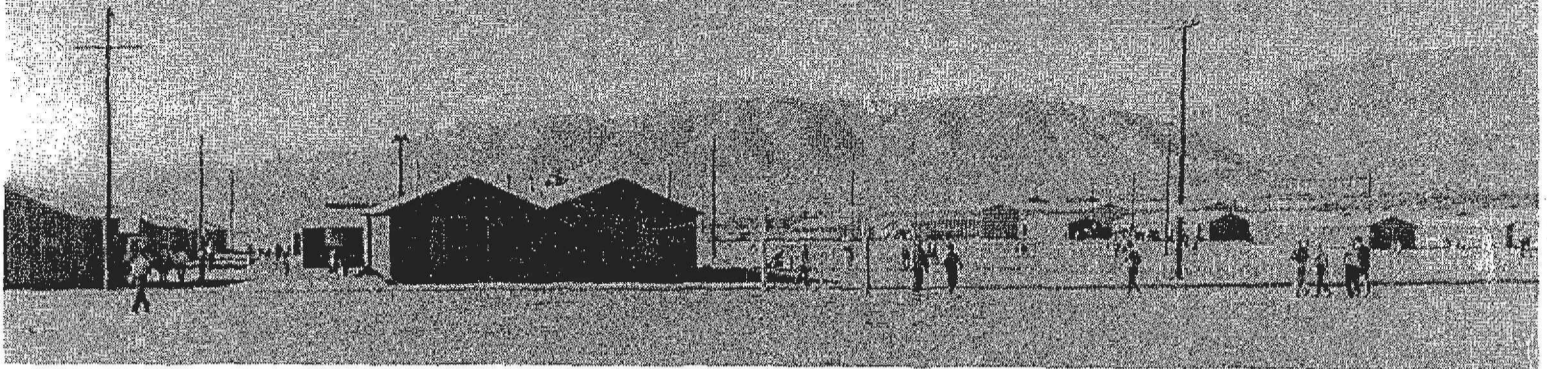




Fulfilling the Vision Priority Projects for Manzanar's Future



Block 2 Mess Hall and East Firebreak. National Archives photo. Dorothea Lange, 6/29/42

A number of major projects are already underway at Manzanar National Historic Site. These include adaptive restoration of the Manzanar High School Auditorium, development of exhibits and an introductory park film, and extensive research for a Cultural Landscape Report. In the months and years ahead, we will continue to work towards the vision outlined in Manzanar's General Management Plan (GMP), approved in 1996. We will actively seek funding and assistance to make this vision a reality. The projects we will pursue in the coming years, and the estimated funding needed to complete them, are listed below. For additional information, please contact Superintendent Frank Hays at 760-878-2932 ext. 11 or e-mail frank_hays@nps.gov.

Demonstration Block

The GMP calls for the development of a "demonstration block" to provide visitors with a sense of what a typical block was like. Our top priority for future funding is to relocate a historic mess hall building from the Bishop Airport. While Inyo County is donating the structure, the cost of relocating and restoring the building must be borne by the park. These costs include:

Relocate historic Manzanar mess hall from Bishop Airport to Manzanar - \$90,000

Restore Manzanar mess hall for safe access by all visitors (meet seismic, structural, and fire codes, and provide accessibility) - \$385,000

Design and install exhibits for Manzanar mess hall - \$85,000

Once other top priority projects including the guardtower have been completed, the park will pursue funding for other elements of the demonstration block, including:

1942 barracks - \$190,000

1945 barracks - \$250,000

Men's and women's latrines - \$60,000 each

Laundry room - \$105,000

Ironing building - \$60,000.

Guard Tower

While it is one of the more controversial projects outlined in the GMP, the reconstruction of a Manzanar guard tower is vital to public understanding of the site. Eight guard towers surrounded the perimeter of the camp's housing area. They were staffed by armed military police. The National Park Service proposes to

reconstruct one guard tower (tower #8) on the east side of the site.

Design for the tower is being completed, funding is needed to construct the structure:

Reconstruct guard tower #8 - \$150,000

Curatorial Facility

The National Park Service will continue to work in partnership with the Eastern California Museum in Independence to obtain and preserve archives and objects related to the site's history. The National Park Service will enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the museum to meet our shared goals.

The GMP outlines a long-term goal of developing a curatorial facility on the grounds of the Eastern California Museum.

Design and construct Manzanar curatorial facility - \$440,000

Historic Orchards

While Manzanar National Historic Site was established to tell the stories of the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II, the site is also rich in evidence of other eras of history. From approximately 1910 - 1930, the town of Manzanar was a thriving orchard community.

The National Park Service is taking steps to document, preserve, and protect these historic orchards. To do so, we need to develop a reliable water source and gradually begin to water the trees. We plan to utilize a historic well for this purpose.

Today, several hundred trees remain from this orchard period; most are nearly a century old. They are scientifically significant for their genetic hardiness and are representative of early 20th century orchard plantings.

Rehabilitate historic well to irrigate orchards - \$30,000

Oral History

The best way to tell the stories of the relocation is with the words of those involved. The National Park Service will build upon the body of oral histories developed over the years by academic institutions, museums, and others. We will identify areas and individuals that are underrepresented in the overall story and document their experiences. Gathering additional oral histories is time-sensitive as the generation that experienced Manzanar is getting older and gradually diminishing.

We will work in partnership with the Eastern California Museum to gather and document these important stories.

