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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2010



Sunrise Developed Area  
Mount Rainier National Park

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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July 20, 2010

Ms. Erica Owens  
CLI Co-Coordinator  
National Park Service  
Pacific West Regional Office  
909 First Avenue, Floor 5  
Seattle, Washington 98104

In future correspondence please refer to:

Log: 072010-51-NPS

Property: Sunrise Developed Area, Mount Rainier - CLI

Re: Determined Eligible

Dear Ms. Owens:

Thank you for contacting our office. I have reviewed the materials you provided to our office for the Sunrise Developed Area of Mount Rainier. I wanted to compliment you on your further clarification and additional data on the Sunrise area. This will be a great asset to the existing National Register Nomination. I concur with your professional opinion that the identified 21 resources are eligible for the National Register and five are not eligible as part of the listed district. I look forward to further consultation regarding your determination of effect as projects occur to these resources in the coming years.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36CFR800.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



**Michael Houser**  
State Architectural Historian  
(360) 586-3076  
[michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov)

**MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK**  
**Sunrise Developed Area**

**Washington SHPO Consensus Determination of Eligibility**

**Actions Requested:**

1) SHPO concurrence that the landscape characteristics as identified in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the Sunrise Developed Area (see the following landscape characteristic descriptions in the Analysis and Evaluation section of the CLI: Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Land Use, Circulation, Vegetation, Buildings and Structures, Small-Scale Features, and Views and Vistas):

I concur , I do not concur  that the landscape characteristics as described in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the Sunrise Developed Area.

2) SHPO concurrence with the list of contributing and non-contributing structures to the Sunrise Developed Area. (See tables below and the following landscape characteristic descriptions in the Analysis and Evaluation section of the CLI: Circulation, Buildings and Structures, and Small Scale Features):

*Contributing Structures:* Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as contributing features of the Sunrise Developed Area:

Contributing Structure Name	Date Built	Concur	Do not Concur
Sunrise Plaza Parking Area/Parking Lot (including overspill parking area and plaza sidewalk with stone curb)	1931	Listed as contributing to the Mount Rainer NHLD (1997).	
Sunrise Gas Station & Sunrise Gas Pump Island/Service Station	1931		
Sunrise Lodge	1931		
Sunrise Plaza Comfort Station	1930		
Sunrise North Blockhouse	1944		
Sunrise South Blockhouse	1930		
Sunrise Visitor Center	1943		
Sunrise Stockade Fence	1930s		
Sunrise Power House	1932		
Rim Trail Overlook #1 (south of plaza area)	1932		
Rim Trail Overlook #2 (south of plaza area)	1932		

**MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK**

**Sunrise Developed Area**

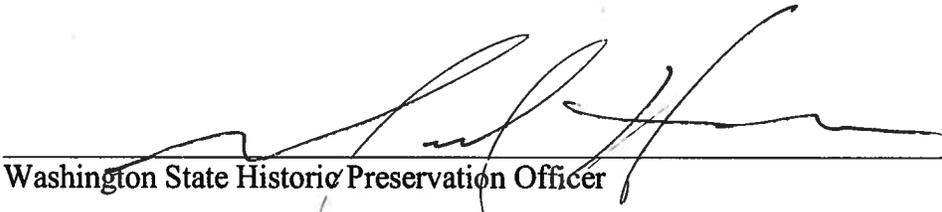
<b>Contributing Structure Name</b>	<b>Date Built</b>	<b>Concur</b>	<b>Do not Concur</b>
Historic Circulation System (including roads, trails, and walkways: Sunrise Gas Station Plaza, Historic Cabin Area Entrance, Sunrise Picnic Area Loop Road, Maintenance Road, Power House Road, Sunrise Rim Trail, Power House Trail, Sourdough Ridge Trail, Sunrise Campground Trail, Burroughs Loop Trail, Visitor Center Walkways, and Sunrise Lodge Walkways)	1930s	X	
Interpretive Kiosk	1940	X	
Sunrise Fire Pit	1930	X	
Sunrise Campground #1 Comfort Station	Circa 1930	X	
Emmons Glacier Overlook	1931	X	
Frozen Lake Dam	1930	X	
(5) Sunrise Water Fountains/Spigots	1930s	X	
Sunrise Rustic Picnic Tables	1930s/1940s	X	
Sunrise Rustic Log Benches	1930-1931	X	
(2) Dry-Stack Rock Walls	Circa 1930	X	

*Non-contributing Structures:* Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as non-contributing features of the Sunrise Developed Area:

<b>Non-contributing Structure Name</b>	<b>Date Built or Modified</b>	<b>Concur</b>	<b>Do Not Concur</b>
Water Treatment Building	2008	X	
Sunrise Picnic Area Comfort Station	Built circa 1930, but heavily altered in the 1970s-80s	X	
Flagpole	Moved and pole replaced, post-1944	X	
(2) Telescopes	Circa 1980	X	
Wooden footbridges	Post-1944	X	

**MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK**  
**Sunrise Developed Area**

Reasons/comments why any 'Do Not Concur' blocks were checked:

  
Washington State Historic Preservation Officer 7-17-10  
Date

072010-SI-NPS

Please return form to the attention of:  
*Amanda Bennett*  
*Cultural Landscapes Inventory Co-coordinator - Seattle*  
*Pacific West Regional Office*  
*909 First Avenue, Fifth Floor*  
*Seattle, Washington 98104-1060*  
*206-220-4128, erica\_owens@nps.gov*

**Pacific West Region**  
**Cultural Landscapes Inventory**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

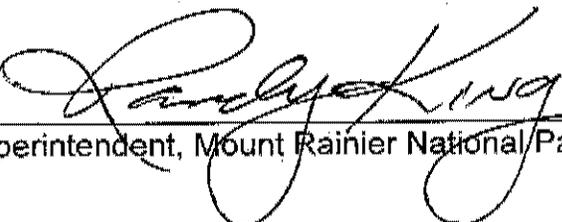


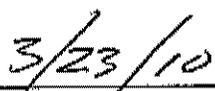
**Sunrise Developed Area**  
**Mount Rainier National Park**

Mount Rainier National Park concurs with the findings of the CLI, including the management category and condition assessment as identified below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: **A: Must be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Fair**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Mount Rainier National Park

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return to:

Amanda Bennett  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator  
National Park Service  
Pacific West Regional Office  
909 First Ave., Floor 5  
Seattle, WA 98104



## **Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan**

### **Inventory Summary**

#### **The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:**

##### **CLI General Information:**

###### **Purpose and Goals of the CLI**

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

###### **Scope of the CLI**

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

## Sunrise Developed Area

### Mount Rainier National Park

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treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

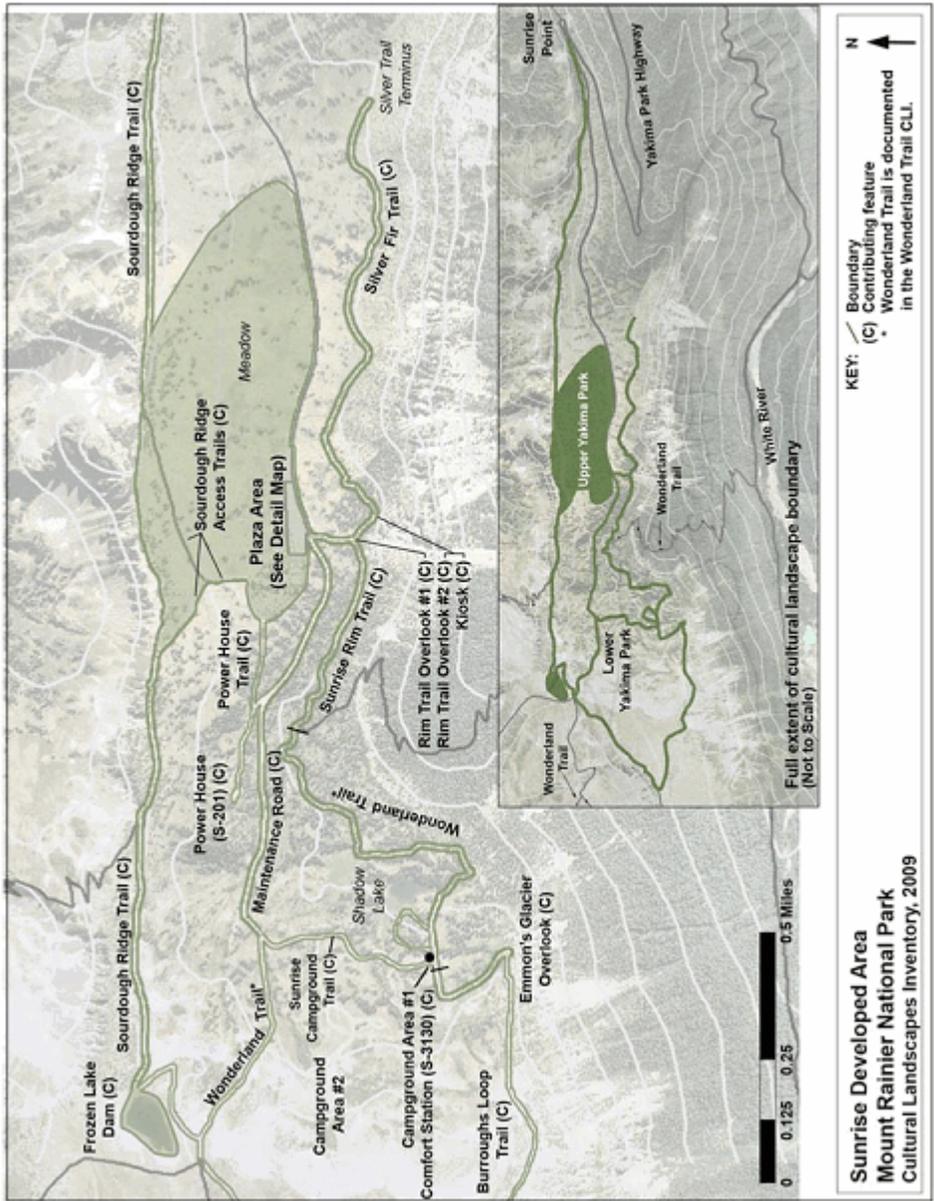
#### **Inventory Unit Description:**

Sunrise Developed Area (or Sunrise) is a 450 acre parcel in the northeastern portion of Mount Rainier National Park. Sited within the subalpine meadows of Yakima Park, Sunrise was designed by landscape architects and planners as a destination for park visitors, providing parking, comfort stations, lodging, camping facilities, hiking trails and overlooks, picnicking opportunities and a visitor center. The area was originally part of the 1926 Mount Rainier Park master plan, which aimed to develop visitor amenities in the northeastern portion of the park and thus alleviate visitation stress on other park areas. Ernest Davidson began formal planning of Sunrise in 1929, proposing eight different iterations for a park development by early the following year. Construction was not completed until 1944 when the north blockhouse was finally erected.

