed Vesuvius, and have peered into the molten lava crater of Kilauea but have never seen Lassen Peak. This fact is neither creditable nor profitable," Fiona Wait Colburn wrote in her tourist tract *The Kingship of Mt. Lassen*. Both pride of place and an interest in the potential profitability of scenery inspired local boosters and landowners to promote recreational use of the Lassen region. This use built upon a nineteenth century tradition of recreational excursions, often incidental to some more-practical purpose (such as prospecting or hunting), that while having little effect upon the county coffers did increase public awareness of the beauty and pleasure of a Lassen outing.

Historian Earl Pomeroy has argued that the tourist is not simply a twentieth century phenomenon, the product of the automobile, dependable roads, and leisure time, but instead has long wandered the American West, sometimes lurking in the disguise of prospector and explorer, more often in undisguised pursuit of pleasure, knowledge, and adventure. Always a cash crop (as welcome and waited for, Pomeroy wrote, as "the spring lamb or winter wheat"), the tourist was often also a source of pride, an eastern visitor affirming the worth and validity of a western place. The tourist was also often a potential investor in and future resident of nascent western communities.

Throughout much of the scenic west, nineteenth and early twentieth century travelers arrived by rail, from the eastern states. These tourists confirmed fame and fortune on Yellowstone and Yosemite national parks, Pikes Peak, Manitou Springs, and the grand resorts of San Diego and San Francisco. Yet western residents themselves also recreated, establishing a parallel trend in tourist patterns, though a trend less well-documented than that of wealthy eastern rail travelers, and with fewer dramatic effects on the built

environment. Pomeroy writes:

“Some of the earliest Westerners amused themselves on local camping trips, perhaps to the coast near Santa Cruz to pick berries or near Newport to fish and eat rock oysters. Before there were roads they went on horseback, later by wagon. Oregon farmers took to moving their families to the mountains in the late summer or autumn, passing several weeks before harvest time in hunting and fishing, berry picking, and making jams and preserves. Young men sometimes welcomed assignments to pasture horses and mules in the Sierra Nevada (Pomeroy 1990, 141).”

By the 1880s, "Westerners were camping on an impressive scale." In 1885, a writer for the travel magazine *Overland* reported that "nowhere is rough-and-ready gypsy camping on the simplest scale more thoroughly appreciated as a family play than in the Western States." Many of these campers, *Overland* reported, had learned this appreciation for nature while prospecting, lumbering, or emigrating; it was a part of their frontier heritage.

Northern California was well populated with prospectors, lumbermen, and emigrants eager to escape San Francisco's crowds or the Central Valley's heat. Camping in the Sierra foothills and along the coast became a time-honored, multi-generation tradition. These northern California visitors often stayed for weeks or months, or as long as the school calendar permitted. The built environment reflected this use: there were few grand hotels and resorts, but instead camp sites, summer homes, and rustic cabin complexes: "a tradition of informality persisted."

By circa 1900, area chambers of commerce actively advertised recreational use in a series of "educational" tracts and tourist pamphlets unabashedly promoting the scenic beauty of the Lassen region. The region was variously called "God's Wonderland," "the Switzerland of America," "Nature's Curiosity Shop," and an "Unheralded Wonderland" that promised a wealth of scenery to rival the wealth of timber and fertile soil in the adjacent forests and valleys. Increasingly, Shingletown (northwest of the peak) and Chester (southeast of the peak) were known not as "lumbering towns" but as "lumbering and resort towns," where scenery, hunting, and fishing proved nearly as valuable a commodity as timber.

The most dramatic scenery and impressive destination proved to be the summit of Lassen Peak. A summit excursion, in the mid-nineteenth century, required several days and a considerable outfit. Conforming to Pomeroy's prospector-as-tourist, G.K. Godfrey took a side trip to Lassen Peak in 1851 while on a prospecting expedition with nine other miners. He later described his adventure in *Hutchings' California Magazine*. The men were in search of a legendary "lone cabin," the site of a lost gold strike near the headwaters of the Feather River, when they apparently decided to climb Lassen Peak for pleasure. The mountain dominated the skyline from Big Meadows, where Godfrey and his party encountered Peter Lassen "with a small pack train, conveying provisions and merchandise to his store in Indian Valley." Perhaps Lassen boasted of having climbed the mountain and gave Godfrey and his party the inspiration to do the same; in any case, Godfrey wrote that "Lassen was the first man who made the ascent of this peak."

The Godfrey party reached a hot spring "emitting steam, and occasionally sparks of fire" (probably Bumpass Hell) which Godfrey described as a distinct volcano "situated to the south-east or next to the highest table land of Lassen Peak." After resting here, the party continued its ascent, picking its way arduously through the large, angular lava rocks all the way to the summit. Godfrey described the panoramic view at some length. "I love nature always," he wrote, "but especially when in her noblest and simplest grandeur . . . Nothing I ever saw, in point of scenery, so delighted me as a view from this peak."

By the 1860s, homesteaders on the approaches to Lassen Peak were beginning to make an income as

camp hosts and guides for parties of recreationists from Red Bluff, Reading, and other nearby towns. J.C. Tyler owned a ranch at Mill Creek Meadows where he hosted a large group of revelers who hunted, fished, danced, and enjoyed other outdoor activities in the summer of 1864.

The next year, another Red Bluff citizen, Watson Chalmers, editor of the Red Bluff Independent, made a recreational visit to Lassen Peak. The party had as its guide "an old and experienced mountaineer" named Kendall Vanhook Bumpass. Chalmers and his companions climbed Lassen Peak, proudly writing their names on a piece of paper and slipping it into a bottle which they placed at the highest point. Chalmers noted that there was a collection of such messages at the summit, as definite a sign as any that the mountain was now attracting recreational use.

Recreational ventures more commonly pursued than a day's mountain climbing, and potentially more profitable to local communities and landowners, included extended camping trips. In 1864, Mrs. P.B. Reading (Fannie) "went to the mountains" for the month of August, accompanied by fourteen human companions and twelve horses. Two spring wagons were filled with provisions (including "flour, bacon, onions, crackers, cheese, sweet and Irish potatoes, cabbage, beans etc. besides tea, coffee, chocolate, sugar etc.," all augmented with venison secured by the men of the party). As near as can be determined from Fannie's letter home to her mother, the trip had no distinct purpose save pleasure and escape from the summer heat and drought that beset the Central Valley.

One other party of campers shared this valley, identified as six miles from "Lawson's Butte" [sic] in the Mill Creek drainage; Morgan Hot Springs. By 1890, the name Morgan Springs was commonly accepted and recreational use of the valley had been institutionalized by Mr. Morgan himself who had constructed bath houses, a general store, and pasture fencing. Edna Saygrover of Redding, who visited Morgan Springs in 1903, reported that "many people from Redding, Cottonwood, Anderson and Red Bluff spent weeks at this resort. The only charge made was for the pasture of horses and the campers bought groceries at [Mr. Morgan's] store."

The Manzanita Lake area, most-easily accessed from Redding rather than Red Bluff, also proved popular with campers (though the quality of the fishing rather than of the mineral baths appeared of greatest concern). Frank and Chappell described Manzanita and Reflection lakes as "as pretty mountain lakes as are found anywhere . . . No lakes in the State, or any other State, can boast of larger, handsomer crimson-sided, fierce-eyed mountain trout than are found in these lakes." (Major Reading informed Frank and Chappell that he first stocked Manzanita Lake in 1848 while landowners J.E. Stockton and W.H. Coffee stocked Reflection Lake in 1875, and maintained a fish-hatchery dam and reservoir at their Reservation Lake timber claim. Reflection Lake froze smooth and clear in the winter, and generations of area children tell of winter skate parties. In 1944, Lassen Volcanic National Park administrators concluded that the Manzanita Lake region had been continuously used for recreation for almost a century.

The Built Environment: Transportation

By circa 1920, upon designation of Lassen Volcanic National Park yet prior to initiation of the NPS development program, the Lassen Peak periphery could be accessed via state and forest service roads leading from Red Bluff, Redding, Susanville, and Quincy. Colburn wrote:

"There is an automobile service from Red Bluff to Morgan Springs [near today's Southwest Entrance], and from Redding to Manzanita Lake. There is also an automobile stage from Susanville to Drakesbad, seven miles from the southern base of the volcano. A shorter auto trip is from Westwood, twenty-five miles from Drakesbad. Westwood is a terminal of the California-Nevada line of the Southern Pacific... The Western Pacific Railroad goes through the picturesque Feather River Canyon, and from Keddie or Doyle it is possible to motor to the base of Lassen Peak . . . Four laterals lead out from Red Bluff and the

southwest while still other short-cuts converge from various California angles, thus providing many approaches to this matchless Switzerland of America. Even now it is not difficult to reach the mountain from any direction, whether by footpaths with pack animals and camping outfits, or by vehicle over the fairly good wagon roads. The question of personal comfort need not deter the Nature lover from an incursion into the realm of Mt. Lassen's volcanic kingship. (Colburn, 40)"

Additional secondary access roads included the Butte Lake/Cinder Cone Truck Trail, the Juniper Lake Road, the Twin Lakes Truck Trail and the Badger Flats Truck Trail (which roughly followed the course of the historic Noble's Emigrant Trail). Construction of the Juniper Lake road represented a unified effort between timber and recreation interests. The Warner Valley road to Drakesbad and the Devil's Kitchen area had been constructed circa 1880 by homesteaders Peter Guscetti, James Kelly, and Edward R. Drake. The Butte Lake/Cinder Cone road had been constructed by campers and fishermen. "Pack trails" included those from Mineral/Battle Creek Meadows to the summit of Lassen Peak; along Kings Creek/Black Butte by way of Cold Boiling Lake; and a trail from Lake Helen to Bumpas Hot Springs. (These trails were "nothing more than mere paths . . . following the path of least resistance, . . . rocky and rough, and very steep.")

The Built Environment: Accommodations

Although camping predominated, rustic accommodations were available in the Lassen vicinity, most constructed as off-shoots of settlement ventures and most located on the periphery of the park, where reduced snowfall and gentler topography eased visitor access. In 1944, park superintendent James Lloyd reported that accommodations north of Lassen Peak, excluding the NPS-operated Manzanita Lake Lodge complex), included the Viola Hotel and Scharsch's cabin complex, both located approximately seven miles north of Manzanita Lake on State Highway 44; Doane's Camp, eleven miles northeast of Manzanita Lake, in the Hat Creek Valley on State Highway 89; and Day's Resort and Olmstead's Camp at Old Station, also in the Hat Creek Valley. All of the above facilities were described as constructed "many years" prior to 1944, all were patronized by both through-travelers and also tourists, particularly fishermen and hunters. All were only modestly profitable and all, by the 1930s, proved less-popular with tourists than the Manzanita Lake Lodge complex, located 1,400 feet higher in elevation and distinctly cooler in the summer months.

Tourist facilities in the immediate Mineral vicinity were scarce on account, Lloyd reported, of the "lack of" pleasant surroundings . . . and the depth of snow blanketing [the area] until well into July." Morgan Springs, now the Hanna Ranch, on the Chester to Susanville Highway, was "very popular" and "the early day favorite spot for camping, fishing, and bathing." Southeast of Lassen Peak, the Drakesbad Guest Ranch in Warner Valley, accessed via rough dirt road from the Chester to Susanville Highway, offered tourist accommodations well in advance of park designation and today stands as the only extant in-park representative of the turn-of -the-century tourist industry.

Regional Conservation Context

For almost a century, the Lassen Peak region has been managed as federal reserved land. Federal protection of the lands around Lassen Peak came in stages: first, a temporary withdrawal of unclaimed lands from public entry under the various homestead laws in 1902; then, proclamation of a forest reserve in 1905; later, the creation of two national monuments in 1907; and finally, the establishment of Lassen Volcanic National Park on August 9, 1916. These developments occurred within the context of the rise of conservation in the 1890s and 1900s. By turns, the reserved lands were administered by the U.S. General Land Office, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service. These federal agencies each put their own administrative footprint on the landscape.

In addition to homesteaders and loggers, the Lassen Peak region had long attracted a considerable

number of pleasure seekers. Residents of the Upper Sacramento Valley in particular sought relief from the summer heat by camping in the mountain meadows near Lassen Peak and the region's hot springs. In March 1906, citizens of Plumas and Lassen counties signed petitions calling for the area to be made a national park; local tradition holds that this petition drive was conceived of and managed from Drakesbad. Boosters in this era saw tourism as a golden opportunity to bring potential investors through their communities. The petitions were addressed to President Theodore Roosevelt and sent to Senator George C. Perkins of California. Among the people who signed the Plumas County petition were the sheriff, tax collector, clerk and recorder, a judge, and a mineral surveyor with the General Land Office. The signers of the Lassen County petition included farmers, ranchers, teachers, doctors, and lawyers, a postmaster, a miner, a lumberman, a printer, a barber, and a power company official, indicating broad support of the measure. Forest Supervisor Barrett remembered that the two petitions marked the beginning of "local agitation for a National Park." Although he would later recommend designation of small national monuments under Forest Service control, Barrett put his own name on the Plumas County petition.

Senator Perkins forwarded the petitions to Secretary of the Interior Ethan A. Hitchcock with a "most hearty endorsement," and Hitchcock requested a report from the General Land Office. In October, Acting Commissioner George F. Pollock reported that the petitioners had not defined any boundaries for the park and proposed that the Forest Service recommend areas for protection. Acknowledging that the region contained numerous points of scientific interest, he concurred with the petitioners that some portion of the Lassen Peak Forest Reserve deserved protection as a national park. Of particular interest were Bumpass Hell, various hot springs, and Cinder Cone. If the Forest Service supported the national park proposal, Pollock stated, then his agency would be prepared to present it to Congress.

In the meantime, Congress passed the Antiquities Act of June 8, 1906. Sponsored by Congressman John Lacey of Iowa, the law was intended to protect areas of unusual historic or scientific interest. It authorized the president to proclaim such areas as national monuments. President Theodore Roosevelt immediately invoked the law to create Devil's Tower National Monument in Wyoming, thereby establishing the important precedent that national monuments could encompass monumental landforms (much like national parks) as well as archaeological or historic resources. Despite this action, however, there was no immediate expectation that national monuments would be administered together with national parks by one agency. That development would come many years later after the creation of the National Park Service, when Executive Order 6288 consolidated national monuments, military parks, and historic sites within the national park system.

