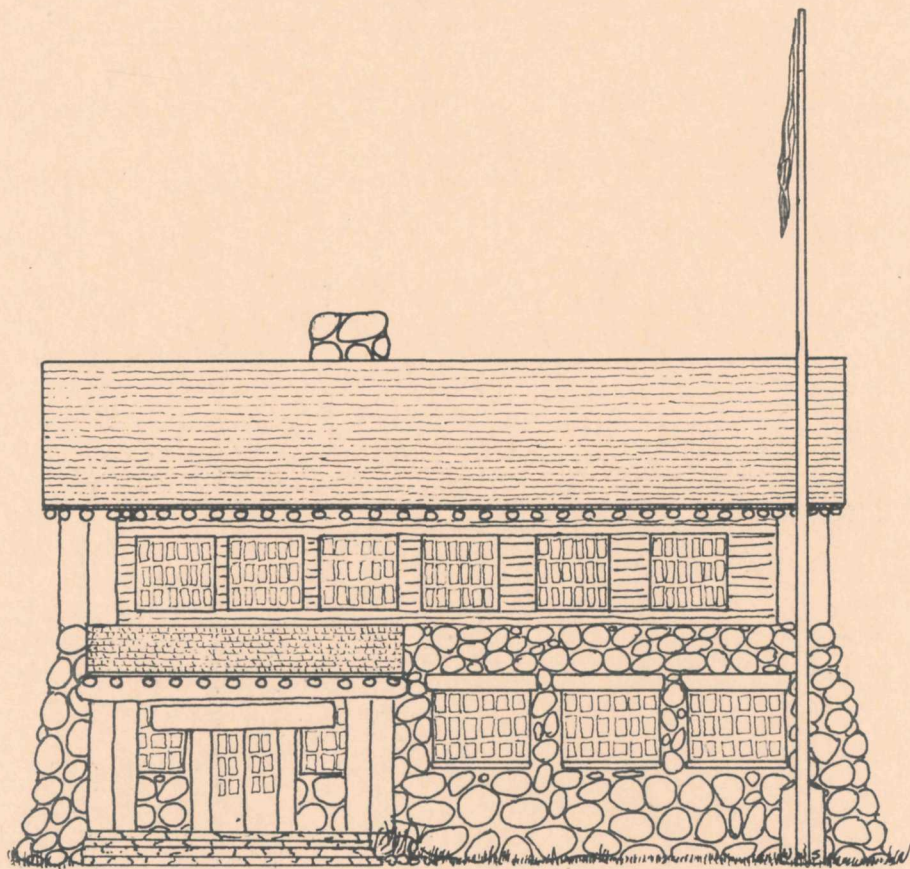
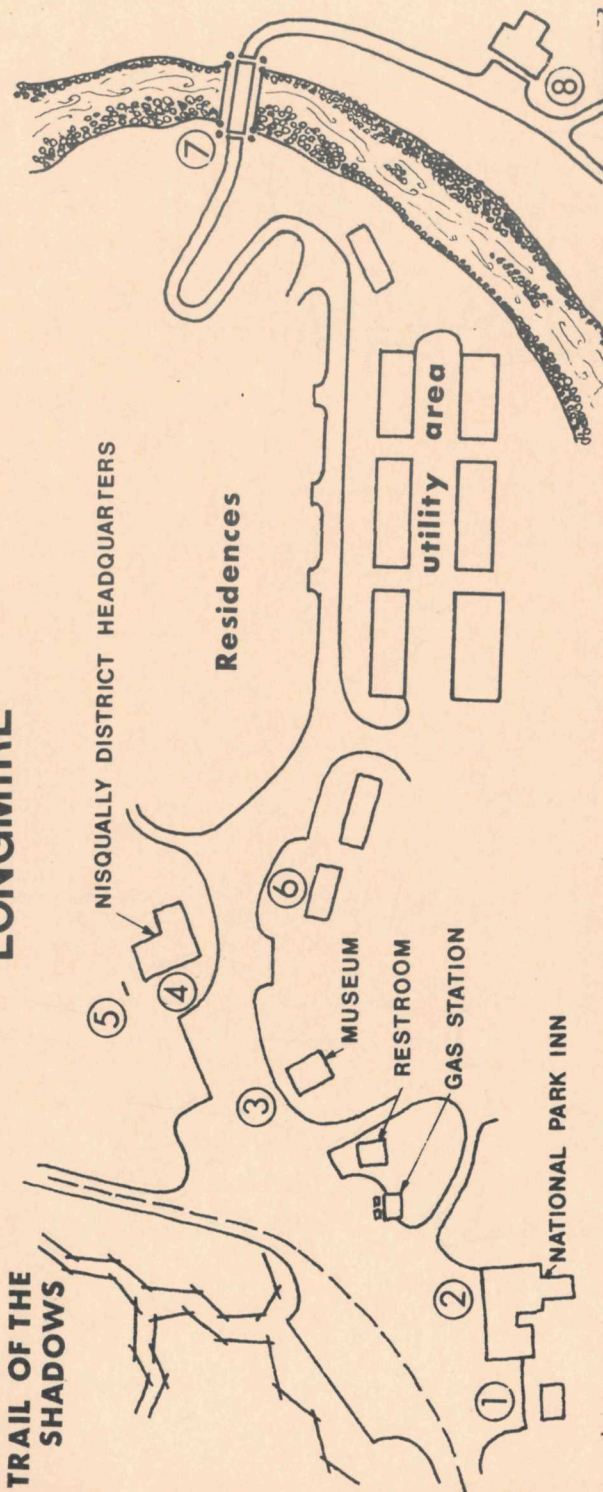