The site for Sunrise was carefully selected because of its natural beauty and views, topography, natural features, and easy access. The natural topography of the park included a relatively flat bench surrounded by dramatically steep terrain, which translated into a logical building site. The landscape consists of a terrace that runs in an east-west direction climbing on the north side up to Sourdough Ridge and descending on the south side to the upper slopes of the White River Valley. It extends up to Frozen Lake at the western extremity and to the entrance of the central plaza on the east. The site contains a central plaza area surrounded by historic buildings including the Sunrise Lodge, a visitor center and stockade compound, a former gas station structure, and numerous smaller structures. The outlying areas of the Sunrise include three overlooks, a power house, a dam, and the remnants of two historic campgrounds. The central area and outlying units are connected by a series of trails and maintenance roads, which afford magnificent views of Mt. Rainier and Emmons Glacier.

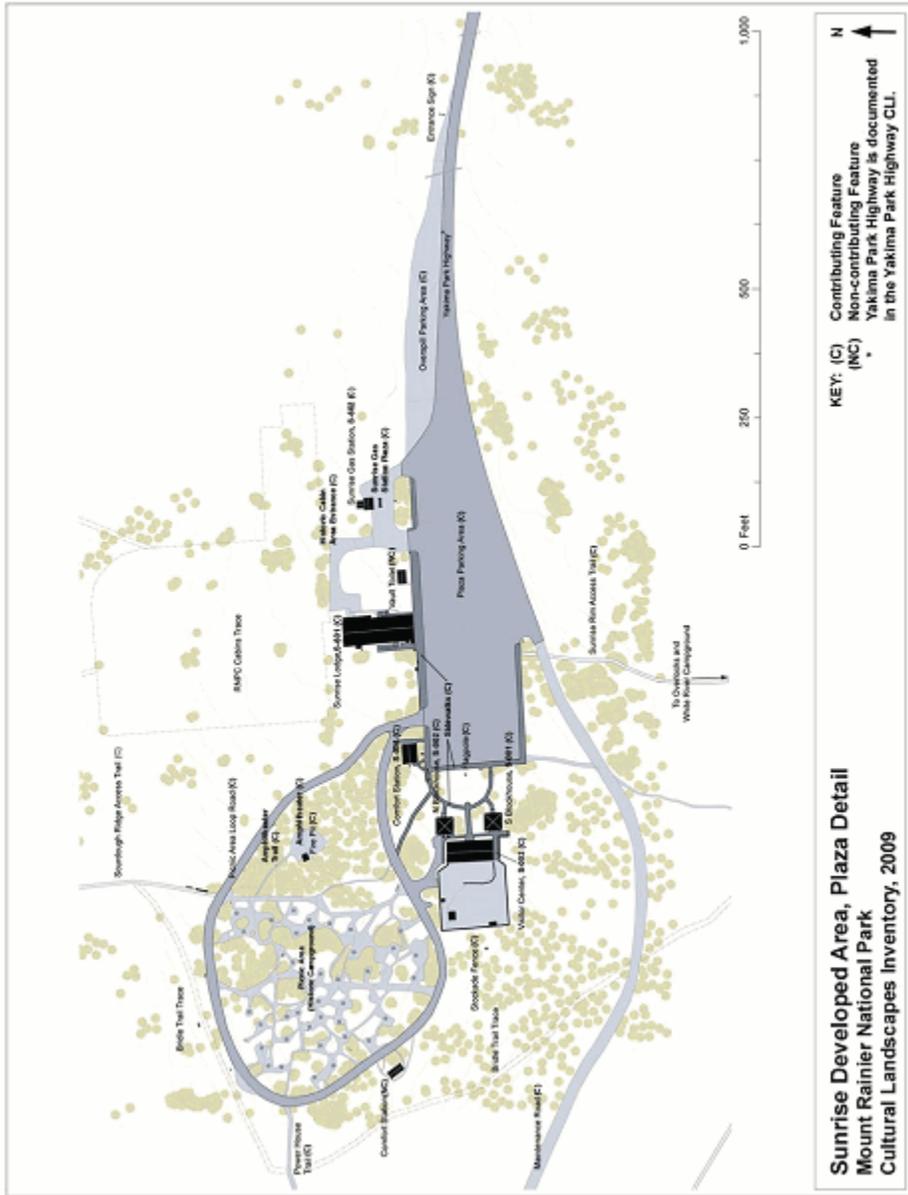
The Sunrise Developed Area is a nationally significant example of an early park village, and an integral part of the extant early master plan for Mount Rainier National Park. The historic village is located within the Mount Rainier National Historic Landmark District (NHLD). Designated in 1997, the NHLD is nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with the events of early National Park Service master planning and landscape architecture. It is also significant under Criterion C for rustic architecture and naturalistic landscape architecture perpetuated by the NPS in the period between World War I and II. The period of significance for the Sunrise Developed Area spans the years 1929-1944, reflecting the period when the NPS coordinated the design and construction of the site, continuing thought the 1930s and early 1940s with major contributions from the CCC and ending with the completion of the final building development. The historic character of the site is evident in the remaining landscape characteristics: natural systems and feature, spatial organization, land use, circulation, buildings and structures, small scale features, views and vistas, vegetation, and archaeological sites. These patterns and their surviving features continue to exist as originally planned, conveying the integrity of the site as a park village development.

### Site Plan



Map showing the cultural landscape boundary for Sunrise Developed Area (PWRO 2009). See "Supplemental Information" for a larger version of this map.

Sunrise Developed Area  
 Mount Rainier National Park



Map showing details of the Sunrise Developed Area plaza (PWRO 2006). See "Supplemental Information" for a larger version of this map.

**Property Level and CLI Numbers**

**Inventory Unit Name:** Sunrise Developed Area

**Property Level:** Landscape

Sunrise Developed Area  
Mount Rainier National Park

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**CLI Identification Number:** 400118  
**Parent Landscape:** 400118

**Park Information**

**Park Name and Alpha Code:** Mount Rainier National Park -MORA  
**Park Organization Code:** 9450  
**Park Administrative Unit:** Mount Rainier National Park

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Fieldwork for the Sunrise developed area was conducted in 2002 and a CLR was completed in 2007. Erica Owens, Mark Davison, Susan Dolan, and John Hammond worked on the project. Carrie Barnes finalized the CLI and entered it into the database in 2008.

### Concurrence Status:

**Park Superintendent Concurrence:** Yes  
**Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:** 03/23/2010  
**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination  
**Date of Concurrence Determination:** 07/20/2010

### National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The landscape characteristics and associated features are documented in this CLI, which received SHPO concurrence in 2010.

### Concurrence Graphic Information:

*2010 SHPO concurrence page (Located at front of CLI)*

*2010 Park Superintendent concurrence page (Located at front of CLI)*

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary description for the CLI clarifies the Sunrise area boundary identified in the Mount Rainier National Historic Landmark District. The boundary of the cultural landscape is drawn to include the historic features that still remain, including a concentration of buildings and features in the central plaza area and Yakima Park meadow, as well as a system of roads and trails that extend into the surrounding landscape to access overlooks, campgrounds, and a dam built in association with the Sunrise development. As a result, the boundary is drawn with a larger central area (to encompass the plaza

## Sunrise Developed Area

### Mount Rainier National Park

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and surrounding meadow) with several road and trail corridors branching off from the core development.

#### Boundary Description

The boundary of the central core of the landscape begins at a point near the entrance sign to the Sunrise plaza. The boundary heads south, across the Yakima Park Highway to a point 100 feet south of the road's centerline. The boundary then turns west and parallels the southern edge of the parking lot at approximately 100 feet from its edge. When it reaches the southwestern corner of the parking lot, the line curves in a northwestern direction that includes the Visitor Center and Stockade and meets the historic campground loop road, referred to today as the Picnic Area Loop Road. It parallels the curve of the loop road, following its outer edge approximately 100 feet from the centerline. Where the road intersects with the Sourdough Ridge Access Trail, the boundary turns north and follows the access trail northwest, 15 feet from the centerline until it reaches Sourdough Ridge Trail. The boundary then parallels the northern edge of Sourdough Ridge Trail, 15 feet from the centerline, until it meets an intersection with a historic trail remnant. The boundary follows the northeastern edge of the trail remnant 15 feet from the centerline, until it reaches a point 100 feet from the centerline of Yakima Park Highway. The boundary then turns west and parallels the northern edge of Yakima Park Highway, 100 feet from the centerline of the road until it is directly north of the Sunrise entrance sign. The boundary then turns directly south until it meets the point of origin at the entrance sign to the Sunrise plaza.