The Forest Service responded quickly and aggressively to the legislation. Forester Gifford Pinchot promptly revised The Use Book to reflect the Forest Service's ability to manage such areas. The 1906 edition, issued less than a month after passage of the Antiquities Act, included the following two paragraphs on historic and scientific monuments:

"All persons are prohibited from appropriating, excavating, injuring, or destroying any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity situated on lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States, without the permission of the Secretary who has jurisdiction over the land involved...

Forest officers should report to the Forester the location and description of all objects of great scientific or historic interest which they find upon forest reserves, and should prevent all persons from injuring these objects without permission from the Secretary of the Agriculture... (Forest Service 1906, 69-70)"

Pinchot's purpose was to demonstrate that national monuments need not be transferred out of the Forest

Service's jurisdiction for they would receive due consideration under national forest management.

In compliance with Pinchot's directive, Barrett recommended six areas around Lassen Peak for designation as national monuments. The areas included Crater Lake and Mountain (outside the present park boundaries), Susan Springs, Lassen Peak, Bumpass Hell, another boiling spring, and Cinder Cone. Barrett emphasized Cinder Cone and included Snag Lake, Butte Lake, and the nearby lava beds within this proposed national monument. He also noted that the head of Warner Valley contained points of interest (Devil's Kitchen) but he excluded them because of private land holdings in the vicinity. Barrett noted that the volcanic terrain around Lassen Peak was "sparsely timbered and of practically no value for grazing" because it was nearly devoid of vegetation, and none of the areas he described were useful for anything but attracting tourists with the "natural curiosities" that they contained.

Asked to provide more specific boundaries, Barrett sent a second report in January 1907. Actual surveys of the proposed national monuments, he explained, had to await the summer. In the meantime, he urged immediate action to protect the Lassen Peak and Cinder Cone areas. The following month, Barrett sent a third report explaining his sense of urgency. Placer miners, who had already "plastered" claims all over the Plumas National Forest, would soon file claims in the scenic hot springs area unless it was protected. Furthermore, the Forest Service lacked funds to administer these areas. Soon, Barrett expected, private parties would be pressing the Forest Service for special use permits to develop hotels and bathhouses around these hot springs.

Barrett argued that several national monuments were more sensible than one national park encompassing the whole area. The "natural curiosities" were scattered, and a park covering them all would include lands suitable for other uses. Barrett thought local residents would prefer a cluster of national monuments totaling some 10,000 acres to a national park covering some 144,000 acres. As long as the area was surrounded by national forest, it could be administered more efficiently by one agency rather than two.

Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson approved Barrett's proposal for the establishment of two national monuments and forwarded the correspondence to Secretary of the Interior James R. Garfield. Wilson reiterated Barrett's arguments and cited the work by J.S. Diller as evidence of the area's scientific importance. He also noted that national monuments could be created immediately by presidential proclamation, while national parks required an establishing act of Congress. The latter process could take time, and could always be accomplished later. Garfield endorsed the proposal, concurring with Wilson that the Forest Service could administer the small national monuments efficiently in connection with the Lassen Peak Forest Reserve. On May 6, 1907, President Roosevelt proclaimed Cinder Cone National Monument and Lassen Peak National Monument.

Cinder Cone National Monument extended from Butte Lake in the north to Snag Lake in the south and encompassed all of Cinder Cone and the area now known as Fantastic Lava Beds, approximately eight square miles. Lassen Peak National Monument included only two sections of land, or little more than the summit and slopes of Lassen Peak. The boundaries did not extend to Lake Helen or Bumpass Hell. Together, the two national monuments composed about 6400 acres. Even with this minimal land area, the proclamation was framed so as not to arouse local sentiment. "The reservation made by this proclamation is not intended to prevent the use of the lands for forest purposes under the proclamation establishing the Lassen Peak National Forest," the proclamation stated, "but so far as the two reservations are consistent they are equally effective. In all respects in which they may be inconsistent the National Monument hereby established shall be the dominant reservation (Fox, 1981, 139-147)."

On August 9, 1916, Lassen Volcanic National Park was established by an act of Congress. It joined a growing number of other national parks then under the charge of the Secretary of the Interior. A little

more than two weeks later, on August 25, 1916, Congress passed a law creating the National Park Service. The law effectively combined these units into a National Park System.

The efforts to establish Lassen Volcanic National Park coincided with the movement to establish a federal bureau or service specially charged with administering the national parks. These were formative years for the national park idea in which national park advocates struggled to define the purpose of national parks and to differentiate them from national forests. National park advocates argued that a strictly utilitarian approach to conservation did not adequately address esthetics. This schism within the conservation movement became most apparent in the controversy over the damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park, which Congress authorized after prolonged debate in 1913. Although that decision went against so-called "preservationists," it publicized their cause. The establishment of the National Park Service three years later institutionalized a dual approach toward management of the nation's wild lands, with the Forest Service and the National Park Service reflecting "conservationist" and "preservationist" ideals respectively.

In point of fact, these two wings of the conservation movement worked together much more often than they fought. Recent scholarship on the history of the national park idea has emphasized the utilitarian impulse within the National Park Service, which sought to develop these areas for public enjoyment and the economic benefit of tourism. Stephen T. Mather, first director of the National Park Service, saw the need to make national parks readily accessible by automobile in order to promote their recreational use and create a mass constituency for the National Park System. "Mather's vision embraced a correlated system of superlative scenic areas which should become the familiar playgrounds of the whole American people," wrote Robert Sterling Yard, a prominent publicist of the national parks, in 1920. "He foresaw in the national parks a new and great national economic asset (Yard 1920, 22)."

Congressman John E. Raker of California, who was more instrumental than anyone in the establishment of Lassen Volcanic National Park, exemplifies how preservationists and conservationists were often indistinguishable. Raker worked for legislation to create the National Park Service, and in 1912, he introduced his first bill to establish a "Peter Lassen National Park." Yet he also was a strong supporter of the Forest Service, and in 1913 he voted in favor of authorizing the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Not surprisingly, Raker's bill contained provisions that would allow grazing use and summer home development to continue within the national park. Personally familiar with the area from his numerous visits to the Drakesbad Guest Ranch with his family, Raker sought national park designation chiefly to enhance the area's recreational appeal.

Raker re-introduced bills to establish a national park in 1913 and 1914 but he could not find much support for them in Congress. Although he held a seat on the House Public Lands Committee, which oversaw all such national park bills, Raker was unable to make the case that the Lassen Peak region's scenic values were of a quality to warrant national park status. He obtained the support of various local organizations, including the Lassen Highway Association of Susanville, the Oroville Chamber of Commerce, and the Shasta County Promotion and Development Association. Raker also garnered support for the bill from the Department of the Interior, first under the Taft Administration in 1912, and again under the Wilson Administration in 1913. However, the Department of Agriculture, which included the Forest Service, suggested that the proposal should await the establishment of a "Bureau of National Parks."

The most important objection to the bill came from Acting Secretary of Agriculture B.T. Galloway in January 1914. Galloway provided a summary of the forest resources within the area of the proposed national park, classifying them by forest type and assigning each an estimated volume and value. Whereas Galloway's predecessor in the Taft Administration had commented that the timber was "of poor

quality" and could not "be logged for years to come," Galloway made no such disclaimer. More importantly, he emphasized the area's importance to stockmen, and declared that the creation of a national park would "affect at least 12 users of the range and as many ranges would be cut in two (U.S. Congress, 1914, 4-5)." He noted that fencing the area to prevent grazing trespass would be impractical, yet to allow grazing to continue would be unprecedented in a national park, and he insisted that the Forest Service could administer the area satisfactorily in its present status as a national forest.

In advocating his bill, Raker pointed not just to the area's volcanic features but also to the scenic beauty of its forested mountains, sparkling lakes, and majestic canyons. In addition, he noted that the streams abounded in trout while many of the lakes were stocked, and he observed the area's potential role as a wildlife sanctuary for deer, quail, and grouse. As for its accessibility to visitors, the Southern Pacific Railroad extended up the Upper Sacramento Valley and the Western Pacific Railroad followed the Feather River. From these nearby points the area could be reached by several good trails; and wagon roads extended to within eight or ten miles of the proposed southern boundary. An automobile stage for tourists had begun making a regular run from Redding to Manzanita Lake.

Probably Raker would have been unable to distinguish his national park proposal from dozens of others had Lassen Peak not erupted in May 1914. "We have suddenly developed a scenic wonder in northern California that is in a class by itself," wrote one of the campaigners for the national park in June 1914. Lassen Peak was then the only active volcano in the contiguous United States. Combined with the scenic attractions and the variety of volcanic features, the area now possessed the kind of superlative qualities that Congress looked for in establishing national parks. As Yard would write a few years later, "the national parks are far more than recreational areas. They are the supreme examples. They are the gallery of masterpieces (Yard 1920, 20)."

In December 1915, Raker introduced another bill to establish a national park. Emphasizing the recent eruption, the name was changed from Peter Lassen to Lassen Volcanic National Park. After minimal discussion, the bill passed both houses of Congress in July 1916. When Stephen Mather, who had joined the Wilson Administration the previous year as special assistant to Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane, read about the permissive provisions in this legislation, he advised his boss to recommend a veto. Mather was in the final stage of his campaign for legislation to create a National Park Service, and he believed the bill could weaken the National Park System. Secretary Lane, however, did not want to offend Raker, a strong supporter of the national parks. He did not convey Mather's objections to President Wilson, who signed the bill into law on August 9.

In time, the National Park Service was able to remove the objectionable features of Lassen Volcanic National Park's enabling legislation. The park joined an illustrious list of other parks centered around volcanic features: Yellowstone, Mount Rainier, Crater Lake, and Hawaii.

Physical History

1885-1900: "Drake's Place"

The following site history is culled from the National Register nomination form, based in large part upon a series of interviews with Roy Sifford, conducted by Lassen Volcanic National Park Ranger Les Bodine in the 1980s and subsequently transcribed by Drakesbad guests who maintain a fiercely loyal and proprietary interest in the operation and management of the valley.

Edward R. Drake's migration to Hot Springs Valley is consistent with larger northern California settlement patterns. Drake came west from Maine in the 1860s, mining in the Feather River Country near Bidwell Bar where he earned a sufficient stake to establish a "big" saloon. As the Bidwell Bar placers were exhausted, Drake followed the miners up the Feather River to Big Meadows and Prattville. From Prattville he first ventured to Hot Springs Valley circa 1875. Roy Sifford would later report that "he did not settle the land or anything, but I think came and went and trapped in there some and made Prattville his winter headquarters." In 1884, Drake filed a cash entry for 160 acres within the S2SE, S2SW of Section 21 Township 30 North Range 5 East, at the head of the Warner Valley and at the heart of the thermal area known as the Devil's Kitchen. In 1885, Drake filed claim to an additional 160-acre homestead within the NWSE, N2SW, SWSW of Section 22, land incorporating a large natural meadow. Receipt of patent proved slow as Drake found it "extremely difficult to obtain the attendance of witnesses for the reason that his nearest neighbor resides about seventeen miles away." By 1894, however, Drake had improved the rough wagon road, easing passage along those seventeen miles, and had successfully secured the help of witness L.W. Bunnell of Prattville. Bunnell described grazing land, located at too high an elevation to allow cultivation beyond the twenty acres planted to timothy hay; a dwelling house; a barn; "fencing surrounding the land [planted to timothy]"; and snow sufficiently deep to "drive [Drake] away for two or three months every winter." Drake echoed Brunell's testimony: "Every winter during deep snows and storms I come to Big Meadows with my stock to feed (Homestead Proof 1842)."

Ultimately, Drake owned 400 acres, secured through purchase and government patent. From this base, historian Douglas Strong reports, Drake "herded livestock, acted as a guide, and provided limited services to the campers he allowed on his property (Strong 1973, 24)." Darrell Conard of the Chester Chatter, a local newspaper, remembered:

"Mr. Drake had a good large pasture all fenced and sometimes there would be as many as 100 head of horses there as people would drive in from the Sacramento Valley to camp in order to escape the heat of the summer and enjoy the wonders of the area (Transcripts "Tape 5," 2)."

These campers included ailing Susanville teacher Alexander Sifford who in 1900 visited "Drake's Place" in hopes of finding a cure in the mineral waters of the hot springs. Of his journey along the "old Red Bluffroad" to Chester Sifford later remembered holes two feet deep and rocks as big as washtubs: "Over this rough road, the courageous pioneer prodded and goaded his bony oxen . . . loaded with freight." At Chester, Sifford found respite at Bert Johnson's, "a stopping place for teamsters, travelers, and tourists." From Chester to Drake's, Sifford "fought his way through brush and bogs" along a "dim" route. Settlement was limited to the Guscetti dairy, "an old log cabin and a lot of milk pans out on a rack", and the "Kelly Place," "half a score of boys and girls, about evenly divided, with their mother, starting a home in the wilderness (Alexander Sifford to Harry Robison 1946, 1-4)."

Sifford continued west three miles beyond the Kelly's, "through brush and trees, fallen logs, and up the hills," until he came to two "rude buildings . . . on the edge of a small meadow mostly covered with

willow": Drake's Place. The two rude buildings included Drake's small log cabin and a larger log building constructed as a hotel and as yet unfinished. Additional buildings included two latrines and a crude four-bath hot-spring "plunge." Hot Springs Creek ran through the meadow providing Drake, a fisherman, "with much pleasure as well as part of his food supply." Drake's horse Tyler grazed in the near meadow and cattle grazed in the more distant meadows to the south, nearer Willow Lake.

At the conclusion of his week-long sojourn, Sifford secured an option for purchase. He and his family, wife Ida, daughter Pearl (age 9), and son Roy (age 7), returned within the month, intent on making a living not by raising livestock but by developing a rustic tourist resort, "Drakes' Baths" or, ultimately, Drakesbad. For almost sixty years, the Siffords managed and improved the land base initially patented and purchased by Drake, with one important exception: in 1901 Alexander Sifford purchased forty acres containing most of Boiling Springs Lake from the State of California, for a total land base of 440 acres.

1900-1912: "A Big Campground"

Roy Sifford would later describe the early years of Sifford ownership as "a time of root hog or die... We all worked all day, as much as we could." From 1900 until 1912, the Siffords, like Drake before them, "ran a big campground." During the summer of 1905, for example, over 600 campers signed the summer register. Those who signed the register, however, represented less than half, Sifford estimated, of the total number of visitors who braved the rough road through the Warner Valley and pitched their tents in the open meadow. Here they found "fishing and hunting and hot baths and sheep/horse pasture and they just stayed on and on" (many sustained, Roy Sifford often adds, by Ida Sifford's good cooking). All arrived by horseback "mudholes made it impossible" for a car to traverse the Warner Valley Road and their horses filled the pasture. More formal accommodations were limited to two canvas tent cabins and to the three bedrooms available in Drake's "big house," which the Siffords rented to guests while they slept in a tent erected on the site of the present dining room. Drake's big house also served as the central lobby.