# HISTORIC WALK THROUGH LONGMIRE





# LONGMIRE



From James Longmire's Mineral Springs resort in 1884, through the establishment of Mount Rainier National Park in 1899 and the National Park Service in 1916, to visits by the first Director, Stephen Mather, the village of Longmire has presided over considerable change. We invite you to take a 3/4 mile walk back through those years and experiences.

1. HIKERS CENTER. How about a game of billiards or a fine cigar after an evening meal? The Hikers Center building was constructed in 1911 of Douglas fir logs and served as a clubhouse or game room for patrons at the National Park Inn. Later it became the concession manager's residence and, eventually, a dormitory. It was restored in 1980 for use as the Hikers Center to provide information about Mount Rainier's backcountry.
2. NATIONAL PARK INN. The present National Park Inn was built in 1918 as the annex to the original National Park Inn which burned down in 1926. Of the three original hotels in Longmire, only this one remains. Originally operated by the Tacoma Eastern Railway, it is now managed by the park concessioner, Guest Services Incorporated.
3. MUSEUM. The Longmire Museum is one of the oldest in the National Park Service. It was constructed in 1916 as Mount Rainier's first park headquarters and converted to a museum in 1928. Early temporary displays, such as flowers in fruit jars, gave way to more formal displays produced by park naturalists with assistance from the Works Progress Administration Artists Program in the 1930's. The Museum maintains the traditional appearance of many early park service museums.
4. NISQUALLY DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. Levers, beams, and pulleys combined with native boulders and cedar logs, time and craftsmanship were used to produce the Nisqually District Headquarters building in 1927. Its massive natural materials make it a fine example of rustic architecture. From 1928 until 1978 this was Park Headquarters during some exciting, growing times for Mount Rainier.
5. MATHER MEMORIAL. Just to the side of the District Headquarters is the Mather Memorial, celebrating an important conservationist, Stephen T. Mather. Mr. Mather, the first Director of the National Park Service, visited Mount Rainier several times during his tenure. He was responsible for consolidating the early national parks into a system and providing leadership, policies and traditions which endure to this day. Early-on, he sensed the importance of national parks to our developing nation and contributed mightily to their preservation. This memorial was placed here on July 4, 1932 and bears an inspirational message.



6. LIBRARY. The oldest government building on this walk is the library. But, imagine the clatter of cooking, the murmur of easy mealtime conversation, or the smell of fresh-baked bread, for the building first served as a community kitchen. Mrs. Greer was the proprietress of this community kitchen in 1910 and served meals to employees who were busy constructing park roads and buildings. It became the park library, then served as a Youth Conservation Corps recreation room, and now houses the park library again.

NOTE: Enroute to the Suspension Bridge, you will pass many residences. These structures, particularly those surrounding the grassy commons, are also fine examples of park architecture of the 1920's. They are presently occupied by park employees.

7. SUSPENSION BRIDGE. Boulder hopping and a log "pony bridge" were replaced in 1924 by this, the park's oldest suspension bridge. The bridge is an example of fine craftsmanship and shows the massive elements of rustic architecture. Cross the bridge enroute to the Community Building and the park's oldest campground.

8. COMMUNITY BUILDING. The social hub of early Mount Rainier was the Community Building. Completed in 1927, it housed meetings, weddings, suppers and other social events. Early rangers gave illustrated lectures here in the 1920's and 1930's. The building continues to serve as a site for social events, naturalist programs, and staff meetings. Longmire Campground adjacent to the Community Building is the park's oldest campground. Today, it serves as overflow space on busy weekends when Cougar Rock Campground fills to capacity.

The story of Longmire does not stop here. Opposite the National Park Inn is the Trail Of The Shadows along which may be found remnants of James Longmire's early Mineral Spring development. It is a stroll with shadows of the past, beneath the shadows of towering Douglas fir and Western hemlock. Enjoy a walk around the meadow as the Longmire family did at the turn of the century.