From this central core area, the boundary branches out to include several road and trail corridors. The boundary corridors parallel the following roads, 100 feet from the centerline in either direction: the access road to the Power House, and the historic road beyond the Power House that was used to access a rock quarry and Frozen Lake Dam (referred to as Sunrise Campground Trail on the Site Plan) and ends where this road remnant intersects with the Wonderland Trail. The boundary parallels the following trails, 50 feet from the centerline in either direction: trails from the westernmost Emmons Glacier Overlook to the eastern terminus of the Sunrise Rim Trail (this includes a short portion of the Burroughs Loop Trail and all of the Sunrise Rim Trail), Sunrise Rim Access Trail, the Power House Trail, and the Sourdough Ridge Trail (from Frozen Lake to Sunrise Point). At the western terminus of the Sourdough Ridge Trail, the boundary corridor expands to include Frozen Lake and the dam. A discontinuous point is located at Campground #1 to include the historic comfort station.

#### State and County:

**State:** WA

**County:** Pierce County

**Size (Acres):** 450.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected  
**Type of Point:** Area  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 604,011  
**UTM Northing:** 5,197,043

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected  
**Type of Point:** Area  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 604,428  
**UTM Northing:** 5,196,802

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected  
**Type of Point:** Area  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 604,518  
**UTM Northing:** 5,196,552

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected  
**Type of Point:** Area  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 603,686  
**UTM Northing:** 5,196,580

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

**Type of Point:** Area  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 603,686  
**UTM Northing:** 5,196,561

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

**Type of Point:** Area  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 603,421  
**UTM Northing:** 5,196,518

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

**Type of Point:** Area  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 603,147  
**UTM Northing:** 5,196,664

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

**Type of Point:** Area  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 603,275  
**UTM Northing:** 5,196,709

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

**Type of Point:** Area  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10

<b>UTM Easting:</b>	603,269
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	5,196,848
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Area
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	10
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	603,040
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	5,196,997
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Line
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	10
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	607,357
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	5,196,921
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<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	10
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	604,828
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	5,196,314
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	602,068
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	5,195,855

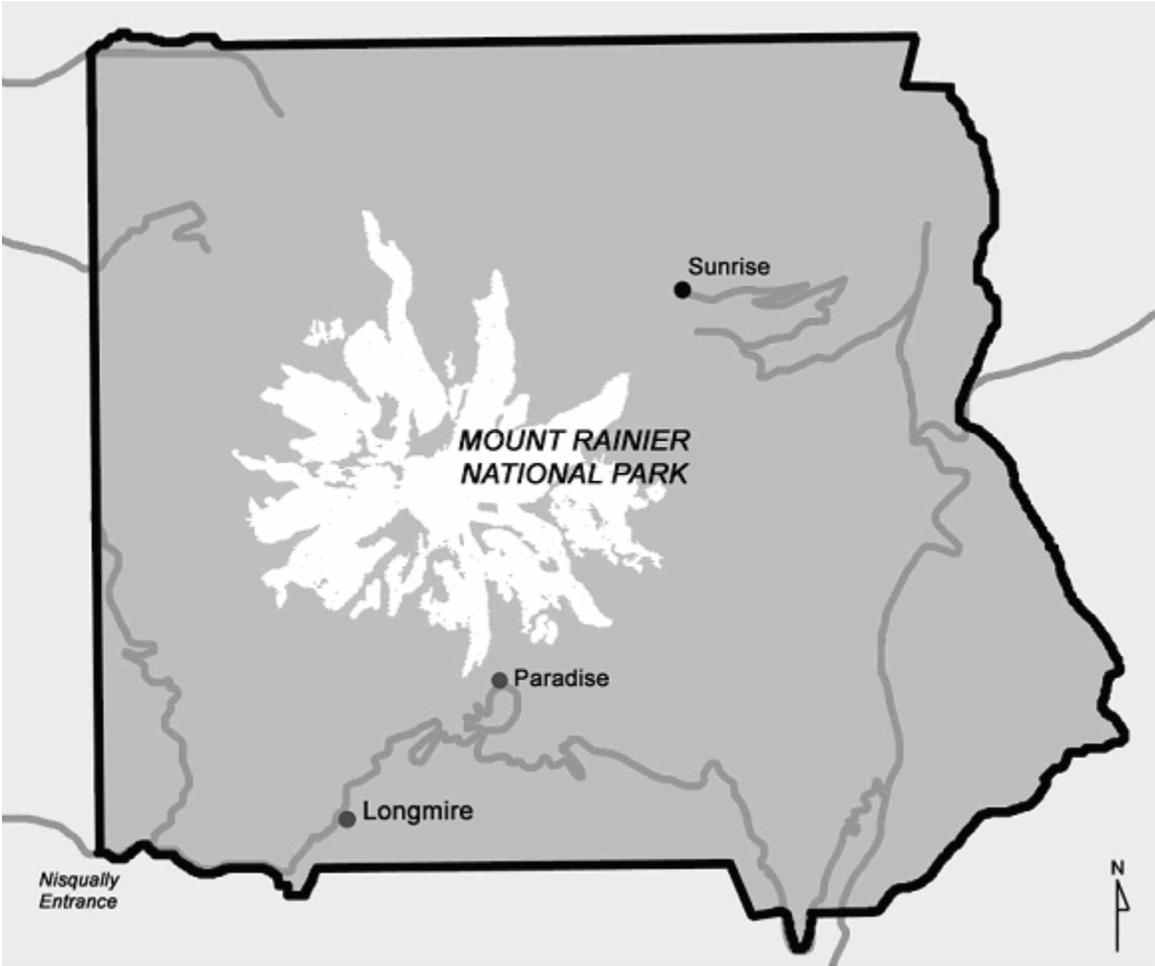
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**UTM Northing:** 5,196,668

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**UTM Easting:** 602,567  
**UTM Northing:** 5,196,753

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**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 601,507  
**UTM Northing:** 5,197,037

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected  
**Type of Point:** Point  
**Datum:** NAD 83  
**UTM Zone:** 10  
**UTM Easting:** 602,053  
**UTM Northing:** 5,196,154

**Location Map:**



## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 09/01/2008

#### Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The management category for Sunrise Developed Area is "A – Must be Preserved and Maintained" because it meets the following criterion: the inventory unit is nationally significant as defined by National Historic Landmark criteria. Sunrise was determined to be a contributing developed area within a National Historic Landmark District in February, 1997. The NHL theme for the district is National Park Service landscape architecture and National Park Service master planning.

### Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

#### Management Agreement:

**Type of Agreement:** Concession Contract/Permit

**Expiration Date:** December 31, 2012

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Mount Rainier National Park has been in a contract relationship with the concessionaire Guest Services Inc. (GSI) since 1972. The present agreement is a 25 year contract, which began in December 1987 and continues until December 31, 2012. At Sunrise, GSI operates food service and a gift shop located in Sunrise Lodge. The Lodge is typically open to visitors from mid- or late- June until mid-September each year.

#### NPS Legal Interest:

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

#### Public Access:

**Type of Access:** Other Restrictions

#### Explanatory Narrative:

Sunrise is closed to vehicular access in the winter. Sunrise facilities are closed to visitors for approximately nine months of the year.

### Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** No

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Sunrise Developed Area was included in the National Historic Landmark District nomination of 1997. Formerly, the area was listed as Sunrise Historic District on the National Register as part of a multiple property nomination in 1991. Before that, the North and South Blockhouse, the Museum and Stockade, were listed as National Historic Landmarks in 1987. None of these nominations adequately documented the landscape characteristics and features of the Sunrise Developed Area.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Yakima Park Stockade Group
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	87001337
<b>Other Names:</b>	North and South Blockhouses, Museum, and Stockade at Sunrise
<b>Primary Certification:</b>	Listed In The National Register
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	05/28/1987
<b>Other Certifications and Date:</b>	Designated National Landmark - 5/28/1987
<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Sunrise Historic District
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	91000175
<b>Other Names:</b>	See Also: Yakima Park Stockade Group
<b>Primary Certification:</b>	Listed In The National Register
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	03/13/1991 Date Received/Pending Nomination - 1/29/1991
<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Sunrise Comfort Station
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	91000207
<b>Other Names:</b>	S-310
<b>Primary Certification:</b>	Listed In The National Register
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	03/13/1991 Date Received/Pending Nomination - 1/29/1991

## National Register Eligibility

<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Contributing/Individual:</b>	Contributing
<b>National Register Classification:</b>	District
<b>Significance Level:</b>	National
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

### Area of Significance:

**Area of Significance Category:** Landscape Architecture

**Area of Significance Category:** Architecture

### Statement of Significance:

The Sunrise Developed Area (also known as the Yakima Park developed area) is a historic park village development within the Mount Rainier National Historic Landmark District (NHLD). Designated in 1997, the NHLD is nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with the events of early National Park Service (NPS) master planning as part of the early Mount Rainier National Park master plan and the national park system's most complete and significant example of park master planning. It is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Rustic architecture and naturalistic landscape architecture perpetuated by the NPS in the period between World Wars I and II.