Improvements during these early years were limited to Drake's original cabin (use unknown); Drake's big house (known also as the lodge); a wood-lined "plunge" (or pool) built in 1904; the men's and a women's latrine built by Drake and located north and west of the present primary building cluster; less-formal toilet pits built by the Siffords; two tent cabins; and an expanded network of pasture and corral fencing, built of cedar posts and pickets. Meat and dairy products, from the Siffords' small herd of dairy cattle and from neighbors' cattle, were kept cool in a "Mexican Style meat house," described by Sifford as "a box like conveyor with little holes all around the edges of the top which would help water run down gunny sacks or burlap." (Drakesbad would not boast of electric-power refrigeration until many years later. Guests remember evening "ice cream rides" down the road to the Kellys where Emma Kelly "would provide the public with its favorite desert (Sifford 1994, xv).") None of these "first generation" resources remain on site.

Though ice might have been in short supply, water was not. In 1902, after two years of hauling water from the creek or suffering the frogs in Drake's shallow open well, the Siffords and crew began digging a long ditch from a natural cold spring on the south slope of Flat Iron Ridge 1,200 yards to a fifty-gallon whisky barrel tank set near the big house. The project was completed in 1903, with the addition of a three-quarter-inch steel pipe and construction of a flume to carry the pipe across the narrow canyon at the base of the ridge.

Consistently, Roy Sifford included the Warner Valley Road and recreational trails in his list of improvements; they were as central to the success of the operation as the buildings. The road, built by

Drake circa 1880, was narrow, rocky, prone to slides, and contained two creek fords, at Warner and Kings Creeks. In 1904 the Siffords, armed with pick, axe, crow bar, and an old plow, widened and smoothed the surface "so our guests could get here (Sifford 1994, 30)." (The first automobile to successfully navigate the rough road arrived after dark one evening during the summer of 1907; the Siffords, awakened by flashes of light through the trees and by a strange roar, supposed at first that Cinder Cone was erupting. The truth was only slightly less surprising: a large Stevens Durvea, carrying the five owners of the Oro Light and Power Company, all hungry and tired, in search of dinner and a room.)

Despite these improvements, wagons remained the primary means of access to Drakesbad for the Siffords and their guests until 1912 when "twelve years of travel by teams and wagons [got] to be an old story and pretty slow." Alex and Ida purchased a Ford on which they hauled "everything, from sewer pipes to cases of eggs to calves, cattle and everything possible to pile on (Transcripts "Tape 2," 2)."

Saddle trails led to the Devil's Kitchen (with a later fork to Dream Lake); Drake Lake; Boiling Springs Lake; Terminal Geyser and Willow Lake; and over the Golden Stairs, past Soda Springs, to Flat Iron Ridge and then beyond to Cinder Cone (north), or Grassy Lake (east).

The pasture and camping area first used by Drake is thought to have extended south and east of the current building cluster. Today's fifty-acre meadow extending west of the building complex, within the center of Section 22, took form over the course of long summers of hard labor: "the Lord did not make that meadow" Sifford reported. Instead the Siffords found a natural swamp, "thick with willows," that they drained with an elaborate system of drainage ditches, grubbed with axe and hoe, and regularly reseeded to timothy hay. Years later, land appraisers would describe this meadow "as very unlike other areas... The meadow is very large and the water situation is such that there is always an abundance [of grass]. The meadow is not damaged by this number of cattle [150 cattle for a three month season] and year after year it is our opinion that it will be available, in the same condition... The meadow does not only take care of the cattle, but at the time we were there, they had 18 head of horses, used as saddle stock and they also used the meadow. They fed no grain or hay and they were in excellent condition. This is not usual (Sifford interview 1988, 1)."

Additional chores in those years of root hog or die were more mundane but as demanding. During the height of the summer, as many as forty trail riders would request sack lunches, lunches often made with canned goods put up by Ida Sifford during the fall and winter months spent in Susanville. The Siffords also sold baths to visitors, twenty-five cents per person in the early years, escalating to fifty cents by the 1910s, soap and a towel included. The soap was handmade, and the towels hand washed, as were the sheets and pillowcases for the few rented rooms. The heat of July and August, Sifford remembered, drove Valley residents "out by the dozen . . . And they just stayed and they took baths. We were forever washing (Sifford interview 1988, 3)." This laborious process finally ended with the Siffords' purchase of a truck and completion of the requisite improvements to the Warner Valley Road: in 1914 the Siffords first contracted with a laundry service, driving two or three times a week to Westwood and to Chester, hauling laundry.

Birth of a National Park

The extent of travel to this isolated valley would ultimately prove significant to the larger region as the Siffords hosted not only vacationers, but also California dignitaries and conservationists who later were instrumental in the establishment of Lassen Volcanic National Park. In 1908, in the lobby of Drake's "big house," Mrs. Efram Spencer, wife of a California State Senator, and mother-in-law of future California congressman John E. Raker, said "we ought to make this beautiful part of our country into a national park." The Siffords circulated a petition, finding nearly unanimous support among their guests and

substantial dissent from their immediate neighbors ("fortunately or unfortunately, the stockmen surrounding us did not much care for the Forest Service and none of them would sign a petition . . . They already had too much government regulation.") While the concerns and protests of stockmen would in large part define the public debate surrounding creation of the park (and would substantially influence boundary decisions), they proved insufficient to stop park designation. Raker's exploratory tours of the region were initiated from Drakesbad, the nearest accommodations to Lassen Peak and "road's end" for those approaching the peak by automobile. On March 26th, 1912 Raker introduced HR52, a bill for the establishment of Peter Lassen National Park. After years of political wrangling, years highlighted by the spectacular 1914 and 1915 eruptions of Lassen Peak and renewed interest by the public and scientific community, Congress established Lassen Volcanic National Park in August 1916.

1912-1920: Drakesbad Guest Ranch -Years of Expansion

With sources of income limited to an occasional saddle-horse trip, an occasional meal, and a cheap bath, the Siffords, by 1912, found themselves unable to pay their mortgage: "[We] had run a free campground, built the roads and the trails and constantly serving [sic] hundreds of people and were gradually going broke." They determined that the valley's spectacular beauty could be "made to pay" only if they were able to attract a "quality clientele." Roy Sifford remembered:

"Many papers were drawn up with Alexander Sifford, Ida Mae Sifford, Jules Alexander and Ray Alexander [who held the mortgage] and Mr. Brandilla a new manager from the Feather River and other hotels who was to be the active manager, all having stock, to the extent and total of 200,000 dollars, the property and accommodations were to be upgraded for a quality clientele. The campers simply never spent much. Hot baths, bottled soda water [from Soda Springs], improve the roads and trails and horses and rent it as a resort, no longer a free campground and, in fact, not a campground at all, because there were hundreds of spots down the road between Drakesbad and the Kellys with spring and water and dozens of camping spots. It's true those camping spots wouldn't get the service of the Sifford family but there were plenty of camping spots for those who wanted to camp (Transcripts "Tape 2," 8)."

Over the course of the next three years, the Siffords, Alexanders, and Brandilla, newly incorporated as the Drakes Springs Company, built a family home for the Siffords (later used as the "cook house"; torn down in 1970); a new barn (torn down in 1969); approximately twenty wooden tent platforms for canvas-walled tents ("hay floors would no longer do"); a kitchen; a canvas-roofed dining room connected to the kitchen (replaced by a wooden one-and-one-half story structure in the 1930s, destroyed in the winter of 1951-52 and again replaced in 1952); and a new stone and wood lined plunge pool (replaced in 1961). The buildings were roofed with shakes split on site. Furniture included the homemade chairs and beds constructed of larch poles and makeshift mattresses filled with grass cut from the meadow and the store bought canvas-and-pole deck chairs that lined the porch of the big house.

Even as construction progressed on the guest ranch facilities, the Siffords played host to geologists, vulcanologists, National Park Service officials and congressmen. The latter government officials were initially involved in appraising the region's worth as a national park unit and also participating in park planning studies.

1921-1927: "The Saddlehorse Years"

By 1927, the Lassen Peak Highway reached the base of the mountain, but prior to that date Drakesbad marked the termination of the only road to approach Lassen Peak. The impact on Drakesbad was substantial. Sifford remembered,

“from 1921 until 1927 the saddle horse business from Drakesbad really boomed. The war was over. There was lots of travel. They wanted to climb Lassen Peak and the nearest place to it by car was Drakesbad. Our local guests all went to Mt. Lassen and people from all over the dam country drove in [asking] 'Could we go to Mt. Lassen?' Many days we sent as many as 30 saddle horses out of the corrals at Drakesbad all headed for Mt. Lassen (Transcripts “Tape 5,” 3).”

Saddle stock and livestock facilities increased accordingly, to a maximum of thirty head of stock and a horse compound containing a barn with attached tack shed, a horse shed, and corral. (Both the barn and horse shed have been removed in the modern period.) Saddle stock grazed in the meadow, in company, in later years, with the ranch cattle.

Upon completion of the Lassen Peak Highway, "Lassen Peak was open to all by car." Manzanita Lake Lodge, at the north end of the road, was built in response and was soon the park's largest tourist facility. In contrast to its earlier standing as the center of park activity, Drakesbad would become known "as the place to go if you aren't looking for people." Longtime guests during these restful years described an idyllic experience of summer days filled with hiking, fishing, swimming, bon fires, music ("accordion, guitar, fiddle and many times just plain good old singing festivities"), trail rides during the day, and hot dog rides at night. (Of the hot dog rides, Sifford remembered "if [the guests] could ride the sixteen miler, it was off to Juniper Lake. If they could ride some, we would go to Sifford Lakes, but mostly we went to Willow Lake... We would leave Drakesbad around four in the afternoon and return around ten in the evening.") More formal meals were eaten in the canvas-roofed dining room, where guests found "salad, choice of entree, choice of dessert," all served on white linen, with "shiny glass and mother's silver (Sifford interview 1988, 4)."

In 1932, to provide additional recreational opportunities, the Siffords built Dream Lake. On the site of a "swampy pothole" drained on one side by a stream of "some consequence" (tributary to Hot Springs Creek) the family cut the trees, blew up the stumps, and built a 250' long levee, varying in height from six feet to sixteen feet. "Our idea was to keep it full of fish so the children and most anyone could go over there and catch a fish (Transcript “Tape 4,” 12)." Over the years, beaver as well as floods threatened the structural integrity of the earthen fill dam. Every spring and again every fall, Sifford and guests would clear out the beaver dams at the spillway of the lake in an effort to reduce the water pressure on the dam.

A placemat from the Drakesbad dining room, dated 1959 yet depicting a world of experiences and views developed and promoted a generation earlier, prominently displays Devil's Kitchen to the northwest, Drake Lake and Dream Lake to the west, Terminal Geyser and Boiling Springs Lake (with its spectacular view of Lassen Peak) to the southwest, Indian Rock to the southeast together defining the near limits of the Drakesbad world. Trails to the Head of the Valley, Lassen Peak, and Kings Creek extend from Drakesbad beyond the placemat borders, promising additional adventures beyond. Soda Springs, Hot Springs Creek, and the campfire circle in front of the lodge are dramatically oversized within the expanse of open meadow, true to their importance to the place. Horseback riders are shown leaving the corral, heading to unknown points west, while a teenage boy gleefully catches a whopper of a fish and more sedentary guests lounge by the hot water pool. Kerosene lanterns, rustic antidotes to the modern world the guests had left behind, are prominently displayed in the upper right hand corner.

1938: The Big Snow and Reconstruction

On December 9-11, 1937 a region-wide, unprecedented storm dropped fifteen inches of rain, on existing snowpack, in forty-eight hours. Area streams raged at flood stage for nearly a week. The extreme weather continued for the duration of the winter, with rain turning to massive quantities of snow: 280.7 inches of snow were recorded at Lake Helen in April, 1938, significantly exceeding the fifteen-year average and delaying opening of the Lassen Peak Highway until July, a full month later than the previous years. At Drakesbad, a record twenty feet was recorded. The flood in December took out the Dream Lake Dam. The snow that followed destroyed Drake's "big house" and the storeroom, which was filled with linens and horse tack. Four cottages, built in 1936, "just sort of popped," their roof structures unable to withstand the snow's massive weight. Corrals and fences also collapsed. Both the Warner Creek and Kings Creek bridges were washed out and the Warner Valley Road was extensively damaged at the crossings. (Of the Warner Creek crossing Sifford stated "the entire stream had been changed; and the country on both sides had really been tom out. The entire back roads were worn, the stream itself was running a torrent five feet deep to 30 or 40 feet wide.") The "old log barn built in the early days" (circa 1914) withstood the snow, as did the cook house and the kitchen with its steep roof and "seasoned and tough" Tamarack-pole rafters (Sifford interview 1987, *passim*).

By the 1930s, ownership of Sifford holdings within the park had been transferred to Roy and Pearl, and Roy had assumed responsibility for management and operation of Drakesbad Guest Ranch. The choices presented by the winter of 1938 were largely his. He would later remember that he "personally, was for closing up the hotel part of the business and quitting that resort business... There were lots of other things to do. We could log..., we could subdivide it, and get a lot of money (Sifford interview 1987, 4)." The impulse, however, appears to have been fleeting and Sifford was easily persuaded by his parents' ardent wishes that he rebuild. The Siffords gathered \$40,000 in savings, gifts from friends, and second mortgages. By June 20, 1938, barely a month after Warner Creek began to recede from flood state, the Plumas County road crew, led by Sifford's "good friend Blackman," had the road open. That same day, two Red River Lumber Co. trucks rumbled across the new bridges, en-route to Drakesbad with a load of heavy timbers and milled lumber. The Red River Lumber Company's head carpenter, Mike Pappas, followed the trucks and would lead a crew of thirty men on construction of a new lodge. A stonemason from Westwood, known to Sifford only as "Spencer," built the massive stone chimney of rocks from the adjacent hillside and from the Cinder Cone area. The massive twenty-foot metal flue from Drake's "big house" was reused, albeit with an eight-foot extension, and the front porch, where stories were most often told, music most often made, afternoons most often wiled away, so closely matches the style and feel of Drake's big house that the similarities must have been deliberate. The lodge was completed on June 30, "from foundation to tip of the fireplace in NINE DAYS," the beds moved in, and the first of the season's guests admitted: "thus the finish to the disaster of '37 and '38 (Sifford interview 1987, 5-9)."