Conduct additional oral history interviews and produce indexed transcripts - \$30,000

Volunteers

Volunteers will play an important role in telling the stories and preserving the resources of Manzanar. The National Park Service has a Volunteer In Parks (VIP) program in place. Our goal is to expand this program to tap into the Japanese American community and beyond.

We would like assistance in developing a "Volunteer Resource List" of former internees and interested others who are willing to volunteer their services at Manzanar. Volunteers are needed to conduct oral histories, special interpretive events, education programs, and to complete service projects.

Develop Volunteer Resource List - time

Volunteers are also needed to establish and maintain a "Friends Group" for the site. Friends groups provide vital service and support to the National Park Service in parks throughout the country. They serve as advocates for preserving and protecting park resources and stories and assist in fundraising efforts for the sites. They also help to leverage existing funds and resources.

Volunteers to develop Friends Group and serve on a Board of Directors - priceless!

Long-term Endeavors

Our long-term goal is to research and possibly restore additional elements from the camp era. A Cultural Landscape Report is currently in progress and will assist us in determining which elements to restore. A Comprehensive Interpretive Plan is also being developed which will help the park focus on which stories to tell and the locations best-suited to their telling.

While we do not yet have specific projects or funding estimates, we hope to raise money and enlist volunteers to restore selected gardens, parks, and elements of the historic orchards. These projects will require major financial and volunteer support to bring the many layers of Manzanar's history to life for generations to come.

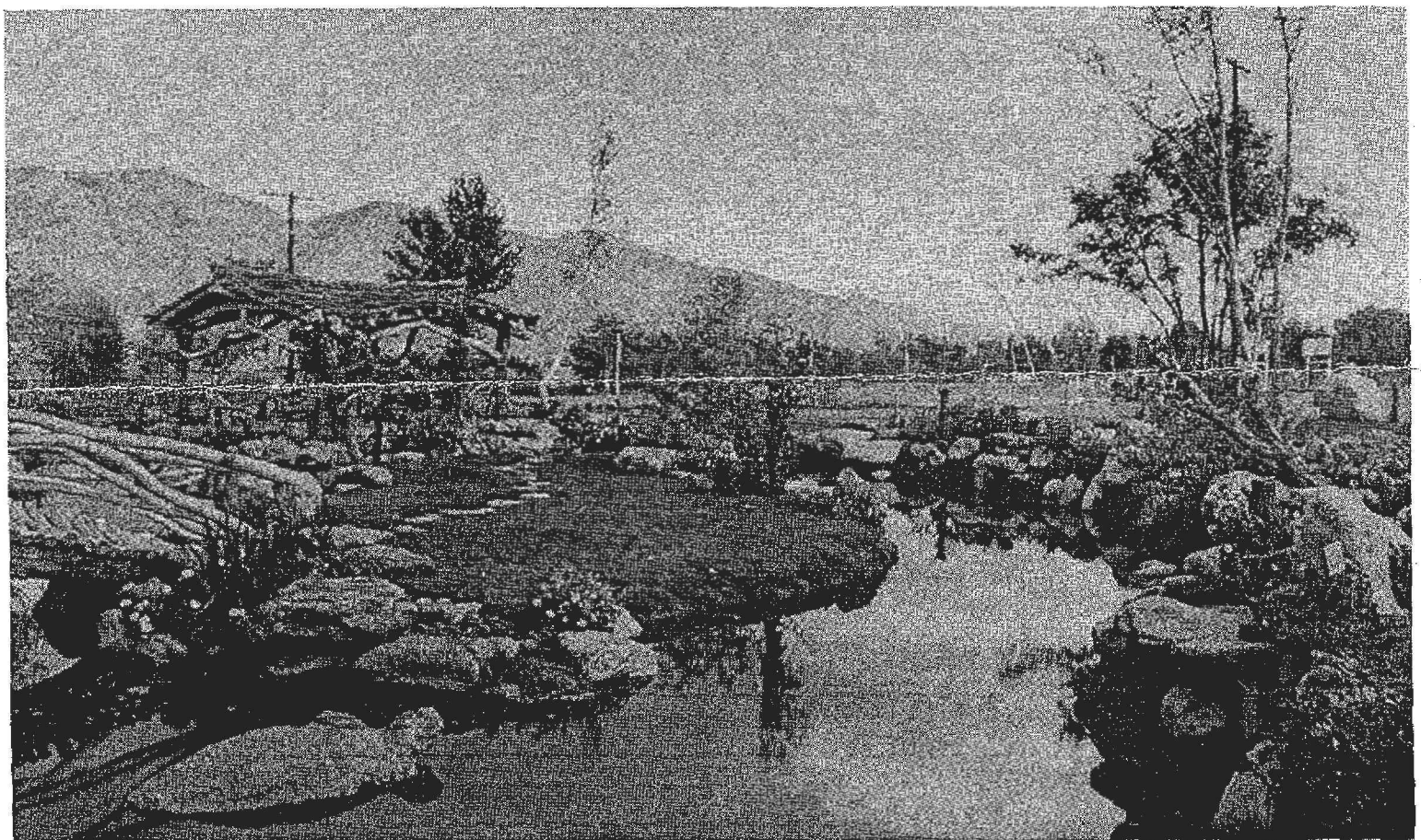
Contact the Park

For more information on these and other projects, please contact Superintendent Frank Hays.

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Pleasure Park (Merriut Park). Library of Congress photo. Ansel Adams, 1943