The period of significance for the larger NHLD of Mount Rainier National Park is 1906-1957, broadly incorporating the earliest and latest Rustic-period development in the park. Specifically, the period of significance for the Sunrise Developed Area spans the years 1929-1944, reflecting the period when the NPS coordinated the design and construction of the park village development, continuing through the 1930s and early 1940s with contributions from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and ending with the completion of the final building in the development.

#### Park Master Planning (Criterion A)

In association with the events of the American Park Movement and early NPS master planning, Sunrise is significant as an integral part of the master plan of Mount Rainier National Park as first developed in the 1920s. At this time, early planners envisioned park infrastructure to include a system of scenic highways and developed areas, to be known as Rustic park villages. These villages would accommodate the needs of daily visitors and overnight guests, while also protecting the landscape and scenic quality of the environment in which they were built. Implementing a Rustic style of architecture

## Sunrise Developed Area Mount Rainier National Park

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and the naturalistic style of landscape architecture in its design, Sunrise is emblematic of Mount Rainier's master plan, a plan that proved to be highly influential in the development of master plans for other national parks. (Carr 1998)

The selection of Yakima Park as a development site came at an important time in the physical expansion of Mount Rainier National Park, but also at a time of ideological expansion for the NPS. Yakima Park represented the first opportunity of the NPS to completely plan a village in an untouched territory. Two parties were involved with Sunrise's development, the NPS and the park concessionaire, the Rainier National Park Company (RNPC), which presented a unique conflict. As part of the master plan, an inherent NPS objective of the village layout was to preserve the surrounding natural resources and views. Because of this, the NPS favored dispersed development and the preservation of the large alpine meadows. The RNPC, on the other hand, felt it was crucial that their facilities be located close together to provide service to their customers and maintain their facilities. Reaching an elegant resolution to these conflicting interests was a design challenge that occupied NPS Landscape Architect Ernest Davidson for over a year. Finally "Plan H," Davidson's eighth iteration, was deemed satisfactory. The final design for Yakima Park, adapted from the 1920s village typology, was a decentralized park village with nodes of development distributed throughout the northern end of the plateau, keeping the bulk of development out of the meadow. (Davison 1932)

### Rustic Architecture and Naturalistic Landscape Architecture (Criterion C)

In association with significant design and construction, Sunrise Developed Area is an excellent example of National Park Service landscape design, embodying the complimentary styles of Rustic architecture and naturalistic landscape architecture. Based on eighteenth-century picturesque and nineteenth-century naturalistic design theories, the Rustic and naturalistic styles were used extensively in NPS architecture and landscape architecture of the 1920s and 1930s. Designers in these styles aimed to harmonize artifice and nature by minimizing the visual impact of constructed developments, while accentuating the picturesque qualities of nature. Indigenous rock, lumber and native plants were the basic materials for these styles, so that park architecture and landscape architecture would appear as natural extensions of the living landscape. Forms of the Rustic and naturalistic styles were intended to be subordinate to the natural environment, and were to exhibit a hand-crafted or primitive appearance. This design era coincides with the most significant periods of development within NPS history, a time when NPS created what is now recognized as the hallmark style for developments within natural areas in order to preserve their scenic beauty.

The design of Sunrise exhibits many characteristics of the naturalistic and Rustic design styles, including the 'naturalization' of construction scars through the use of native vegetation; naturalistic construction details on significant structures, overlooks, retaining walls and small-scale features; and the careful planning for and preservation of significant views and vistas within the developed area and along site trails. A range of Rustic style architecture is exhibited in the buildings within the development from the Chalet style of the Sunrise Lodge to the Stockade style of the Sunrise Visitor Center to the more typical log-and-stone façade cabin style of the comfort station and gas station. Together, these buildings and

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landscape features still convey the historic character of the park village carefully planned and implemented by Davidson and NPS staff in collaboration with the concessionaire Rainier National Park Company (RNC).

**National Historic Landmark Information**

**National Historic Landmark Status:** Yes  
**Date Determined Landmark:** 02/18/1997  
**Landmark Theme:** National Park Service landscape architecture

**World Heritage Site Information**

**World Heritage Site Status:** No

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Designed

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Outdoor Recreation

**Primary Current Use:** Outdoor Recreation

**Current and Historic Names:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Name</b>
Sunrise	Both Current And Historic
Sunrise Developed Area	Current
Sunrise Village	Both Current And Historic
Yakima Park	Both Current And Historic

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** Yes-Restricted Information

**Associated Group:**

<b>Name of Group:</b>	Cowlitz (Tainapan)
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Both Current And Historic
<b>Name of Group:</b>	Muckleshoot
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Both Current And Historic
<b>Name of Group:</b>	Nisqually
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Both Current And Historic
<b>Name of Group:</b>	Puyallup
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Both Current And Historic
<b>Name of Group:</b>	Yakama
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Both Current And Historic

**Ethnographic Significance Description:**

Documented in "Ethnographic Guide to the Archeology of Mount Rainier National Park" by Allan H. Smith, 1964 and "Review and Assessment of the Ethnographic Literature of Mount Rainier National Park, Volumes 1 and 2" by Astrida R. Blukis Onat, 1999.

**Chronology:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
AD 1899	Established	Mount Rainier National Park was established
AD 1915	Built	Wonderland Trail was completed allowing increased access to the Sunrise area by hikers and adventurers.
AD 1923	Established	Owen Tomlinson was appointed superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park. His principal concern was development of the northern end of the park to ease overpopulation in other park areas.
AD 1926	Designed	Tomlinson's "Outline for Park Development," a master plan for Mount Rainier, was completed. It included plans for a park village at Yakima Park.
AD 1928	Platted	A topographic survey of Yakima Park was conducted.
AD 1928 - 1929	Designed	National Park Service Landscape Architect Ernest Davidson designed a development plan for Yakima Park. After multiple iterations the eighth attempt, "Plan H," was approved representing an acceptable compromise for both the park and the concessionaire Rainier National Park Company (RNPC).
AD 1929 - 1931	Built	Yakima Park Highway was completed, providing vehicular access to Yakima Park.
AD 1929	Planned	The RNPC issued a five-year plan that outlined an aggressive expansion scheme throughout the park, with heavy investments at Yakima Park, including a \$400,000 lodge.
AD 1930	Built	Major infrastructure was established in the Yakima Park area, including a 300 car parking area, restrooms and sewer lines, a circulation system of roads and trails, the Frozen Lake Dam, and a reservoir to provide water to the development. Also, the South Blockhouse and 200 housekeeping cabins were completed.

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AD 1931	Built	Work was completed on the Sunrise Lodge, Sunrise Service Station and fifteen more housekeeping cabins, bringing the number of cabins to 215. Emmons Glacier Overlook on Burroughs Mt. Trail over Shadow Lake was also completed.
	Established	Yakima Village became known as Sunrise Village in order to avoid confusion with the nearby town of Yakima, WA.
	Developed	The Sunrise Village was dedicated on July 15 and opened for business as scheduled.
AD 1932	Built	The Rim Trail Overlooks #1 and #2 were constructed along Sunrise Rim Trail, south of the plaza.
AD 1933	Established	The Roosevelt administration established the Employment Stabilization Act (ESA), which required all government agencies to prepare six-year work plans for needed construction work so that information would be available if a public works spending program was enacted.
AD 1933 - 1941	Inhabited	As a result of the ESA and master planning efforts, Mount Rainier National Park became the home to eight separate Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps between 1933 and 1941. The first of these camps was established at nearby White River in 1933. The men stationed at White River were assigned construction projects and landscaping improvements at Sunrise.
AD 1933 - 1934	Planted	The CCC undertook a major revegetation effort at Sunrise. This included establishing 18,000 square feet of meadow sod at the Sunrise Developed Area and planting over 200 trees in 1934 alone.
AD 1940	Built	The CCC completed the third overlook along Rim Trail, which included a rustic stone and log trailside exhibit kiosk at Emmons Vista.
AD 1943	Built	The Sunrise visitor center was completed.
AD 1944	Removed	In an effort to offset their debt and to contribute to the war effort, the RNPC sold all the cabins at Sunrise for government defense installations. The structures were removed from Sunrise in 1944.

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	Built	The North Blockhouse was finished, completing the development of the administrative area.
AD 1952	Purchased/Sold	Congress granted appropriations in 1952 and the NPS purchased all of the RNPC's properties, including Sunrise Lodge, for \$300,000.
AD 1960 - 1969	Altered	In the 1960s, the upper campground near the Visitor Center and Lodge was closed to camping and converted into a picnic area, according to the Mission 66 master plan.
AD 1973	Established	Campgrounds numbers one and two were closed to vehicular camping.
AD 1991	Established	Sunrise Historic District was listed on the National Register.
AD 1997	Established	Sunrise Developed Area was included in the National Historic Landmark District (NHLN) designation for Mount Rainier National Park.
	Established	A vegetation restoration program was initiated in an effort to erase scars present on the landscape from historic human use: camping, auto traffic, etc.
AD 2005	Established	A Choosing by Advantages (CBA) process determined that the Sunrise Lodge should be rehabilitated rather than replaced.
AD 2008	Built	Construction began on a new water treatment facility located within the visitor center stockade.