With the new lodge open, the Siffords turned to less critical repairs, including construction of a new storage building and reconstruction of the four cottages, corrals, fences, and the Dream Lake Dam. The process would be repeated, albeit at a more-minor (and less expensive) scale in 1952 following yet another season of exceptional snow loads. Site modifications associated with this later storm included construction of the current dining room (connected to the circa 1914 kitchen) and yet another reconstruction of the Dream Lake Dam.

1942-1946: The War Years - S-Bar Brand

Sifford writes, "On December 7, 1941 the bombing of Pearl Harbor and World War II would significantly change our operations." Most significantly, rationing of rubber and gasoline would reduce

vacation travel and the US military's voracious appetite for meat would increase the need for and price of beef cattle. The Siffords owned their grazing land in fee simple and quickly turned to beef production: "we have all that feed in our valley going to waste, we better get some cattle and raise what meat we can (Sifford 1994, 103)." (Elsewhere in the Lassen region, area cattlemen agitated for special-use permits to graze on park lands, identifying beef production as central to the war effort and branding the park service "unpatriotic" for its strict adherence to grazing restrictions.)

By the summer of 1942, 100 cows and calves, branded with the newly registered S-Bar brand, had been driven up the Warner Creek Road to graze on Sifford land. Infrastructure built in association with this transition to ranching appears to have been limited to construction of fencing and a large corral (location unknown) where cattle were sorted before being trucked to market or driven to winter range, located first on lease land in the Sacramento Valley and later on deeded land at Paynes Creek.

Modification to the guest ranch complex during these years appears to have been equally limited: Sifford mentions only widening of the trails to Devil's Kitchen, Boiling Springs Lake, and the meadow "circle trail" making it possible for riders to ride two abreast.

1952-1959: Peak Development and Sale to the National Park Service

Since park creation in 1916, privately owned lands within the boundaries of the park -"inholdings" -were determined by park service officials to present "obstacle[s] to sound planning and desirable use" and to pose the threat of private development (building construction, commercial operations, Christmas-tree harvest, cattle grazing) conducted beyond park service control and counter to the park service development plan. Even those lands in friendly hands or non-objectionable use -such as Drakesbad - presented the continual possibility of acquisition by "big interests" committed to "major commercial non-desirable use." Moreover, if located in scenic areas or along primary travel corridors they tended to thwart the park service's own development plans and to complicate the master planning effort. "The ultimate influence of a privately owned area upon the surrounding country might involve many serious problems," an NPS planning committee warned circa 1926. Twenty years later, park administrators would echo that first warning: inholdings "at Sulphur Works, Warner Valley [Drakesbad], Juniper Lake, and Hat Creek control some of the finest exhibits of thermal activity in the park or lie squarely in the path of logical physical development."

While acquisition of these inholdings had long been an administrative priority, willing sellers and available funds rarely coalesced and determination of fair market often proved elusive. The appraisal effort, the park service acknowledged, was complicated by the difficulty of assigning a monetary value to the sentimental worth inherent in property homesteaded and developed by one family and by the difficulty of judging the monetary value inherent in leisure, recreation, and scenic beauty. (In 1938, for example, when asked to identify the fair-market value of his land, Roy Sifford replied "What is the Boiling Lake worth? What is the Devil's Kitchen worth? These things are mother nature's Classics and it is very hard to value them from a bread and butter standpoint (Sifford to McDow 1938).") Moreover, during the Great Depression of the 1930s, when some land owners proved willing to sell, the park service found itself perennially short of funds authorized for land purchase. At Lassen Volcanic National Park, this deficit matched that of the 1910s and 1920s, when the nascent park's budget was limited, and that of the 1940s, when wartime emergency measures restricted non-essential federal purchases. Not until the 1950s would park officials report significant success in the purchase program, success highlighted by the 1953 purchase of Drakesbad Guest Ranch.

In 1951 the park service informed Sifford of its "high interest in acquiring Drakesbad" and included

Drakesbad in its list of priority acquisitions. Years later, Sifford described a "take over" process that he proved unable to stop: "the park . . . wanted our land and continued with their plans to take us over." Park correspondence, however, suggests that NPS officials believed that Sifford, "getting on in years," was finally "prepared to sell" and that negotiations proceeded in good faith and ultimately benefited all parties.

In 1952, when James and Richard Hopper, of the real estate firm Wakefield and Hopper, conducted an appraisal of Drakesbad Guest Ranch they identified twenty-eight buildings and structures, including the lodge (1938), the dining hall (1958), and kitchen (1938). (Hopper and Hopper dated the kitchen to 1938. This appears to be in error: Sifford reports that the kitchen survived the winter of 1938 and historic photographs indicate that the original one-story kitchen was not replaced by the current two-story structure until sometime after 1945 and before 1952.) Additional buildings identified by Hopper and Hopper included a duplex of an known age; a duplex foundation, complete with plumbing and septic tank; four tent platforms; a bathhouse (1914); a swimming pool (1914); a hay barn (1914); a storage shed immediately adjacent to the hay barn; a horse shed; two public toilets; four cottages (1936); cook's quarters/original Sifford residence (circa 1914); and a storage building (1938). Building contents included tack, linen, silver, bedding, etc., sufficient for fifty guests, while additional improvements included adequate sewage facilities (septic tanks) and a "very good" domestic water supply. These improvements, many approaching their life expectancy, were determined a relatively insignificant component of the total property value, value that lay in the land's aesthetic and its recreation potential: "it is our considered opinion that the land [value] will remain the same and not be depleted after the useful life of the buildings has expired." Additional minor value was found in the land's marketable timber. The total appraised value of the 440 acres and all improvements was placed at \$285,324.80.

Sifford protested, arguing that the timber value greatly exceeded the Hopper brothers' estimate and noting that the brothers did not visit Devil's Kitchen, Boiling Lake, the grove of cedars just west of the Devil's Kitchen, or Lost Promise Falls, places of inestimable value. Despite frustration with the park service offer and increased impatience with park service officials (and despite offers from the Red River Lumber Company, Collins Pine Company, and from those who wished to subdivide the valley), in 1953 Roy and Pearl agreed to sell their land (Drakesbad and isolated parcels at Twin Lake and Hat Creek) to the National Park Service for \$325,000. Ida Sifford had extracted a promise from him - "Sonny, don't ever let them cut our big beautiful trees." Sifford kept that promise, hoping, he said, "that it would be for the good of all (Sifford 1994, 122)."

Sifford removed himself from day-to-day operations the summer of 1952, when control and management responsibilities were contracted to the park service concessioner, yet he remained on site and responsible for the saddle-horses. Sale proceedings with the park service were initiated in 1953 and in October 1958, Sifford received the final "piece meal" check associated with the sale. He reserved a two-acre parcel, without improvements, in fee simple. By the fall of 1959, Sifford "no longer had a saddle, a horse, or a cow." He left the beautiful valley with a "heavy heart" yet trusting that he left it in good hands (Transcript "Tape 4," 9).

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

Setting:

The natural systems and features within the Drakesbad area of the Warner Valley directly influenced the settlement and historic development of the Drakesbad Guest Ranch. The natural features include hot springs, streams, meadows, forests and a relatively flat valley floor which provided both a functional and attractive site for the development of the guest ranch. The surrounding forest, nearby geological features, and steep valley slopes contribute to the sense of isolation that has made Drakesbad such a popular destination and continues to attract a loyal clientele, who have regularly returned every summer for generations.

The proximity to unique geothermal features and the open character of the Drakesbad Meadow were key factors in determining the location for the core ranch facilities which were built on a relatively level terrace above the valley floor and meadow. Historically, the size and shape of the meadow was defined by its natural topography as well as its manipulated hydrology, vegetation management, and land use practices such as grazing. Climatically, the heavy snowfall typical of the region limited access to the guest ranch to the summer months. In this way, the natural topography, climate, proximity to hot springs, and native vegetation, combine to create an environmental context and naturalized setting that has been the primary influence on development of the historic guest ranch.

Contributing Features:

The Warner Valley Road remains the only automobile access route to Drakesbad Guest Ranch and its character is relatively unchanged from the historic period. The road has been determined a contributing structure in the National Register Nomination for the Warner Valley. Several of the hiking and bridle trails around Drakesbad date to the historic period and contribute to the historic district. Although the circulation system within the primary developed area has been modified over the years to accommodate new uses, these modifications have not diminished the overall integrity, character, and hierarchy of the roads and trails comprising the original circulation system. The network of roads and trails which exists within the district today, most of which follows historic alignments, continues to reflect both the rustic character and original purpose of these circulation features: to get people to the site, and once there, to get them out of the core area to the numerous natural sites and features like Boiling Springs Lake and Devil's Kitchen. The buildings and structures within the core of the developed area continue to reflect Sifford's workmanship and his preference for using natural, sturdy materials. Land use patterns and activities—such as the mineral pool complex on the north side of Hot Springs Creek and the corral-- also remain, although the individual structures are not historic. Constructed water features, like Dream Lake, were built specifically to enhance the recreational opportunities for the guests at Drakesbad and remain contributing resources within the district. Non-historic structures like the swimming pool, Mission 66 units, and the addition of service roads, although non-contributing, are consistent with the development of the facility as a guest ranch and are compatible with historic land uses and development of the guest ranch. Collectively, these landscape characteristics create the feeling and association of an early twentieth-century guest ranch in Northern California.

Integrity

The Drakesbad Guest Ranch retains integrity as a historic vernacular landscape based on its ability to convey its significance as an early twentieth century resort on the edge of the Cascade Mountains. The ranch exhibits all seven aspects of integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places, including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The local resources

and vernacular methods used to construct the features, particularly in the design, workmanship, and materials associated with the buildings and stone features, are still apparent. Limited development of other visitor facilities in the Warner Valley has helped ensure preservation of Drakesbad's remarkable setting. The Drakesbad Guest Ranch, and the assemblage of historic features that includes the buildings, circulation system, Drakesbad Meadow, Dream Lake, and the mineral pool, all within the natural setting of the Warner Valley, continues to convey the historic character established by the Siffords during the period of significance.

Conclusion

The Drakesbad Guest Ranch retains integrity as an early twentieth-century guest ranch in Northern California. This remote vernacular landscape remains much as it did during the district's period of significance from 1900-1952. Landscape characteristics that contribute to the historic district include spatial organization, land use, natural systems and features (including vegetation), circulation, buildings and structures and constructed water features. Although the features within the district range in condition from good to poor, the overall condition for the district has been assessed as "fair."

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Natural Systems And Features

Natural Systems and Features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development of a landscape.

Natural systems of the Warner Valley historically influenced development of the Drakesbad Guest Ranch in several ways. In general, the large scale landforms and geothermal features were unique attractions for tourists and among the key attributes inspiring the development of a mountain retreat. Specifically, the natural topography, hydrology, vegetation, and the climate in the Drakesbad area significantly affected the physical layout and organization of the landscape, patterns of use, and the design of various structures.

Topography and natural landforms defining the Warner Valley provided the physical framework for establishment and development of Drakesbad Guest Ranch. Steep, forested hillsides enclosed the relatively flat ground of the valley, which was lined with springs and fed by several creeks. Within the immediate vicinity were the sparkling waters of Soda Spring, the fumaroles and mud pots of Devil's Kitchen and the unusual landscape of Boiling Springs Lake.

Although large areas of the Warner Valley and meadow were relatively level, the valley floor was fed by several drainages and melting snow, leaving portions of the meadow wet and hummocky, with thickets of willow and other brush. In the middle portion of the valley, on the north side of the meadow, a relatively large topographic bench at the base of Flatiron Ridge created a level dry area for construction of buildings (see photo, Spatial Organization). Approximately ten acres in size, it was on this elevated landform that Edward Drake built his house and log hotel. When the Siffords purchased the property and added buildings to the complex, they located all new structures along this bench, to the north, east and west of the main lodge.

The forest surrounding this area also influenced the physical development of Drakesbad. Permanent structures clustered on the bench were situated in a way that took advantage of the microclimate created by the forested slope at the base of Flatiron Ridge, creating shade from summer sun. Trees throughout the developed area also provided visual screening, functioning to effectively separate support buildings and structures - the storehouse, dormitory, and corral, for example - from the public spaces of the dining room and lodge. Historic photographs reveal a varied age stand of evergreens between the cabins, which

provided an additional level of privacy. The surrounding pine and fir forest also offered a supply of building material, including logs and cedar shakes for the earliest buildings as well as posts and rails for the extensive fencing around the meadow.

Based on historical records, the hydrology of the Warner Valley, and the relatively large number of geothermal features in the vicinity were important natural features spurring development of the guest ranch. Early visitors to the area and tourists were willing to make the arduous trip to Drakesbad in order to enjoy the unique hot springs and mineral water that bubbled up from the earth. The first pool or “plunge” constructed by Edward Drake on the south side of the meadow was created by tapping hot springs. Through a series of wood flumes and pipes, water from a cold mountain stream was mixed with water from a hot spring south of Hot Springs Creek and regulated to provide a constant supply of temperature-regulated water for the mineral baths (see photo, Natural Systems and Features). Over the years, construction of new pools replaced Drake’s original bath facility, but all of these pools remained located adjacent to the creek, and also relied on the system of combining water from the cold stream and the hot spring to provide a temperate water supply. For instance, a tributary of Hot Springs Creek was used by Sifford to feed and create Dream Lake in a boggy area near the lodge.

During the historic period, water from Soda Springs, located within the meadow, was widely rumored to have curative attributes. Early historic photographs indicate a substantial log enclosure surrounding the mouth of the springs in the upper meadow. The Siffords later sold the bottled soda water to campers. These amenities, in addition to the unusual geothermal features located nearby, were actively promoted by the Siffords to attract clientele. The Siffords offered trail rides to some of the more remote features and expanded the trail system started by Drake to provide access to unique features located nearby.

The hydrology of the north side of the meadow, where a series of cold water springs are located at the base of Flatiron Ridge, offered the Siffords an abundant supply of fresh cold water for domestic use. The family tapped these cold springs, and built a flume to deliver the water to a wood storage basin which was located adjacent to the big house. The Siffords constructed this water delivery and storage system shortly after their arrival at Drakesbad, replacing the shallow well that Drake had dug in front of his cabin and which had provided Drake with sufficient water for his personal use.

The natural hydrology in the meadow was also modified by both Edward Drake and the Siffords throughout the historic period. Historic accounts indicate that from the earliest development of Drakesbad, the meadow immediately south of the buildings was defined by fluctuations in natural hydrology, melting snow, as well as variations in the topography on the valley floor. These conditions often created areas of standing water, thickets of willow and other brush, limited grazing area for the livestock, inundated trails, and in some areas, created environmental conditions favorable to breeding mosquitoes, which were over the years, a significant nuisance for guests at Drakesbad.

Documentation indicates that Edward Drake used the meadow south of his house and barn on a seasonal basis to graze cattle, and over the years, spent time enhancing the meadow for this purpose, removing brush and digging ditches to drain water from wet areas. The extent of this work is not known, but by the time the Siffords acquired the property in 1900, the natural hydrology and vegetation in the meadow had been modified for specific purposes. As Roy Sifford described the meadow after his father purchased the property “the land in front or east of the house had been grubbed of willows and some grubbing and drain ditching had been done on the south side.” Over the next fifty years, the Sifford family continued work in the meadow, digging a network of earthen ditches and channels to drain low-lying areas, and irrigate elevated areas where the ground was dryer. The Siffords continually worked to remove willow shrubs and attempted to direct the water flow to create a relatively uniform grassy area throughout the open meadow suitable for grazing horses in the summer months. The work to remove the willow thickets

and drain the wet or saturated areas was a constant maintenance activity during the Sifford years.

The result of these efforts was a meadow that was pastoral in character, largely open with low-growing herbaceous vegetation, defined by a fence and forested edge at the perimeter. By the end of the historic period (1954) the natural character of the meadow vegetation and natural hydrology had been significantly and purposefully altered. The meadow itself had become integral to the overall cultural landscape at Drakesbad Guest Ranch. As observed by longtime Drakesbad guest Susie Watson, the meadow became the “natural stage for all the activities then pursued at Drakesbad during the Sifford years and ... defines what Drakesbad has been.”

Evidence of these cultural activities throughout the meadow is evident today in the form of remnant ditches and the reestablishment of willow, alder, and poplar, and the encroachment of the forest along the edges of the meadow. The National Park Service (NPS) is currently working to identify historic ditches, inventory vegetation, and research natural hydrology throughout the meadow as a baseline for future management decisions.

Seasonal climate in the Drakesbad area also historically affected the operation of the guest ranch and influenced the style of some buildings. Located at an elevation of 5,500 feet above sea level, the Drakesbad area is subject to weather characteristic of a mountain environment. The summers are cool, and historically attracted visitors seeking relief from the hot temperatures in the nearby Sacramento Valley. The high elevation also contributes to long periods of snowfall, beginning as early as September, and sometimes lasting through May. Winter storms regularly blanket the valley under several feet of snow and the spring melt from snowfields on surrounding peaks make the road to the ranch impassable. It is the amount of snow fall and the duration of the winter season at this elevation that has made Drakesbad a seasonal operation since its inception. Operations at the ranch reflect this dramatic seasonal change as structures are prepared each fall - fence rails are removed, buildings are sealed, and the pool is drained - in order to weather the winter storms. The concessioner operators move out of the ranch and the ranch is closed between October and June each year.

In addition, because of these extremes of weather, some of the early structures were seasonal in character, constructed using canvas covers, allowing the entire building to be dismantled and removed prior to closing for the winter. As more permanent buildings were constructed during the historic period, several were structurally unable to withstand the winter. Especially severe storms of 1937-38 caused severe damage to the lodge as well as to four cabins and a storehouse, and in 1951-52 the dining hall was destroyed. More recently, structures at the site have been engineered and constructed with steep-pitched metal roofs designed to withstand the heavy loads from snow.

Summary

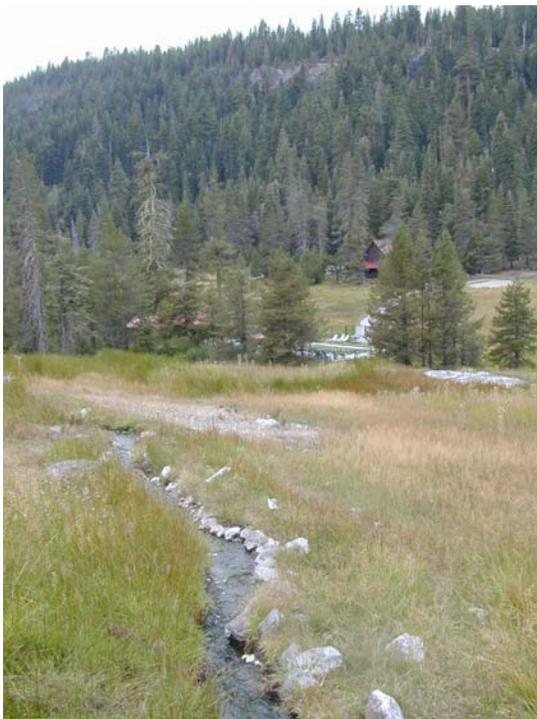
A variety of natural systems and features around the Drakesbad Guest Ranch historically influenced the establishment and development of the facilities, infrastructure, and defined the landscape character of the site. Hot springs and thermal features in the area, the pine and fir forest, Drakesbad Meadow, access to fresh water, and Hot Springs Creek provided Edward Drake and later the Sifford family with the resources necessary to successfully establish and operate a guest ranch catering to recreational travelers.

Since the historic period some of the most significant changes to the natural systems and features have occurred with the introduction of fire suppression practices and management of the meadow. In the meadow, the historic practice of removing willow and alder, pasturing livestock, maintaining drainage ditches and irrigating dry areas has been discontinued. As a result, willow and alder have begun to re-establish altering the historically open character of the meadow. Currently the park is conducting studies

to determine natural hydrology and vegetation patterns prior to modification of the meadow by Drake and the Siffords. Under consideration by management is the goal of restoring a more natural ecosystem in the meadow. While the outcome of this research is not known, and changes in management objectives undetermined, the overall effect of not continuing historic practices is beginning to alter the historic character of the meadow.

In addition to changes in the meadow, throughout the Warner Valley, fire suppression policies have begun to alter the character of the upland conifer forest. Recent research suggests that a much denser stand of trees, an increase in shade tolerant and fire tolerant species, the presence of dead wood on the ground, and fewer openings in the forest canopy have occurred since the historic period .

In spite of these changes, the large-scale natural systems and the environmental setting that historically influenced development of the Drakesbad Guest Ranch remain evident today. These large-scale systems and features such as the landforms, water systems, geothermal features, and climate, continue to define the cultural landscape character of the ranch. Changes in management practices associated with Drakesbad Meadow have not, to date, adversely affected the historic character of the meadow, and it is considered a contributing resource to the historic district. As a result, natural systems and features continue to contribute as a landscape characteristic to the setting of the Drakesbad Guest Ranch.



Hot and cold springs are channeled to fill the swimming pool, which is located at the southern edge of the meadow. The lodge, visible at the north edge of the meadow, is located within the forest margin at the base of Flat Iron Ridge. (PWR, 2003)

Spatial Organization

Spatial Organization is defined as the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. Spatial organization at Drakesbad Guest Ranch was historically shaped by two primary factors: the development and use of the property as a guest ranch, and the physical character of the Warner Valley.

Prior to 1800, the Warner Valley was dominated by a relatively large meadow surrounded by forests, with abundant water from creeks and streams and two thermal features—Boiling Springs Lake located south-southeast of the meadow, and Devil’s Kitchen to the west. Documentation suggests that prior to development by Edward Drake in the late 1800s, portions of the Warner Valley were used on a seasonal basis by Native Americans but it was not until Drake filed claim to lands in 1885, improved an access road and began development of his land, that the spatial patterns organizing future development of the site would be established.

Drake’s early efforts to improve his property focused on improvements to the access road to the north side of the meadow and construction of the structures for operation of the seasonal cattle operation he ran at the site. Although Drake owned 400 acres in the Warner Valley, he chose an elevated bench of land on the north edge of the meadow to build his house and log “hotel.” This area was physically protected by the forest and spatially bounded by the relatively steep slope to Flatiron Ridge rising sharply to the north. Most important, the building site was drier than the meadow, and this was to influence both the type of use and scale of development (see photo, Spatial Organization). Fed by streams and melting snow, the meadow was often wet if not boggy in places, and while not suitable for building, it was usable for grazing cattle. Photographs from the period indicate that Drake fenced portions of the meadow immediately south and east of the buildings, providing a manageable grazing area for his livestock. In addition to the cattle operation, Drake allowed the public to use his property for camping and recreation, soon focusing on the north side of Hot Springs Creek (across the meadow) where he built an elevated plunge fed by hot springs, and allowed his guests to camp along the creek and pasture their horses in the meadow.

This basic spatial organization of general access from the east, a concentration of buildings on the elevated land along the north edge of the meadow, grazing in the meadow, and the development of public recreation along the north side of Hot Springs Creek provided the framework for future development of the guest ranch.

Roy Sifford and his family acquired the 400-acre property known as Drake’s Hot Springs and Resort, from Edward Drake in the summer of 1900, and the following year added another forty acres around Boiling Springs Lake approximately one-quarter mile southwest of the development. In spite of the change in ownership and new holdings, the spatial organization of the landscape established by Drake was to remain a strong influence on the expansion and augmentation of facilities at Drakesbad.

During the period of significance, 1900 to 1952, improvements at Drakesbad focused on three spatially distinct areas of the ranch: additions to the building complex on the north side of the meadow, management of the meadow (vegetation and hydrology), and expansion of the recreational facilities throughout the property.

Shortly after the Siffords’ purchased the property from Edward Drake twenty tent platforms (eventually replaced by wood-frame cottages) were added south of the log hotel (big house) built by Drake. The big house was destroyed during a harsh winter in 1939, and a new lodge was built in the same location. A

seasonal dining hall and kitchen structure for guests were added to the building cluster located northeast of the lodge. The barn, tack shed, and corral for saddle stock were also located west of the lodge. Prior to World War II, the corral was limited to a relatively small area that surrounded the tack shed. When cattle were brought into Drakesbad in 1942, the corral was expanded from the tack shed west to the barn. Historically, both cows and horses grazed throughout the meadow.

The meadow, which is oriented east to west, historically created a physical separation between the primary building complex and the primary recreational facilities along the north bank of Hot Springs Creek. During the period of significance, the Siffords focused a considerable amount of time and energy managing the water flow through the meadow. They cleared vegetation, drained wet areas, and added fences that created additional pasture areas for saddle stock and cattle. By the end of the period of significance their efforts and seasonal grazing resulted in a meadow that was pastoral in character with low grasses and open views between the lodge area and the recreation pools on the south side of the meadow.

Early recreational facilities established by Drake were also expanded by the Siffords, largely within the vicinity of the original developments. Sifford replaced the original hot bath or plunge pool first with an earthen pool, and then with a stone and concrete pool sited east of the original plunge. The enhancements to the bathing facilities by the Siffords also included a new bath house constructed south of the pool. The bath house soon proved to be inadequate and the Siffords again expanded with an even larger structure located at the east end of the pool.

In 1932, Sifford decided to develop additional recreational features the area south of Hot Springs Creek, approximately one half mile south of the lodge. Dream Lake was created with the construction of an earthen dam creating a 2.6-acre reservoir. It was stocked with rainbow trout and further enhanced with two boats and a pier to become a relatively developed recreational area. Dream Lake, along with Boiling Springs Lake, Devil's Kitchen, and features outside of the Drakesbad boundary were linked by trails that formed a network of circulation expanding access to features and recreational use of the ranch. Although this network has become somewhat diminished, the primary developed area of the ranch and the physical space defining the extent of these areas has remained from the period of significance.

The National Park Service bought the property from Roy Sifford in 1952 and made upgrades to the guest ranch without altering the spatial organization. New cabins were added, and a new pool was constructed, but these facilities were sited in a manner that reflected historical patterns of development.

Summary

Spatial organization at Drakesbad Guest Ranch was historically influenced by the physical character of the Warner Valley and use of the property as a guest ranch for over 100 years. Beginning with the purchase and development of the site by Edward Drake and continuing through 1952 when the Siffords sold the property to the National Park Service, development has been spatially concentrated in three areas which define the spatial organization of the district and retain integrity:

- Buildings clustered on approximately ten acres on the north side of the meadow with primary lodging, administrative functions, concentrated guest services, maintenance facilities, and vehicular access.
- The Meadow covering approximately ninety acres, with the portion immediately south of the building complex relatively open and pastoral in character.
- Recreational (hot springs) pools and development along Hot Springs Creek (and south to Dream Lake), including trails to outlying features.

While individual features and elements within these areas were modified over the years, all three areas retain functional and spatial integrity from the period of significance. As a result, spatial organization is a contributing landscape characteristic to the setting of Drakesbad Guest Ranch.



Guest services, including cabins, the main lodge and dining room, are sited on the north side of Drakesbad meadow, while the recreational facilities, trails, swimming pool, and Dream Lake are located on the south side of the meadow. (PWR, 2003)

Land Use

Land Use is defined by the principal activities in the landscape that have influenced the landscape as a result of human activity, including fields, pastures, trails, and pools.

Historic land use at the Drakesbad Guest Ranch can generally be broken into two broad categories: activities associated with guest services including lodging and operations; and activities focused on recreational use. These land use activities influenced both the location and the character of physical improvements throughout the historic period, and remained remarkably intact today.

Initial development of the property by Edward Drake focused on improvements directly related to his personal need and interests. Very early however, Drake allowed visitors to the surrounding area to use his property and camp along Hot Springs Creek, located south of his newly constructed house and barn. Soon, Drake constructed the “big house,” formally providing rooms for tourists and visitors. This structure, located on the north side of the meadow, ultimately became known as the lodge. Following the Siffords’ purchase of the property in 1900, the lodge became the central building for guest accommodations with platform tent cabins erected around it. Over the years, these tents were eventually replaced with more permanent cabins, which were sited slightly north of the lodge under the cover of the forest.

This early development eventually became the core area for construction of all primary buildings during the historic period. Individual buildings provided guest rooms and individual cabins, a kitchen and dining hall, laundry, food storage, employee bunkhouse (a.k.a. the Hilton) and other utility and support services for the guests. Other operational functions—such as guest registration, were interspersed among primary structures, and, in the case of the lodge, co-located within a single building. Although the function of individual structures changed over the years, this core area of facilities remained in the same location.