## Physical History:

### Pre-1930

By the time Mount Rainier was officially established as a National Park in 1899, its popularity as a recreation destination was already regionally established. Mountaineering groups were among the most frequent early visitors, but as the popularity of the automobile grew, the park's close proximity to the population centers of western Washington made it an accessible destination for day use visitors. The limited developed areas of the park, Paradise and Longmire in the southwestern corner of the park, were quickly taxed and there was a legitimate concern regarding damage to the fragile alpine environment by the enthusiastic crowds of people. (Davidson, 1932: no pagination)

A solution to overuse of previously developed areas was proposed in the early 1900s by Major Hiram M. Chittenden of the Army Corps of Engineers. As the road engineer who had recently accomplished construction of the Yellowstone National Park road system, Chittenden sought to create a similar scheme at Mount Rainier. His proposal was dubbed the "round the mountain" road, and was designed to make the entire park accessible to visitors of all physical abilities by automobile. His plan would ease the carrying capacity of the developed areas of Longmire and Paradise by dispersing visitors throughout the park. While his proposal was never fully implemented, roads were constructed around three-quarters of the mountain and created opportunities on the east side of the park for future development. (Quinn, 1992: 2-5)

As early as 1910, maps indicated a developed system of roads and trails used for the Glacier Basin mining operation and which became the basis for the routes which exist on the east side of the park today. Located in the northeast quadrant of the park, Storbo Road was shown to have looped up the White River, past the entrance area of the park and up into Yakima Park, down Huckleberry Creek, with spurs to Grand Park, Burroughs Mountain, St. Elmo Pass and into Glacier Basin. (History of East Side Development, ca 1965: no pagination) None, but the most adventurous park visitor was willing to make this rough trip across the rutted passage, yet the reward for the trouble was secluded camping away from the crowds at Longmire and Paradise as well as a most spectacular vista.

Stephen Mather, first director of the National Park Service, was a proponent for opening up the east side of Mount Rainier as early as 1915. Local eastern Washington interest groups intent on easier access into the park supported his interests. The solution was the creation of a Cascades Parkway, which loosely followed the old mining routes that would join the new Naches Pass Highway, a state highway that was designed to provide a link between eastern and western Washington. By 1925 the state highway was extended into the park boundary, which was then defined by the White River entrance. (McClellan 1985: 185)

Even before the mountain was exploited for its amazing scenic and recreation values or its mineral resources, native people recognized the benefits of the area which came to be known first as Yakima Park and later as Sunrise. Burtchard's report identifies the area as a possible residential base camp for prehistoric people, as well as a repeated use, short-term hunting camp. (Burtchard, 1998:7-50) The Yakima (now called Yakama) Tribe was known to have

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practiced subsistence hunting as late as 1917, when six members of a hunting party were arrested, charged, and pleaded guilty to illegal hunting. (Catton 1996:16)

In 1921, the Rainier National Park Company (RNPC) established the White River Camp approximately 6.5 miles from the park entrance. The RNPC had been the major concessionaire in the park since 1916, but this was the first development located on the east side of the park. The new site was immediately very popular, but it was also fiscally untenable. The company continued to invest in the location, however, and by 1923 the facilities included piped water, a temporary comfort station, eighteen camp stoves, twelve camp tables, a grocery store and physical accommodation for 400 to 500 visitors.

In 1923, Owen Tomlinson was appointed as superintendent of Mount Rainier. With overpopulation of existing facilities still an issue, his immediate concern was the development of both administrative and visitor facilities in the northern part of the park. Yakima Park was deemed to be very well situated for this development for a number of reasons. Principal among them was the close proximity to Emmons Glacier and the stunning views of the nearby mountain peaks and the far off ranges of Oregon and British Columbia. The natural topography of the alpine park, much like Paradise, included a relatively flat bench surrounded by dramatically steep terrain, which translated into a logical building site. The most alluring aspect of the site, however, was the ease and relatively low cost believed to be involved in developing a road suitable for automobile access.

The selection of Yakima Park for future development came at an important time in the physical expansion of Mount Rainier National Park, but also at a time of ideological expansion for the National Park Service. With several controversies regarding preservation versus development (including the “road around the mountain” plan), debates ensued requiring clear and detailed planning documents moving the park closer to a what would become a “master plan.” In 1925, Assistant Director Horace Albright initiated the “comprehensive planning program” for National Parks at the superintendent’s conference in Mesa Verde. Superintendent Tomlinson responded to this call with an “Outline for Park Development,” completed in 1926. His plan included large-scale road projects, trail improvements, priority lists for new buildings, utility, fire, and sanitation plans, and plans for four new development areas – including Yakima Park. Tomlinson’s development plan was by far the most ambitious for any park’s plan at the time and ultimately became the model for future master plans throughout the National Park system. “Beginning in the late 1920s, the master plan for Mount Rainier was the first and the most complete national park master plan to be developed and implemented by the landscape division.” (Carr, 1999: 230)

The master plan allowed the entire park to be considered as a single entity, and to locate, coordinate and integrate all systems and facilities in a concentrated way along the park road system which acted to limit development and physical intrusions onto the natural resources. The appeal of the planning process was heightened at Mount Rainier by the somewhat chaotic arrangement of buildings that were the result of lack of planning at Paradise. Yakima Park represented the first opportunity the landscape division had to completely plan a facility in an untouched territory. (Carr, 1999: 230)

In 1928, a topographic survey of Yakima Park was completed and NPS Landscape Architect Ernest Davidson immediately set upon the task of planning for the site that the newly promoted director Albright described as a “sensation.” The new director had formed “definite but not yet conclusive ideas of how the new village at Yakima Park would contribute to the revised plan of the park as a whole.” As a part of the Master Plan, an inherent objective of the village layout was to preserve the surrounding natural resources. Davidson explained his assignment, “The entire development was one within virgin territory, therefore, it was decided that every possible means be taken that it be well planned in advance. In this manner one of the most interesting of landscape problems within any of the National Parks got underway.” (Davidson, 1932: no pagination) In January, 1929 Davidson had four proposals A, B, C, and D which gave consideration to infrastructure, circulation patterns, guest services, administrative needs as well as protection of natural resources.

Davidson showed a certain amount of frustration with the design review process. His notes reflect the varying issues as depicted by the comments he received, with contradictory suggestions from one reviewer to the next. He included a particularly pointed example of the lack of consensus available: “February 4, 1929 from the Manager of the Operating Company: ‘necessary for the lodge, pay camp and public camping ground to be grouped fairly near together so that all may have equal access to utilities, store, etc.; we do not think it would serve in any sense to have the lodge separated so far from the general camp area.’” Then from the President of the same company later: “‘We believe that the housekeeping camp area should be separated from the lodge as far as possible.’” Davidson also included this remark, “Quoting a letter of Engineer Waterhouse to Chief Engineer Kitteredge, ‘the Company men could not agree on what they wanted and the results were nil.’” Davidson had his own ideas about the layout. “...either the ‘park proper’ must be extensively developed, or the idea of consolidated grouping of camps and cabins must be abandoned. In my opinion consolidation should be abandoned.” (Davidson, 1932: no pagination) By 1930, after much debate and revised goals, Davidson produced four additional design proposals for the site, in an effort to meet the needs of both parties. Davidson’s eighth iteration for the development of Yakima Park, “Plan H” was recognized as a satisfactory compromise and was finally approved.

The site was conceived of as a Rustic park village, modeled on the typology developed by the NPS in the early 1920s and comparable to municipalities. This ideal was rooted in the delineation of carefully zoned areas for civic, utility and residential uses. The plaza was traditionally the central civic zone with utility and residential designated areas segregated from the public space, yet located nearby. Yakima Park, designed to preserve its fragile high elevation setting, reflects a more decentralized layout, which makes it less legible as a park village than other (earlier) park villages of the 1920s. (Carr, 1997: 37)

The primary design decision behind the decentralized pattern at Yakima Park was the desire to minimize the impact of the village on the ‘park proper.’ Davidson’s layout reflected the innovations of the Park Service, which integrated roads, trails, buildings and scenic values into a site specific planned development.

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As noted by Ethan Carr (1997), “The village was sited at the edge of the ‘park proper’ as the planners referred to it, above the Inter Fork River Valley. The new lodge complex was carefully sited on the north side of the park, so it would not interfere with the views of the mountain from the park proper. The Park Service utility yards at Yakima Park again are hidden, this time by an innovative arrangement of ‘blockhouses’ and palisade fence, inspired by early territorial outposts of the Pacific Northwest. Other utility needs, such as the generator building, were located well away from the main village plaza. The village campgrounds were also well separated from the main spaces and traffic of the village. One campground (now a picnic area) was sited on a small, wooded knoll in the park, and the other was isolated by being almost a mile further into Yakima Park, at the base of Burroughs Mountain. The needed power house (still in use) was sited on a spur road, well away from the central plaza. An overlook structure, accessible only by trail, was sited in the beautiful but delicate area south of the plaza, where pedestrians could enjoy spectacular views away from the busier area above. As an example of careful siting and response to topography, Yakima Park is unparalleled in National Park village design. Seeing the mountain from Yakima Park plaza across the interposed valley of the Inter Fort River greatly amplifies the drama of the view.” (Carr, 1997: 37)

Although the National Park Service did take the responsibility for locating facilities, the details of the concessionaire’s amenities, namely the lodge and cabins, were left entirely up to the discretion of the RNPC. Davidson consulted on the design of the concessionaire buildings, but the company was responsible for building and arranging its structures within a designated area, without any supervision from the Park Service other than to see that the company kept within those specified areas. (Chittenden, 1935: 125) This effort represents the one of the earliest public/private interdependent relationships at Mount Rainier.