On the west side of the building cluster a relatively large corral for the horses was located and integrated into the recreational activities at the guest ranch. In the earliest days of Drakesbad, prior to access by automobile, most guests arrive by carriage or horse. In this regard, the corral functioned as a boarding facility, and also influenced the development of trails and infrastructure needed to support livestock and horseback riding as a recreational pursuit (see photo, Land Use). The corral, which wrapped around the elevated landform west of the buildings, was close enough to be part of the development, but functionally tied to the meadow, which was used as pasture and as access to the trails located to the south. Fences throughout the meadow defined individual pastures areas and a hay barn and tack shed were added to the corral area, just west of the lodge. As popularity of car travel grew, fewer guests arrived on saddle stock. The Siffords continued to bring horses in each spring for trail rides, however, and eventually added a herd of cattle. Photographs from the end of the period of significance show both horses and cattle grazing throughout the meadow, defined and enclosed by wood fences.

In addition to horseback riding, a range of recreation activities were popular at Drakesbad, many of which emphasized the natural resource attractions in the area. During the historic period, typical recreation pursuits included horseback riding, bathing in the pools and mineral waters, swimming, boating, or fishing at Dream Lake, and hiking along the numerous trails leading to the thermal features located nearby. As a collection, these activities were not limited to one location within Drakesbad, but rather extended to cover almost the entire guest ranch, and in the case of horseback riding, considerably further.

Throughout the historic period, the mineral baths and pools at Drakesbad have been generally located on

the north side of Hot Springs Creek. Although the exact location of the earliest pools constructed by the Siffords is not known, historic photographs and early maps suggest that the “plunge” was located west of the present-day pool, at the edge of the forest. Over the years, there were other variations of the pool, but in terms of land use, all were located on the south edge of the meadow and in proximity to the springs and mineral waters.

Passive types of recreational land use at the site, such as watching the reflection of the setting sun on Mount Harkness, playing horseshoes, picnicking, gathering around the fire ring in the evening, or just reading and visiting, occurred in a relaxed environment on the porch of lodge.

Summary

With some minor changes, current land use activities at Drakesbad have remained similar to those during the period of significance. Guest lodging, dining, and associated support functions remain concentrated in a single developed area located on the north edge of Drakesbad Meadow. Some modern utilities have been added in and around the building complex, such as the water tank located upslope and west of the complex, the sewage lift station and leach field, located in the meadow east of the complex, and the generator shed and propane tanks, located at the northern edge of the building complex. Although the addition of contemporary utilities is required for health safety codes, and are compatible in terms of historic land use, these more contemporary structures do not contribute to the integrity of the site.

Other changes in historic land use include the cessation of fishing and the removal of the boat dock at Dream Lake, and the removal of grazing activity in Drakesbad Meadow. The horse corral remains in the same general location from the historic period, but has been reduced in size and reconfigured. The hay barn was removed, and hay is currently stored under a tarp directly west of the corral.

With these few exceptions, overall patterns of land use including the majority of recreational activities from the period of significance remain today. At Drakesbad, two aspects of historic land use contribute to the character of the cultural landscape:

- A concentrated building complex covering approximately ten acres on the north side of the meadow, providing the operational core for all guest services.
- The distinction between active recreation which occurs outside the building complex and extends to other areas of the park, and more passive recreation, which occurs around the lodge, creating a relatively quiet atmosphere and informal environment for gathering.

As a result, land use is a contributing landscape characteristic of Drakesbad Guest Ranch.



Since its origin, Drakesbad has provided saddle stock to its guests, and horseback riding remains a mainstay of Drakesbad's recreational opportunities. The horses are kept in the corral west of the lodge. (PWR, 2003)

Circulation

Circulation is defined as spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

Vehicular Access

Access to the Drakesbad site evolved gradually over time from a passable trail to a wagon road, and eventually an automobile route. The route initially blazed by Edward Drake was not well documented, and the specific alignment and character of the road remains unclear. However, based on the recollections of Susan Watson, Drake's original route to the site may have followed the general alignment of the current road up to the meadow, and then curved south, along the higher edges of the meadow just above Hot Springs Creek. This route would have provided natural grades suitable for development of a road. One drawback to this alignment however, was that the snow tended to remain longer on this side of the meadow than on the north side, limiting access in the spring. In any case, by 1900 when Alexander Sifford purchased the property, the road to Drakesbad was located on the north side of the meadow.

Documentation and photographs from the 1930s indicate that the primary access road to the Drakesbad Guest Ranch ran primarily east to west along the base of Flatiron Ridge. The road entered the development near the cabins and passed just above the north side of the lodge, extending west to the barn and corral area. Accounts of the property during the Siffords' tenure by Roy Sifford describe the family working on the road each spring as they prepared to open the guest ranch for the summer season. Because most of the road was under the jurisdiction of the Plumas County Highway Department, the Siffords relied on assistance from the county workers to ensure spring washouts and bridge failures were repaired; however, the family often took it upon themselves to reconstruct sections of the road, as well as the log stringer bridges over Warner and Kings Creeks on the lower section of the road. Most of this work was done using hand tools and horse-drawn graders. Seasonal work for the family included such activities as filling and shoring wet areas along the road, clearing landslides and removing large rocks and boulders from the roadbed. Also in the early 1930s, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crew made improvements to the three-mile section of the road within the park boundary, adding culverts to improve drainage, and resurfacing portions of the road with compacted gravel.

During the historic period, vehicular circulation within the guest ranch was minimal. The unpaved road entered the site from the southeast, and continued past the north side of the lodge where it forked; the south fork provided access to the barn and across the meadow. This section road is visible in the earliest photographs of the area, and was probably there since the time of Drake. The north fork continued up the slope, and provided access to both the kitchen and dining room as well as to the cabins west of the lodge.

Today, the Warner Valley Road remains the only vehicular access to Drakesbad. The original alignment of the road to the meadow, as laid out by Drake and improved by the Siffords, largely remains with few changes. Over the years, some sections of the road have been widened and resurfaced. The Warner Valley Road originates approximately ten miles southeast of the park boundary, at an intersection with State Highway 36 in the town of Chester, California. As the road approaches Drakesbad, the alignment is negotiated along several steep grades as it snakes its way through the pine and fir forest along the drainage of Hot Springs Creek. The width of the road narrows and in some places is barely wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic. The last three miles of the Warner Valley Road remain rural in character, with a narrow winding alignment and gravel surface all the way into the Drakesbad Guest Ranch (see photo, Spatial Organization: The Warner Valley Road is located on the right side of the image, behind the cabins.).

Within the developed area, few changes have been made to the road system. Circa 1961, a small section of the entry road was relocated uphill from the original alignment, creating a pull-through and parking area for the new Mission 66 cabins. West of the lodge, the south fork of the original road still exists, although it is now used as a hiking and bridle trail. A graveled spur road, approximately one hundred feet within the boundary of the Drakesbad Guest Ranch, branches from the main road and leads to the sewage lift station located at the east end of the meadow area. This spur road was constructed after the National Park Service acquired the property. Other contemporary roads within the complex include a two-track dirt and gravel road constructed during Mission 66, providing access to the water tanks on the slope west of the row of historic cabins; and a road to the swimming pool also constructed during this period (see photo, Spatial Organization: The road to the swimming pool is located on the left side of the image from the Lodge.).

Parking

There is little documentation or evidence of designated parking areas within the developed area of Drakesbad Guest Ranch during the historic period. Historic photographs reveal parking areas in the space west of the lodge, as well as the adjacent to most of the individual cabins. According to the personal recollections of Susie Watson, staff parking was located north of the kitchen. It is possible guests parked vehicles in other areas within the building complex, such as road shoulders or in the margins around buildings, but there is no documentation of any additional designated parking areas.

Today, there are four designated parking areas within the building complex at Drakesbad: two located off the road leading to the kitchen and dining room, one for guest registration parking and one for unregistered guests using the dining room. Remnants of the old road alignment are now used as an access/parking area for the Mission 66 duplexes located at the east end of the building complex. Guests staying in cabins park adjacent to the buildings, although the spaces are not defined. The area west of the lodge is a more formal parking area, with boulders used as bumper stops.

Bridle and Hiking Trails

A relatively extensive system of horse trails and hiking trails initially developed by Edward Drake and expanded by the Siffords is a key element of the circulation system at the Drakesbad Guest Ranch. During the historic period, a stone-lined trail followed a diagonal route across the meadow from the lodge to Hot Springs Creek, and crossing the creek over a log stringer bridge (see photo, Circulation). This trail was used by both hikers and horseback riders to connect with the Boiling Springs Lake Trail, as well as the Devil's Kitchen Trail on the north bank of the creek. A trail to Dream Lake spurred off the meadow trail and a trail called the Golden Staircase led hikers and horseback riders over Flatiron Ridge. Additional trails were constructed by the Siffords to provide Drakesbad guests the opportunity to visit the natural features of the area that existed outside of the boundaries of the guest ranch. The character of the trails varied but in general they were relatively narrow and followed the edge of the meadow as they routed to the west and south up the surrounding slopes. During the historic period, portions of the Boiling Springs Lake Trail and the Devil's Kitchen Trail were widened by as much as six feet, a result of tractor widening completed by Roy Sifford in 1942. Sifford also constructed waterbars, along both trails in order to minimize the effects of water flowing over the trails during the spring melt.

With a few exceptions trails remaining in the historic district appear to follow historic alignments and retain their historic character. The trails to Devil's Kitchen and Boiling Springs Lake remain, although no longer maintained, the stone-lined path extending from the south side of lodge to the north bank of Hot Springs Creek remains clearly visible. Approximately three feet in width and lined on both sides with boulder-sized rocks, the surface is partially covered with vegetation.

Beginning in the 1970s, the park service has introduced boardwalks and sections of "corduroy" (sections of wood plank laid perpendicular to the trail) in the wettest areas of the meadow trails. These structures are non-contributing. In 1998, the Park Service constructed an elevated graded trail across the meadow, from the vicinity of the horse corral to the north bank of Hot Springs Creek. This trail also appears to follow the historic alignment of the road that crossed the meadow during the period of significance. Although this newer trail is used by both pedestrians and riders, it has not entirely replaced the original stone-lined trail leading from the front of the lodge. Other changes include the replacement of the Hot Springs Creek Bridge with a modern steel stringer bridge, and the decision to discontinue maintenance of the Golden Staircase Trail. Many of the un-maintained trails have become obscured by vegetation and fallen limbs.

Pedestrian Trails within Drakesbad Core

Historically, footpaths and pedestrian trails throughout the core area were relatively narrow dirt trails, lined with stone, creating clear, demarcated routes between buildings. During the historic period, a stone-lined path linked the dining room with the lodge. Most of this path was removed with the construction of the Mission 66 cabins and realignment of the access road into the site. In addition to the system of paths within the primary building cluster, a stone-lined path connected the lodge with the pool complex.

Today, pedestrian paths are somewhat less delineated and tend to co-exist with vehicular parking and unpaved roads. Some paths remain lined with stones and are covered with shredded cedar bark on the tread to reduce dust and mud. A segment of the trail between the lodge and the dining hall (located below the Warner Valley Road) remains intact although the majority of this pedestrian path was destroyed by the new access road. The historic path between the pool and the lodge was re-aligned, widened and fill added to provide an accessibility route to the pool. Although some of the stone edging remains visible along the original route, the overall character of the path was significantly altered. The pedestrian trails reflect how the developed area has evolved over the years and only in places does this component of the circulation system appear to display historic circulation patterns.

Summary

Perhaps most significant, the Warner Valley Road remains the primary access to the site. While some minor realignments and occasional resurfacing have occurred over the years, the road retains the historic character of a narrow, winding road. In addition, the stone-lined trail leading from the lodge to the north side of Hot Springs Creek, the Boiling Springs Lake Trail, the Devil's Kitchen Trail and the Dream Lake Trail retain integrity and can be counted as contributing resources. The alignment and character of pedestrian paths, bridle and hiker trails has been somewhat altered, and in some cases eliminated, yet these also retain their historic character.

A number of individual trails and paths have been significantly altered and no longer contribute to the Drakesbad Guest Ranch. Non-contributing circulation features include the park service-constructed two-track road to the water tank, the raised-grade trail built across the meadow between the corral and Hot Springs Creek, the improved road that connects the lodge with the pool area, and the short gravel access road to the building over the lift station.

Circulation is a contributing landscape characteristic to the setting of Drakesbad Guest Ranch.



Drakesbad's circulation system includes rock-edged hiking and bridle trails. At perennially wet locations, the ground is protected by raised boardwalks, such as the one pictured, which crosses the meadow from the lodge to Hot Springs Creek. (PWR, 2003)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Boiling Springs Lake Trail	Contributing	Boiling Springs Lake Trail	373761	
Devil's Kitchen Trail	Contributing	Devil's Kitchen Trail	373771	
Dream Lake Trail	Contributing	Dream Lake Trail	373781	
stone-lined trail leading from the lodge to the north side of Hot Springs Creek	Contributing	Hot Springs Creek Side Trail	373740	
Warner Valley Road	Contributing	Warner Valley Road	332591	
NPS Two-Track Road to the Water Tank	Non-Contributing			
Raised-Grade Trail Built Across the Meadow between the Corral and Hot Springs Creek	Non-Contributing			

Road Connecting the Lodge with the Pool Area Non-Contributing

Short Gravel Access Road to the Sewage Lift Station Non-Contributing

Trail Corduroys and Boardwalks Non-Contributing

Creek-Side Trail Undetermined

Buildings And Structures

Buildings are defined as elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activity, whereas structures are functional elements constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activity.

As many as twenty buildings and structures were located at Drakesbad Guest Ranch during the period of significance. With the exception of the food locker which was built into the slope of a hill, all of the buildings were clustered on a relatively narrow land bench above the meadow. The Drakesbad Lodge was located on the south end of the cluster, sited along the entry road and edge of the meadow. The dining hall and kitchen were north of the lodge and guest cabins were sited to the west. Although the buildings at Drakesbad reflected a variety of construction methods, virtually all were wood-frame construction, with clapboard siding and gable roofs, reflecting a vernacular architectural style.

Historic buildings that remain today and contribute to the historic district are described below and cross-referenced with the park List of Classified Structures and identification number (LCS ID). Names of individual buildings in this report are taken from the LCS. The LCS is administered by the National Park Service as an evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures that have historical, architectural, and/or engineering significance. In addition to these numbers, Lassen National Volcanic Park also maintains building numbers for park structures, and these records are also referenced to support the consolidation of available information. Building descriptions and functions are based on existing documentation in the LCS, the national register nomination, and field observations during the summer of 2003.

Documentation of other historic structures such as the campfire ring and stone retaining walls are also included in this section. Some structures listed in the LCS—such as the dam at Dream Lake, is documented in the Analysis and Evaluation: Constructed Water Features section of this inventory.

Contributing Buildings

Drakesbad Lodge

LCS ID: 056807

LAVO Structure Number: 267

Date of Construction: 1938

Drakesbad Lodge is lodge is sited near the southeast corner of the core building complex, at the edge of the meadow with views to Mt. Harkness and across the meadow to Hot Springs Creek. It remains the primary structure at the guest ranch and for sixty years, has served as a favorite gathering area for Drakesbad guests. The original lodge built by Edward Drake collapsed during a severe snowstorm in the winter of 1937-1938. The following June, the Siffords constructed the new lodge in just ten days, incorporating the remaining chimney from Drake's building.

Today, the Drakesbad Lodge is a two-story vernacular style building, rectangular in shape measuring 48' x 26' with a covered porch extending around the west, south, and east facades of the building. The building sits on a concrete foundation and has horizontal lapped board siding and a steep metal gable roof. The north elevation has an exterior stone chimney (from Drake's original structure) which extends from the ground to the top of the first story. Fifteen guest rooms are located on the second floor.

The lodge was sold to the NPS in 1958. Rehabilitation work on the structure occurred in 1975, and again in 1996 when electricity and fire sprinklers were added. Drakesbad Lodge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 as a contributing structure of the Drakesbad Guest Ranch Historic District National Register Nomination.

Drakesbad Lodge Dining Hall

LCS ID: 056808

LAVO Structure Number: 268

Date of Construction: late 1930s/1952

The Drakesbad Lodge Dining Hall (and kitchen) was constructed in phases based to some degree, on the need to replace or repair earlier structures damaged from heavy snow or storm events. The original kitchen and dining room at Drakesbad consisted of a wood-frame, gable roof kitchen, and a relatively large wood-frame and canvas covered dining room. Both structures were built as early as 1914 on the slope of the hill above the lodge. The canvas dining room was oriented on a north-south axis with a stone foundation absorbing the change in grade as the structure extended down slope from the north. Remarkably, this structure served as the dining hall until it was replaced, once by 1941, and again in 1952 after collapsing in the winter of 1951-52. The two-story kitchen at on the north side of the building was also rebuilt in the 1940s, and again in the early 1950s. Over the years, small one-story additions to the northwest and northeast corners of the kitchen structure have modified the simple rectangular plan of the building. Today, the gabled roof is covered with standing-seam metal and the exterior walls are lapped boards. Primary entrance to the dining hall is along the southwest elevation.

Drakesbad Storage Building

LCS ID: 056814

LAVO Structure Number: 281

Construction Date: Ca 1938

The Storage building—also historically known as the Drakesbad dorm and laundry, and the Drakesbad “Hilton,” was built Ca 1938. Located northwest of the kitchen structure, it is a relatively small, two-story wood-frame building constructed on stone and concrete pier foundations. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and the exterior walls are lapped boards. Listed as a storage building in the 1952 appraisal report, today, the first floor of this building contains a laundry and storage area and the second floor is used for [concession] employee housing.

Drakesbad Cold House

LCS ID: 056809

LAVO Structure Number: 3

Construction Date: Ca 1900

Also known as the root cellar, the Drakesbad Cold House, constructed Ca 1900 is perhaps the oldest structure at Drakesbad. The structure is located behind (north of) the kitchen and is built into the slope of the hill below Flatiron Ridge. The southwest wall of the structure is the only exposed façade and measures only 6' 10" in height. The wall is built of stone and has a central vertical board doorway. The roof consists of steel I-beam supports covered with corrugated metal.

Drakesbad Guest Cabins # 9, 10, 11 and 12

LSC ID: 056810, 056811, 056812, 056813

LAVO Structures Numbers: 272, 273, 274, 275

Construction Date: Ca 1936

Four nearly identical guest cottages are located in a row at the base of the slope west of the storage building (bunkhouse/laundry). As some of the earliest permanent structures built for guests accommodations at Drakesbad, these buildings were designed as simple functional structures without excessive ornamentation. All are one-story wood frame buildings, rectangular in shape measuring 12½ by 16½ feet, with steep gable roofs. All have concrete foundation walls (replacing the original stone foundations). Exterior walls are covered with lapped board siding and the roof is covered with rust-colored standing-seam metal. The original roof consisted of cedar shingles.

The entry to each of the cabins is located on the north side, facing the slope of the hill and creating a relatively narrow level area. Small patios on the north side of the cabin provide limited outdoor seating adjacent to the entries. The original stone walls creating privacy between individual patio areas have been replaced with concrete block walls.

Drakesbad Manager's Cabin

LCS ID: 403003

LAVO Structure Number: 612

Construction Date: Ca 1952

The Manager's Cabin was built Ca 1952 when management of Drakesbad was transferred from Sifford to a Park Service concessionaire. The building is now used as a duplex guest cabin. This is a one-story, rectangular wood frame building constructed on a concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered with rust-colored standing-seam metal, and the exterior walls are lapped board. An open porch running the full length of the front elevation was constructed on pre-cast concrete piers.

Drakesbad Annex

LCS ID: 330721

LAVO Structure Number: 269

Construction Date: Ca 1952

The Drakesbad Annex is similar in style to the Manager's Cabin, but was sited southeast of the entry road and at the easternmost edge of the building complex. Like the Manager's Cabin this building was constructed by 1952. It is a one-story wood frame building constructed on a concrete foundation wall. The exterior walls are lapped board siding and the gable roof is covered with a rust-colored standing seam metal. An open porch extends the full length of the front elevation, providing access to both entries. An opening in the porch railing accommodates a central stair with a plain board railing.

Contributing Structures

In addition to historic buildings, a number of small scale structures at Drakesbad contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape such as the campfire ring, stone retaining walls, log and boulder bumper stops, stone-lined footpaths, the flagpole and memorial plaque, fences, and signs. While some of these structures appear in historic photographs and may date to the period of significance, with few exceptions, there is insufficient data to verify the exact date of construction for all small-scale features. In some cases, as with the campfire ring and the retaining walls documentation is adequate to list these on the LCS and as contributing structures in the Drakesbad Guest Ranch Historic District nomination. Descriptions of these structures follow.

Drakesbad Stone Campfire Ring

LCS ID: 402989

Historic photographs from the 1920s depict Drakesbad guests gathered around a stone campfire ring located on the east side of the Drakesbad Lodge. Documentation indicates that during the summer season, the evening campfire was a traditional activity at Drakesbad. However, when the new Drakesbad Lodge was built in the summer of 1938, there is no indication that the campfire ring located near the structure was salvaged or that it survived all the demolition and reconstruction activity around the building.

The stone campfire ring that exists today is approximately six feet in diameter and is comprised of boulder size rocks laid in a single course. It is located on the east side of the lodge and is similar in appearance and contributes to the character of the historic district.

Drakesbad Stone Retaining Walls

LCS ID: 40364

Historic photographs of Drakesbad indicate that two stone retaining walls were located on the west side of the lodge. The larger of the two was located on the west side of the lodge and ran approximately 60 feet. Comprised of a single course of relatively large boulders set end to end at the toe of the slope, the wall retained approximately two feet of grade. The second wall was set about fifteen feet above and west of the first wall, creating a level terrace area between the lodge and the parking area. A ping pong table for the recreation of Drakesbad guests is placed on this level area during the open season.

Non-Contributing Buildings and Structures

Water Tank

This 40,000-gallon metal water tank is located on the hill slope west of the primary building complex. The steel tank is approximately eighteen feet high and twenty feet in diameter. It was constructed ca. 1960, in association with the chlorination building (below).

Chlorination Building

The chlorination building is located directly behind and to the west of the water tank. Water flows through this building into the water tank. This is a small frame building (nine feet seven inches by ten feet six inches), with a gable roof covered with split shakes. The exterior walls are covered with lapped board siding applied ten inches to weather. A small shed-roof lean-to is attached to the south side of this building.

Mission 66 Duplexes

Constructed in 1961, the three Mission 66-era duplexes are located along the north edge of the meadow east of the lodge, in an area that formerly contained several tent platforms. These are rectangular frame buildings with lapped board siding on the exterior walls and green standing-seam metal roofs (see photo, Spatial Organization: The Mission 66 Duplexes are located on the right side of the image). Each building contains two lodging units. The meadow-side (south) elevations have two sets of multi-light French doors flanked on both sides by a one-by-one-light, aluminum-sash sliding window. Wooden decks with two by four-inch board railings provide access to these entrances.

Concession Office

This small frame building is located directly behind the kitchen. Constructed on pre-cast concrete piers, it has a steep gable roof covered with green standing-seam metal roofing, and exterior walls finished with boards with plywood in the gabled ends. A low shed roofed addition is attached to the west wall. A door is offset right of center in the southwest elevation with a one-by-one-light window in the gable end. The southeast elevation contains a central window opening.

Generator House

Located at the base of the hill slope behind the kitchen, this modern concrete building has a gable roof. The roof is covered with enameled metal and has exposed rafter ends. The gable ends are covered with lapped board siding. A small, shed-roofed addition is located on its east elevation. The south elevation contains two pairs of metal doors, each accessed from board stairs. The south elevation of the addition also contains an entrance with a flush solid core door.

Corral

The current corral is located south of the cottages and northwest of the lodge, at the west end of the primary building complex. The current corral is constructed with vertical log posts set into the ground with board rails (see photo, Land Use). This rather massive construction style is similar to that of the

original corral, which was located slightly farther west, and which connected the old log hay barn and saddle shed.

Horse Tack Room/Ride Office

The tack room/ride office, also known as the barn, was heavily damaged during the winter of 2002. The building is being re-constructed to in a similar style with similar materials but is identified as a non-contributing building (see photo, Land Use).

Lift Station

The lift station, built in about 1960, is located in the middle of the meadow east of the lodge. It is a rectangular frame building with a shallow gable roof built on a concrete foundation wall. The roof is covered with split shakes and the walls with T -111 plywood siding. There is an entry with a flush wood door centered in the west elevation. The east elevation has a small shed-roof addition.

Pool Change Room

This building, constructed in the 1960s, is located adjacent to the west side of the pool, and is partially enclosed by the fence that surrounds the pool. It is of frame construction with a shallow gable roof. The roof is covered with enameled metal and the walls with lapped board siding applied nine inches to weather. A men's change room and a women's change room occupy the eastern two-thirds of the north and south elevations. The entrances to these change rooms, as well as a central entry in the east elevation, are sheltered by extensions of the eaves and gable end of the roof. The edge of the roof is supported by six by six-inch posts.

Pool Chlorination Building

This is a small frame building with a gable roof constructed on a concrete foundation wall. The roof is covered with enameled-metal and has exposed rafter ends. The walls are covered with vertical boards and battens.

Trail Bridges

Trail bridges, on Dream Lake Trail, and Boiling Lake Trail, as well as a log stringer bridge over Hot Springs Creek were built by the NPS. These features allow Drakesbad guests and park visitors alike to enjoy the trail system developed during the Sifford era at Drakesbad. These features post-date the period of significance.

Summary

The collection of historic buildings located within the core cluster distinctly defines the character of Drakesbad. Sited within the forest margin, uphill of the meadow, and constructed of rustic materials with little architectural embellishment, these buildings convey a sense of the vernacular development which evolved into a guest ranch (see photo, Spatial Organization). Modern structures generally conform or refer to the historic architectural style. The removal of historic log structures originally located at the site and the addition of modern, noncontributing structures does not diminish the significance of the historic buildings within the cultural landscape. As such, the historic buildings and structures is a contributing landscape characteristic of Drakesbad Guest Ranch.



The Drakesbad lodge, re-built in 1938 after heavy snow collapsed the original building, retains the character of the folk vernacular style of Drakesbad's early buildings: unadorned, wood-frame buildings with steep gabled roofs. (PWR, 2003)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Campfire Ring	Contributing	Drakesbad Campfire Ring	373536	
Drakesbad Cold House	Contributing	Drakesbad Cold House	056809	3
Drakesbad Guest Cabin #10	Contributing	Drakesbad Guest Cabin #10	056811	273
Drakesbad Guest Cabin #11	Contributing	Drakesbad Guest Cabin #11	056812	274
Drakesbad Guest Cabin #12	Contributing	Drakesbad Guest Cabin #12	056813	275
Drakesbad Guest Cabin #9	Contributing	Drakesbad Guest Cabin #9	056810	272
Drakesbad Lodge	Contributing	Drakesbad Lodge	056807	267
Drakesbad Lodge Dining Hall and Kitchen	Contributing	Drakesbad Lodge Dining Hall	056808	268
Drakesbad Storage Building	Contributing	Drakesbad Storage Building	056814	281

Duplex Cottage	Contributing	Duplex Cottage	330721	269
Manager's Cabin/Annex	Contributing	Manager's Cabin/Annex	3307169	612
Retaining Wall	Contributing	Drakesbad Retaining Wall	373623	
Concession Office	Non-Contributing			
Corral	Non-Contributing			
Generator House	Non-Contributing			
Lift Station	Non-Contributing			
Pool Change Room	Non-Contributing			
Pool Chlorination Building	Non-Contributing			
Tack Shed	Non-Contributing			
Trail Bridges	Non-Contributing			
Water Tank	Non-Contributing			

Constructed Water Features

Constructed Water Features are built features and elements which utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in the landscape.

The abundant water resources at Drakesbad such as Hot Springs Creek, cold springs at the base of Flatiron Ridge, Soda Springs in the upper meadow, and various hot springs, including the spring on the south side of Hot Springs Creek that supplies the swimming pool with warm water—historically made management of water a major activity for the proprietors at Drakesbad.

Early in the development of his property, Edward Drake tapped three different water resources that were essential for the establishment of his home and operation of his property for recreational tourists. First he located a source of water suitable for domestic use and dug a well located south of his log cabin at the edge of the forest. This provided Drake a reliable system throughout his tenure. Taking advantage of the natural water resources, Drake also devised a system to direct and impound mineral water from the natural hot springs located on the south side of Hot Springs Creek. From these springs Drake channeled the water into an above-ground wooden structure—known as “the plunge,” where visitors could enjoy hot mineral baths. Finally, Drake undertook a long-term effort to modify the hydrology of the meadow and create good pasture lands for livestock just south of his cabin. To this end, Drake dug a series of earthen ditches to redirect seasonally fluctuating water levels throughout the open meadow, creating large areas of open grazing land to support his cattle operation.