In 1929, the RNPC issued a five-year plan that outlined an aggressive expansion scheme throughout the park, with heavy investments at Yakima Park. The success of their development was conditional to the Park Service’s completion of certain services such as a water supply, power, telephone, sewer connections and the roadway. By the same measure, without guest facilities, the NPS was unwilling to consider financing the services. In the end, “the services were extended by the park to terminal points within the concessionaire’s area, but the elaboration of these services for use of the company was left entirely to its discretion.” (Chittenden, 1935: 125)

That same year, Davidson created an aesthetic theme for the NPS administration buildings at Yakima Park. He reportedly first attempted to imitate the building styles of the local tribes of native people, but ultimately settled on a log blockhouse style, which he believed made reference to the earliest pioneer vernacular structures in the area. The Rustic style, which combined the use of local stones, logs and shakes, was used for the other government buildings. (McClellan 1985:189)

1930-1944

In 1930, Davidson submitted his eighth iteration for the development of Yakima Park. “Plan H” was approved, although it was recognized that neither the Park nor the concessionaire was fully satisfied with the design. Instead, the plan was thought to adequately address most needs

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outlined by both. Adjustments were made to the plan based on a visit to the park by RNPC President H.A. Rhodes and General Manager Paul Sceva in the company of NPS Chief Engineer Frank Kitteredge and Superintendent Owen Tomlinson. A later consultation on the site included NPS Chief Landscape Architect Thomas Vint along with Assistant Engineer R.D. Waterhouse and Director Horace Albright. The agreements reached by this group became the final adjustments to the plan. (Davidson, 1932: no pagination)

Due in large measure to Davidson's careful attention to detail, the NPS development at Yakima Park proceeded according to the plan. From the 1926 inception of Yakima Park Road, surveyed by the Bureau of Public Roads in consultation with Vint and Davidson, it was clear that the process of comprehensive planning was a means for protecting the landscape. Directives were issued regarding the manner in which road construction should be completed "with special attention given to preservation of scenery and existing landscape values" (Davidson, 1932: no pagination). This attitude was extended to the rest of the development at Yakima Park as well.

Gravity driven water and power supplies, which fed off of Frozen Lake, were begun in 1929, but it was not until 1930 that substantial progress was made on the construction at Yakima Park. In that year over 1,000 tons of materials were transported to the site for picnic and the upper campground construction projects. Other completed government structures included a wide assortment such as a dam at Frozen Lake, sewers, a reservoir, roads, trails (both equestrian and foot), a 300 car parking lot, three community kitchens, three comfort stations, and the first two units of the government's administrative area - the Headquarters building and an equipment shed. In addition, extension of the pipelines into the concessionaire area was completed. (Davidson, 1932: no pagination)

The administrative area was known as the "stockade group," due to Davidson's selection of the pioneer building type. These structures were the prominent landmarks located at the end of the entrance drive (which terminated in the parking plaza), and articulated a very strong sense of authority and government presence. The stone and logs for the buildings were harvested prior to actual construction. The light gray basalt was collected from a naturally occurring "quarry" on the east slope of Lower Burroughs Mountain and the logs came from approximately thirteen miles away on the Old White River Road. These same logs were also used in the construction of the community kitchens. (Chittenden, 1935: 83-87)

Although the concessionaire had submitted a very ambitious development scheme for Yakima Park, the stock market crash greatly effected the company's economic resources and their plan had to be scaled back. In February 1929, they announced the intention to begin construction on a \$400,000 hotel at Sunrise. Later that same year General Manager Sceva described to Superintendent Tomlinson the revised construction plan for 1930:

"We intend to build in Yakima Park, a lodge building capable of serving five hundred people, with deluxe cabins to the number of 250 built adjacent thereto. In addition to this, we intend to construct a housekeeping service building with housekeeping cottages to the number of which, when completed, will be between five and six hundred. Building of a hotel on Yakima Park will

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be delayed until 1931, because it will not be a good economic investment to have this hotel in operation until there is a connecting road between Yakima Park and Paradise Valley.” (Sceva to Tomlinson, 1929 as quoted by Crosby and Torres, 1983: 9) Despite the reduced scope, by the end of the building season in 1930, the RNPC constructed 200 cabins at Yakima Park.

The plans for the new lodge were submitted for approval to the Landscape Division prior to construction. The RNPC selected the Chalet style developed earlier at Paradise for the new structure. A Tacoma firm by the name of Russell, Lumm and Lance prepared the plans. The entire foundation was poured, but the building was only partially constructed, with the intention of completing it when company finances were available. The structure was constructed as one quarter of the original design and was used by the RNPC for housekeeping quarters instead of guest accommodations.

Construction activity prior to opening was described by Major Hiram Chittenden who was overseeing the construction of the site. The following projects were completed by the NPS unless otherwise noted: diesel power plant started; two underground transformer vaults; a street lighting system of Rustic lamp posts located at suitable intervals along the curb line of the plaza and around the public campground, a Rustic style pump house at Lodi Spring in Berkeley Park, 2 miles west of the plaza, was completed as was a 5,200’ long pipe was trenched to deliver water to Frozen Lake, a woven wire fence was extended around Frozen Lake to guard the watershed. Completion of the plaza, including excavation and installation of native basalt curb provided a border for a 10-foot walk. The ground lying back from the west end of the Plaza, up to the Headquarters Building, was graded and landscaped to provide for a smooth sloping lawn across the entire north end. Approximately 4,000’ of subsidiary road and 2 additional parking areas in lower Yakima Park were added, and the trail system was increased by 8 miles, including a 1.7 mile, one way wagon trail from Frozen Lake to the Lodi Pump House. A scenic parapet of native basalt construction on the Burroughs Mountain trail, overlooking Emmon’s Glacier, was completed. Three comfort stations, one community kitchen, and a new cookhouse completed. The RNPC completed the first wing of the new Lodge and added to the cabins completed last season, bringing the total to 200 single room cabins and 15 3-room cabins. (Chittenden, 1935:83-99)

Yakima Village became known as Sunrise Village in 1931. The official name of the development was changed in order to avoid confusion with the nearby town, although due to protests by citizens of Yakima, the larger area retained the name Yakima Park. (Thompson, 1981: 96-97) Sunrise Village was dedicated on July 15, 1931 and opened for business as scheduled. It was an immediate success and often overrun with visitors anxious to visit the “other side” of the mountain. The cabins were booked to capacity each weekend and the Superintendent commented that had there been 100 more cabins, those, too would have been full (Davidson, 1932: no pagination).

By 1932, the first phase of development had largely been completed. The structures surrounding the plaza included the South Blockhouse (and the palisade fence behind), the comfort station (S-005), the Sunrise Lodge, and the service station. The campgrounds and cabins were in full use with their associated community kitchens and comfort stations.

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Construction that year was pared down from the previous, but included development of the power system, a septic system for lower Sunrise, and a garbage incinerator. Trail construction and improvements were also made, including a stone parapet added to the Rim Trail below the Plaza (Chittenden, 1935: 43-77).

While the fiscal resources of the concessionaire were in question due to the national economic depression, the NPS was the recipient of an unforeseen windfall. In 1933, the Roosevelt administration established the Employment Stabilization Act (ESA), which required all government agencies to prepare six-year work plans for needed construction work so that information could be accessed in the event that a public works spending program was enacted. The master plan created by Superintendent Tomlinson in 1926 became even more valuable as a tool for park development. The rest of the NPS followed Mount Rainier's lead and developed master plans for all the parks, coordinated by the Landscape Architecture office in San Francisco and overseen by Thomas Vint.

As a result of the ESA and master planning efforts, Mount Rainier National Park became the home to eight separate Civilian Conservation Corps camps between 1933 and 1941. The first of these camps was established at nearby White River in 1933. The men stationed at White River were assigned construction projects and landscaping improvements at Sunrise. McClellan describes their work, "Landscape naturalization received immediate attention on the east side of the park in the vicinity of Yakima Park. During the first enrollment period, enrollees of the White River CCC camp planted 18,000 square feet of meadow sod, constructed stone steps and walks, and planted fir trees and shrubs around the front of the new blockhouse and comfort station. At Sunrise Point, trees and shrubs were planted around the observation terrace. Along the Yakima Park Road, road banks were flattened and rounded to control erosion" (McClellan, 1993: 207-208).

Although visitation to Sunrise had surpassed Paradise the first two seasons it was opened, by the third season the RNPC was struggling to attract visitors to the east side village. A Seattle publication in 1933 promised a real dude ranch at Sunrise Park that summer. Guided horseback trips were to reveal the mysteries of Sheepshead Gap where 2,000 sheep had died in a snow storm, Devil's Hole where rustlers had once hid out, and the Ghost Gold Mine. While the article did make clear that no rodeos would be held in the park, it promised visitors the opportunity to be guided by real rodeo stars from Ellensburg, Washington. (Thompson, 1981:97) This ploy seems not to have had any effect on the number of tourists to Sunrise. A request for a community building was made in the Superintendent's Annual Report that year.

The CCC continued to make improvements to the area and over 200 trees were planted in 1934. These varied in height from three to six feet, and were interspersed with shrubs and sod to imitate natural groupings of plants. Heather, mountain box, huckleberry, and mountain ash were combined with subalpine firs around the village plaza. The plantings were used not just as visual landscape improvements, but as erosion control as well as to impede off-trail trampling at trail intersections. Additional work by the CCC included surfacing trails with crushed rock and topsoil and the construction of an amphitheater based on a design by Halsey Davidson, Landscape Architect for the Emergency Conservation Work. His design included a thick

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screening of whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). (McClellan, 1992: 207-208)

Although Sunrise Village was not yet complete according to Davidson's plan, construction slowed at this point. Much of the CCC work for the next five years focused on forest protection against insects, Blister Rust control, and fire hazard reduction. The landscaping program continued to focus on naturalized plantings, which incorporated native species transplanted from other areas in the park. Trail restoration and construction work was completed, as was road resurfacing. A Rustic stone and log trailside exhibition shelter at Emmons Vista was completed by 1940. (McClellan, 1992: 200-203) In 1939, the CCC began work on the North Blockhouse and the Visitor Center (previously known as the camper's shelter). Neither project was completed for several years (the Visitor Center was completed in 1943 and the North Blockhouse completed in 1944), as World War II shifted the focus of funds and manpower away from the Park Service. The CCC was disbanded in 1942.