Domestic Water

In 1900, when the Sifford family purchased the property from Edward Drake, they used and amplified all of these water systems to support their business. First, the Siffords abandoned Drake’s well and developed their own source of domestic water by tapping a cold spring approximately 1200 feet south of the building complex. Wooden flumes were fashioned and placed in a manner that conveyed fresh water to their residence through a relatively simple gravity-fed system. With the sale of the property to the National Park Service this system was altered again and a 40,000 gallon water tank located to the west on the slope of Flatiron Ridge. Water reaches the buildings in the core developed area through pipes in a gravity-flow system.

Meadow

Continued use of the meadow for pasture required the Siffords to maintain and expand Drake’s original ditch system. For the Siffords, manipulating water levels in the meadow became a perennial effort over fifty years as they dug ditches to drain wet areas and irrigate drier sections. Once the drainage ditches were dug, the family built wooden weirs to control water flow, and redirect shifting water levels. Following National Park Service purchase of the guest ranch, pasturing livestock in the meadow was discontinued and the earthen ditches no longer maintained. Today research is underway to identify and distinguish manmade ditches from naturally occurring and seasonal water systems throughout the meadow, In addition investigations are being conducted to consider the actions necessary to restore natural hydrology throughout the meadow.

Mineral Baths

The Siffords also continued Drake’s business of offering mineral baths to tourists, and over time built several pools and water channel systems to feed them all in the effort to improve the facility and provide guests a relatively less rustic experience than that offered by Drake’s wooden plunge. The mineral pool at the Drakesbad Guest Ranch today is a modern 44 x 20 foot concrete structure with an attached bathhouse. Constructed in the 1960s, it still relies on combining water from the natural hot springs with the cold creek water to provide temperate controlled mineral baths to Drakesbad guests. Water from the

hot springs flows through a rock lined earthen ditch south of the pool down to a conveyor box where it is directed into a pipe and finally, down into the pool where it is mixed with cold water which flows from a gravity fed pipe system.

Dream Lake

In 1932 the Siffords created another recreation opportunity for their guests. Approximately 1/3 of a mile southwest of the lodge was a boggy area that, with the aid of “black powder and a little 30 model Caterpillar Tractor” became Dream Lake. Moving the soil from the south end of the area, Sifford and his crew built an earthen dam about 250 feet long that varied in height from 6 to 16 feet in height. The result of the effort was a somewhat shallow reservoir (estimated to be only 10 feet deep at its maximum pool level), with 2.6 acres in surface area. Stocked with trout and furnished with a pier and two boats, Dream Lake provided Drakesbad guests with both fishing and boating opportunities. A footpath encircled the entire lake, following the edge of the shore and crossing on top of the dam.

Over the years, the pier at Dream Lake has been removed, the lake is no longer stocked with fish, and the trail around the lake has been obscured by vegetation. In addition, over the years the Dream Lake Dam has had structural failures and been repaired. Some of these failings are attributed to seasonal flooding and recently in part, to an active beaver population which continues to plug the spillway located on the north side of the lake.

Summary

None of the three primary constructed water features established by Edward Blake—the well for domestic use, the drainage ditches in the meadow, or the wood plunge pool remain with physical integrity. All of these features however, may remain as remnant or archeological resources, and in some cases, the features established by the Siffords during the period of significance for the guest ranch do remain and contribute to the character of the cultural landscape.

The historic system of drainage ditches created by Edward Drake and expanded by the Siffords throughout the meadow has not been fully documented. Currently, research is ongoing to identify and distinguish the constructed ditches from the stream channels. Although the ditches have not been maintained since the period of significance, field observation conducted through the summer of 2003, determined that at least some of these manmade drainage ditches are evident and viable.

In addition, although the current pool at the Drakesbad Guest Ranch and associated structures (bathhouse and chlorination building) are not historic, the pool is located in the same vicinity as the historic pool and continues to serve the same recreational function. In addition, the gravity fed water delivery system works in much the same manner it did historically, using water from the hot springs and mixing it with cold water from the creek. Because the pool itself does not date to the period of significance, it is a non-contributing structure within the historic district. However, because it is in the same vicinity as earlier mineral pools, uses the same water sources, and serves the same use, it is considered compatible to the character of the cultural landscape.

The only remaining constructed water feature from the period of significance is Dream Lake which continues to exist much as it did historically. Although the pier has been removed and the lake is not stocked with fish, Dream Lake remains a destination for Drakesbad guests and is a contributing resource to the historic district.

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Drake's Bath
Hot Springs Valley
Drakesbad Resort

Current Name(s): Drakesbad Guest Ranch
Drakesbad

Management Unit:

Tract Numbers:

State and County: Plumas County, CA

Size (acres): 440.00

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	634111	4478325
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	635808	4477497
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	636077	4476725
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	635620	4476714
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	636107	4477156
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	636067	4477299
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	635599	4477131
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	635472	4478376
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	636199	4476943
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	635640	4477588
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	632506	4477471
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	632490	4477990
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	634131	4477990
	USGS Map	Point	NAD 27	10	635914	4477263

1:24,000

GIS File Name: No GIS File

GIS File Description:

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Entered -- Documented

Explanatory Narrative:

Drakesbad Guest Ranch was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a district on October 22, 2003 under the Criterion A.

National Register Classification: District

Significance Level: State

Contributing/Individual: Individual

Significance Criteria: A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1900 - 1952 AD

Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements

Historic Context Subtheme: Recreation

Historic Context Facet: General Recreation

Historic Context Theme: Transforming the Environment

Historic Context Subtheme: Conservation of Natural Resources

Historic Context Facet: Origin And Development Of The National Park Service

Area Of Significance:

Category: Entertainment/Recreation

Priority: 1

Category: Conservation

Priority: 2

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic

Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Vernacular Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category: Recreation/Culture
Use/Function: Outdoor Recreation
Detailed Use/Function: Outdoor Recreation
Type Of Use/Function: Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category: Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function: Livestock
Detailed Use/Function: Livestock
Type Of Use/Function: Historic

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

The adjacent lands (lands outside the boundaries of the park) are not associated with the developments of the Drakesbad Guest Ranch at Lassen Volcanic National Park and, therefore, do not contribute.

General Management Information

Management Category: Should Be Preserved And Maintained

Management Category Date: 12/15/1999

Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape's historical and continuing use as functioning resort has a continuing purpose appropriate to its traditional use or function and the landscape meets National Register Criterion A. Drakesbad Guest Ranch is compatible with the legislated significance of the park, "for the recreation purpose by the public and for the preservation from injury or spoliation of all timber, mineral deposits and natural curiosities or wonders...and their retention in their natural condition..." Therefore, the proposed district falls under Management Category B: Should Be Preserved and Maintained.

Condition Assessment And Impacts

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.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 10/01/2003

Date Recorded: 08/24/2004

Park Management Concurrence: No

Level Of Impact Severity: Moderate

Stabilization Measures:

The stabilization at Drakesbad Guest Ranch includes the removal of trees from the earthen Dream Lake Dam, as well as beaver, which are undermining the structural stability of the feature. Willow, alder, and poplar should be removed from the meadow south of the Lodge. Selective crown pruning of the poplars around the site would restore viewshed from the district.

Impact:

Type of Impact: Erosion

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

The gabion slopes used to maintain the course of Hot Springs Creek where it flows near the swimming pool are being undermined by stream flow. Regular monitoring and maintenance is needed to ensure their stability.

Type of Impact: Erosion

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

The service road to the water tank has diverted the natural cold spring flow down Flat Iron Ridge and is rutted and eroded along its length. This affects the hydrology of the meadow. Channelization to control the flow would help preserve the road structure and minimize impacts to the meadow.

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Historic practice of draining surface water away from the open area south of the Lodge maintained a meadow area, which was aesthetic as well as practical feature of the guest ranch. The historic drainage system, developed by Edward Drake and a practiced continued by the Siffords, has been neglected, resulting in the re-establishment of the natural bog-like character. Consequently, willow, alder, and poplar have re-established, threatening the open character of the meadow. To retain the historic character of the meadow, the willow, alder, and poplar could be removed by hand, or the ditches used to drain water to the Hot Springs Creek could be maintained to drain water from the area as needed.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Non-native species, primarily composed of grasses, have spread through a portion of the meadow south of the corral. Their origin can be attributed to the feed used for the concessioner horses. The weeds are limited to isolated areas and should be monitored.

Type of Impact: Inappropriate Maintenance

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Contemporary surface material has been added to the bridle trail across the meadow, which has significantly altered the character of this major circulation feature in the Drakesbad landscape. The raised trail, or causeway, is surfaced in a light colored stone,

and is approximately double the width of the bridle trail as it existed during the historic period. The bridle trail should be re-built with a darker material and width that is more sympathetic with the historic character of the district.

Type of Impact: Pests/Diseases

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Persistent beaver activity in Dream Lake has undermined the structural integrity of Dream Lake Dam. Dream Lake Dam has been identified as a feature that contributes to the significance of the historic district. Until the park determines the future management objectives for Dream Lake Dam, efforts should be continued to minimize damage to this historic structure and important recreational feature at Drakesbad. It is important to maintain the outflow at the spillway, which feeds into Hot Springs Creek to minimize stress to the dam.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

A variety of tree species, including willow alder and pine, have established on the earthen Dream Lake Dam. The roots of these trees threaten to undermine the stability of the dam. Since removal of the trees, and eventual decay of the roots, will cause air pockets to form in the dam, further diminishing the stability of the structure, the dam should be repaired in order to preserve this recreational resource. The repaired dam would need to be maintained in the future to ensure that no trees or shrubs re-establish on the dam.

Type of Impact: Pruning Practices

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

The historic open views toward Mount Harkness have been obscured. Selective thinning and pruning may lower the canopy height or open views through the dense canopy.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: Concession Contract

Expiration Date: UNKNOWN

Explanatory Narrative:

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

Public Access: Unrestricted

While there are no official access restrictions at Drakesbad, park visitors that are not guests at the resort are encouraged to park elsewhere due to limited parking availability.

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation
Approved Treatment Document: General Management Plan
Document Date: February 25, 2002

Explanatory Narrative:

According to the June 2003 General Management Plan, the park will “preserve, protect, and restore natural and cultural resources,” specifically calling for the “inventory, documentation and preservation of park archeological site and cultural landscapes.” (General Management Plan 2003, 17)

The draft Drakesbad Guest Ranch Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) proposes preservation, as the overall treatment strategy, and restoration.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Cost

**LCS Structure Approved
Treatment Cost:**

**Landscape Approved
Treatment Cost:**

Cost Date:

Level of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

Explanatory Description: The LCS approved treatment cost is derived from the Latest Ultimate Treatment Costs for all the buildings and structures within the Drakesbad Guest Ranch. There are no Ultimate Treatment Costs listed for any of the buildings and structures located at ranches with no integrity.

There are no approved treatment costs for the landscape.

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost: \$256,714
Landscape Stabilization Costs:
Cost Date: February 20, 2002

Level Of Estimate:

C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator:

Park

Explanatory Description:

The LCS structure stabilization cost is derived from the Latest Interim Treatment Costs for all the buildings and structures within the Drakesbad Guest Ranch. There are currently no LCS ultimate treatment costs specifically related to the district buildings and structures. Additionally, there are five PMIS statements regarding the rehabilitation or stabilization of the historic structures, which total \$256,714.00

PMIS #54462 (\$101,324.00): Correct Deficiencies in Foundations at Drakesbad Buildings

PMIS #83274 (\$47,390.00): Paint Lodge and Dining Hall at Drakesbad Guest Ranch

PMIS #83457 (\$45,000.00): Repoint Masonry at Drakesbad Lodge and Root Cellar

PMIS #83266 (\$32,500.00): Re-Roof Historic Cabins and Bunkhouse at Drakesbad

PMIS #83258 (\$30,500.00): Re-Roof Drakesbad Duplexes, Horse Shed and Cook Shed

There are currently PMIS statements specifically related to the historic landscape.

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment:	Good
Documentation:	
Document:	Cultural Landscape Report
Year Of Document:	2004
Amplifying Details:	The CLR is in draft format, and not yet approved by the park.
Adequate Documentation:	Yes
Document:	General Management Plan
Year Of Document:	2001
Adequate Documentation:	Yes
Document:	Resource Management Plan
Year Of Document:	1999
Adequate Documentation:	Yes

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author: Cathy Gilbert, Amy Hoke, Len Warner
Citation Title: Draft Cultural Landscape Report, Drakesbad Guest Ranch Historic District
Year of Publication: 2004
Source Name: PWR Files
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Cultural Resources Library, PWR Oakland and Seattle

Citation Author: Staff
Citation Title: General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement
Year of Publication: 2001
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: F868.L34 G46 2001
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Cultural Resources Library, PWR Oakland and Seattle, and Lassen Volcanic National Park

Citation Author: Staff
Citation Title: Natural and Cultural Resource Management Plan
Year of Publication: 1999
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: F868.L34 L37 1999
Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: Cultural Resources Library, PWR Oakland and Seattle, and Lassen Volcanic National Park

Citation Author: Roy D. Sifford
Citation Title: Sixty Years of Siffords at Drakesbad
Year of Publication: 1994
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: F868.L33 S54 1994
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Cultural Resources Library, PWR Oakland, and Lassen
Volcanic National Park

Citation Author: Edward R. Drake
Citation Title: Homestead Proof - Testimony of Claimant
Year of Publication: 1842
Source Name: National Archives and Records Administration
Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: National Archives and Records Administration,
College Park, Maryland

Citation Author: Douglas Hillman Strong
Citation Title: These Happy Grounds. A History of the Lassen Region.
Year of Publication: 1973
Source Name: not cataloged
Citation Location: Lassen Volcanic National Park

Supplemental Information

Title: Roy Sifford Interview

Description: Sifford, Roy. Interview by Les Bodine, n.d. Transcripts on file at LAVO resource office, Mineral, CA.

Drakesbad Guest Ranch Developed Area Existing Conditions

2004
Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Park Service
Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Program

Sources
2003 Draft National Register
Nomination

GIS field work (conducted by
PWR team September, 2003)

Legend
Lawn
Evergreen Forest
Forest Floor

Map produced by Amy Hoke using
Adobe Photoshop 7 and ArcMap

Approximate Scale in Feet
0 20 100