The war years took a toll on tourism funds generated. The RNPC elected to close down concessionaire facilities altogether during the 1942 season, citing wartime restrictions on travel and heavy cancellations of reservations. The Superintendent's Annual Report from that year notes the rapid deterioration of the RNPC buildings and the need for modernization. The company's ability to raise operating money was a serious concern. In an effort to offset their debt, the RNPC sold all the cabins in the park for government defense installations as a part of the war effort. The structures were removed from Sunrise in 1944, but the linear rows left an indelible imprint on the fragile soil. That year, the North Blockhouse was finally completed by the NPS and the administrative area was finished, fourteen years after it was begun. (Catton, 1996:393)



*Historic photo illustrating the rolling terrain and dramatic views of Yakima Park that made it a compelling site for a park village. (Tahoma Woods Collection, twc2969)*

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*Historic photo of early Sunrise development in the "park proper" showing subalpine meadow and fir trees. (Tahoma Woods Collection, twc3125)*

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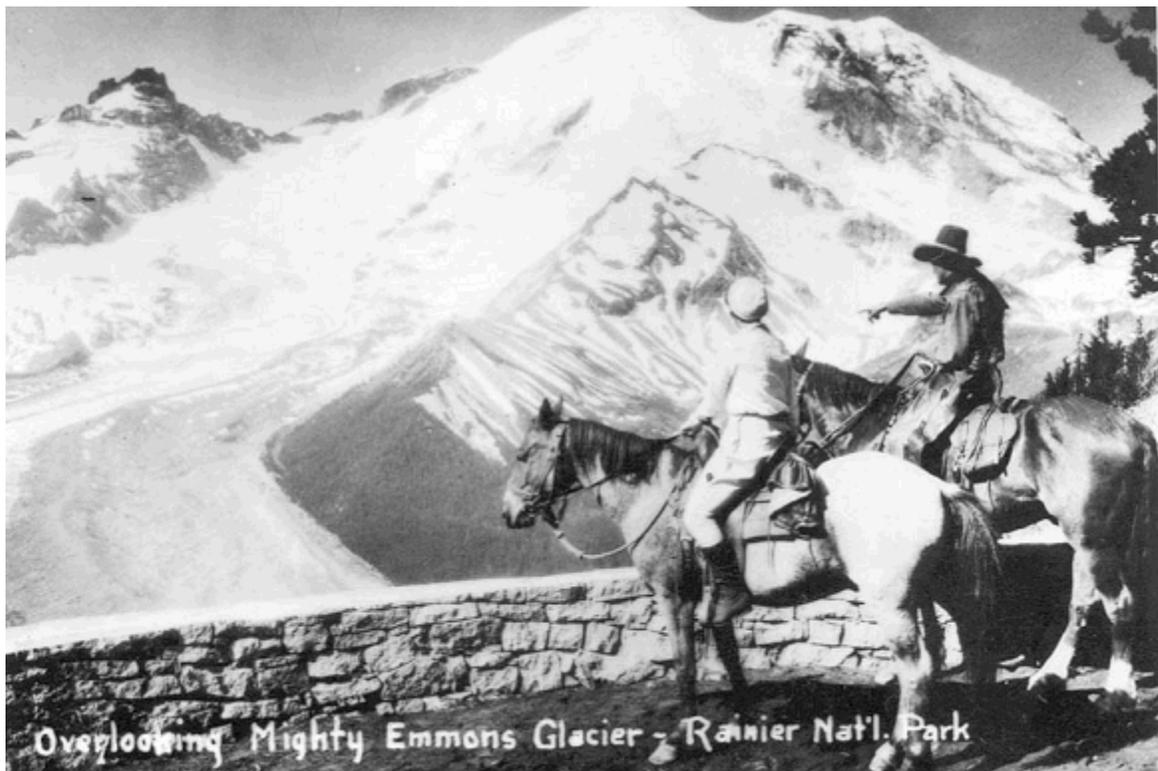
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*Aerial photo of Sunrise from 1932 showing the visitor services group with the lodge, the service station to its right, and the rows of visitor cabins. (Tahoma Woods Collection, is1185)*



*Historic photo of the south blockhouse, taken in the mid-1930s. After construction was completed in 1930, the area in front of the blockhouse was revegetated with native meadow grass species. (Tahoma Woods Collection, is1056)*



*Historic photo, date unknown, of park visitors enjoying the view from horseback at Emmon's Glacier Overlook. (Tahoma Woods Collection, twc3000)*

#### 1944-Present

Financial difficulties did not abate for the RNPC following the war. Visitation did increase, but overnight guest facilities at Sunrise were limited to NPS campgrounds and the concessionaire had few opportunities to recover lost capital. By 1949, the company requested the park purchase its properties. Congress did finally grant appropriations in 1952 and the National Park Service purchased all of the RNPC's properties, including Sunrise Lodge, for \$300,000. Following the sale, the concessionaire continued to operate the hotels and other services in the park, which they leased from the Park Service.

In 1956 the NPS presented its Mission 66 Plan, which represented another significant period of park development and park planning philosophy in the history of the Service. NPS Director Conrad Wirth feared the public would "love the parks to death." His goal with the Mission 66 Plan was to prevent misuse by controlling public access. He proposed to accomplish this through physical improvements to facilities in all parks, leaving alone the undeveloped areas. At Sunrise, this concept led to the closure of the Upper Campground in the 1960s, which was subsequently converted to a picnic area. This change was long anticipated. As Ethan Carr noted, "Even as this site was being developed, planners recognized that visitor use needed to be confined to facilities provided for that purpose, including a network of trails, since the fragility of the volcanic soil was already a concern." (238)

In the 1970s, additional landscape protection was enacted: “After forty two years of use, Campground areas #1 and #2 were closed to automobiles in 1973. Conversion of the large automobile campground to a small capacity, walk-in campground was determined to be the best method to preserve fragile resources in the area. The campground was gradually downsized to become the current small walk-in campground with its eight individual sites and two group sites.” (NPS, 1997:3) Specific changes to the campsite included removal of comfort stations and fire rings. The change in use did not address the road scar, however, and in 1997 the park began an active program of scarification to restore the original topography and planting of native vegetation.

The Sunrise Lodge was never fully completed as designed, although it was modified slightly over the years. Many second floor rooms were left without ceilings or partitions, and were limited to employees’ use. The cafeteria and kitchen once supported 215 cabins, as well as the campgrounds. With the removal of overnight facilities and most camping, a structure more suitable for day uses was needed. A 1996 Memorandum of Agreement between the NPS, the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Council determined that removal and replacement of the Sunrise Lodge was an appropriate action. Stated within that agreement was the intention to retain building artifacts for archival purposes, to adequately document the building, to interpret the site and to involve the SHPO in the design phase of the new construction. In 2005, a “Choosing By Advantages” (CBA) process determined that Sunrise Lodge would be rehabilitated rather than replaced. As of 2008, work on the Lodge is several years out, pending funding.

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Sunrise Developed Area is an example of an early national park village development, and an integral part of the early master plan for the park. The site is distinguished by Rustic style architecture and naturalistic landscape design. The period of significance for Sunrise spans the years 1929-1944, reflecting the period when the NPS coordinated the design and construction of the village and surrounding area in collaboration with the Rainier National Park Company (RNPC) and ending when construction of the administrative area was completed.

#### Natural Systems and Features

With the possible exception of economic forces, no factors have influenced the siting and design of Sunrise more than the natural systems and features of the area. The unique topography, outstanding views, native subalpine vegetation, fragile ecosystems, hydrology, and climate all had influence on the development of the village. The high elevation and close proximity to Mt. Rainier, White River Canyon and Emmons Glacier offered unparalleled views, and the relatively flat plateaus provided expedient building sites. The high elevation, however, along with the soft volcanic ash soils and subalpine vegetation contributed to a fragile environment, easily damaged by human use. These natural systems and features continue to define the setting for the Sunrise Developed Area.

#### Spatial Organization

Sunrise was conceived as a decentralized Rustic park village with services spread throughout Yakima Park to maximize access to the landscape while minimizing the impact on the sensitive ecosystems. This vision was tempered by the reality of accommodating thousands of visitors per day and providing amenities such as dining, lodging, and camping in a convenient, central location. These conflicting interests were reconciled through compromise, in which a dense, rectilinear central plaza area provided lodging, dining, and parking services, while camping and picnicking were scattered in smaller nodes of development throughout Yakima Park. This carefully planned organization is still reflected in the landscape today.

#### Land Use

Land use at Sunrise was historically divided into two main categories by management: guest accommodations, dining, and gift services provided by the concessionaire company; and the administration of education, camping, and picnic services by the park. The concessionaire, RNPC, operated the lodge, the cabins and the two comfort stations associated with them, and the gasoline service station. The lodge, originally intended as the first wing of a larger inn, provided meal service for both day visitors and overnight cabin guests. The second story of the lodge housed the living quarters of the kitchen and housekeeping staff associated with the lodge and cabins. Behind the lodge were 200 single-room cabins and 15 three-room cabins for overnight guests and housekeeping staff. It was important to the RNPC that these visitor services be consolidated in one central location for the convenience of both visitors and staff. This intention to have such a large service development consolidated in one area, combined with the landscape architects' desire to preserve as much of the meadow area as possible, led in part to the uniquely dense and orthogonal arrangement of the Sunrise

## Sunrise Developed Area

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central plaza area.

The remainder of the Sunrise development, the administrative buildings, parking plaza, comfort stations, campgrounds, and all of the associated roads, were under NPS management. The two blockhouses and the Visitor Center comprised the NPS central administrative facilities. The blockhouses served primarily to provide living quarters for NPS employees while working at Sunrise, but also contained offices and a lobby for visitor information. The Visitor Center was conceived as a lodge-like shelter for campers in the auto camps, and consisted of one large room with a grand fireplace and a small office. Today, the patterns of land use remain largely intact with management divided between NPS and the present day concessionaire. Guest services, parking and park operations continue to be operated in their historic locations. The most significant changes to land use were the 1944 removal of the 215 RNPC-operated guest cabins and the 1973 decision to prohibit car camping.

#### Circulation

The developers of Sunrise recognized circulation as a vital part of the master plan and exercised considerable care in designing the parking areas, roads, and trails. The intent of the layout was to provide large numbers of people access to the outstanding scenery and natural beauty of Yakima Park while protecting its fragile environment. The result was a large central parking area, referred to as the “plaza” that provided access to the main core of buildings and services, and a network of roads and trails that branched from the plaza providing access to campgrounds and viewing platforms. Since 1944, the plaza area and the trails remain relatively unchanged. Most roads, however, have been closed to public vehicles and converted to trails or NPS service roads, but continue to follow their original alignments, provide access to the same locations and services, and retain their associated culverts with stone headwalls. The trails system is highly intact, including trails that provide access through Lower Yakima Park and several scenic overlooks and ridgelines. Despite some changes, the overall circulation system, the plaza, trails, and service roads continue to reflect the overall historic, Rustic character of the developed area as it was envisioned in the 1930s and continues to provide access to the viewing areas, a walk-in campground, a picnic area, and junctions with other trails, such as the Wonderland Trail.

#### Buildings and Structures

The buildings and structures built at Sunrise during the period of significance are an integral part of the cultural landscape and reflect the efforts of Davidson to develop a village master plan using the principles of Rustic architecture. The village’s eighteen buildings extant in 1944, plus the 215 cabins (removed that same year), embodied a range of architectural styles recognized as “Rustic” by the NPS, including the pioneer log stockade, log-and-stone cabin, alpine chalet, and Rustic utility styles. In addition, five structures at Sunrise including the Frozen Lake Dam, the three Emmons Glacier overlooks, and the stockade fence behind the Visitor Center, were designed by landscape architects to minimize the visual impact of the structures and accentuate the picturesque qualities of the natural surroundings. The use of native materials, along with strict design principles and construction standards, ensured the structures blended with the scenery, matching the color and character of the natural rock outcroppings and the surrounding terrain. Even though the buildings around the central plaza are different architecturally, the combination of careful planning and site design coupled with the

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selection and use of native materials across the different structures creates a visual unity and helps define the character of the site.

#### Small Scale Features

The small scale features found throughout the Sunrise Developed Area collectively add to the function and aesthetic of the site and demonstrate care taken by NPS designers to seamlessly incorporate small built elements into the surrounding landscape. Small-scale features interspersed throughout Sunrise include benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, water spigots, telescopes, a guardrail, footbridges, culverts, dry-stacked walls, and the amphitheater fire pit. Today, many of these small scale features still remain. However, some, including several benches, picnic tables, telescopes and footbridges have been replaced with compatible features and continue to reinforce the historic character of the developed area.

#### Vegetation

Vegetative plantings within the Sunrise developed area were intended to blend the village development into the surrounding landscape, following naturalistic landscape design principles. This design philosophy, characteristically used by the NPS at the time, encouraged the use of native vegetation clustered in irregular groupings or in masses evocative of indigenous plant patterns. Native trees and shrubs were planted to frame views or to anchor new buildings and structures to the rest of the landscape. Today, native plantings are still found around the buildings lining the plaza, throughout the upper picnic area, and accenting site lookouts and trail ways.

#### Views and Vistas

Magnificent views of Mt. Rainier and the Cascades from Yakima Park were a major consideration in selecting the site for a park village in 1926 (Davidson, 1932; no pagination; Chittenden, 1935; 2). Davidson wrote of Yakima Park, “The views and scenery are so exceptionally fine that adequate description is difficult” (1932; no pagination). As the village plans were developed, views played a role in the layout of the lodge, parking plaza, and trail system (Davidson, 1932; no pagination). They were designed and constructed to take advantage of views of Mt. Rainier, Emmons Glacier, White River Canyon, Huckleberry Park, and the meadows of Yakima Park itself. Today, the same views that inspired and influenced the design and development at Sunrise still define the area and continue to draw park visitors to the area.

#### Archeological Sites

Sunrise has two historic archeological sites: areas that were constructed as part of the master plan, but have since been removed with visible traces still remaining. One site is the historic location of the Rainier National Park Company visitor cabins built in 1930 and 1931 north of Sunrise Lodge and removed in 1944. The other site includes the former Campground Areas #2 constructed in the vicinity of Shadow Lake between 1930 and 1931 and subsequently decommissioned in 1973.

#### Integrity

As established by the NHLD nomination, Sunrise Developed Area retains integrity to the period of

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significance. The cultural landscape, as documented in the CLI, retains integrity reflected in aspects of location, setting, feeling, association, design, workmanship and materials. The site's location and setting are defined by its dramatic, natural scenery of expansive, sub-alpine meadows, dense stands of native fir and pine trees, and spectacular, rugged surrounding mountain peaks. Feeling and association are also conveyed through the significant views and vistas of Emmon's Glacier, Burroughs Mountain and the commanding expanse of Mount Rainier, which are still as vivid and impressive as they were during the period of significance. Other aspects of integrity including design, workmanship and materials are evident in the site's buildings and structures, small-scale features and circulation design. The site's association with early park planning and Rustic style design is evident through the remaining built features (buildings, walls, benches and overlooks) through their locally sourced materials and hand-crafted workmanship.

Today Sunrise is an intact example of an early national park village development, serving as an integral part of Mount Rainier National Park's early master plan. Since the period of significance, there have been some alterations to smaller site buildings and to some of the site's land use patterns in an effort to mitigate impacts of visitation. The greatest changes have been the removal of 215 housekeeping cabins from behind Sunrise lodge and the closure of both the Upper and Lower Campground sites to automobile access. These changes to the landscape have had a moderate impact on the overall integrity of Sunrise Developed Area.

### **Landscape Characteristic:**

#### **Natural Systems and Features**

With the possible exception of economic forces, no factors have influenced the siting and design of Sunrise more than the natural systems and features of the area. The unique topography, outstanding views, native subalpine vegetation, fragile ecosystems, hydrology, and climate all had influence on the development of the village. The high elevation and close proximity to Mount Rainier, White River Canyon and Emmons Glacier offered unparalleled views, and the relatively flat plateaus provided expedient building sites. The high elevation, however, along with the soft volcanic ash soils and subalpine vegetation contributed to a fragile environment, easily damaged by human use.

Sunrise is located in Yakima Park, a high subalpine park consisting of a large plateau, several smaller benches, rolling hills, and lakes. The park is bordered on the north by Sourdough Ridge, 500 feet above the park's plateau, and to the south by White River Canyon, more than 2,000 feet deep. The plateau, Yakima Park's main feature, is a broad meadow that sweeps down from the ridge to the canyon rim. It is steepest at the ridgeline and nearly level along its southern edge.

The vegetation in the park is dominated by subalpine meadow dry grass community (*Festuca viridula*), with small stands of Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), Silver fir (*A. amabilis*) and Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) scattered throughout. Heavy snowpack and short growing seasons tend to stunt tree growth at this elevation, favoring the faster growing and reproducing grasses and flowers. At the height of the summer season, wildflowers blanket the meadow, providing an impressive show for visitors. The southwest portion of the park with its smaller

## Sunrise Developed Area

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benches, rolling hills and lakes, often referred to as lower Yakima Park, is more heavily forested than the large plateau, which is dominated by the meadow. South and west of the meadow on the plateau, dense stands of Subalpine and Silver fir grow in a swath from the top of Sourdough Ridge to the canyon rim.

Development was first drawn to Yakima Park by the dramatic terrain and views and the special beauty of the subalpine setting, and Sunrise was designed to take full advantage of these qualities. The village plaza and its associated buildings and services – the administrative building cluster, the lodge, cabins, comfort stations, and a small auto camp – were placed on the large plateau, high on the slope to make the most of the views. The meadow, with its yearly wildflower display, swept to the east and south of the plaza. Hiking and horse trails emanated from the plaza area and followed the contours of the Sourdough Ridge above the park, offering viewpoints in the ridgeline saddles with 360 degree territorial views. Along the canyon rim to the south, the trails weaved through dense fir stands, emerging on promontories where land and vegetation open to reveal dramatic views of Mount Rainier and Emmons Glacier. Two larger auto camps were placed near Shadow Lake in lower Yakima Park where there was more space.

The early developers of Sunrise recognized that the fragile ecosystems of the subalpine park required careful planning and protection. In his report to Mount Rainier's Chief Landscape Architect Thomas C. Vint, Landscape Architect Ernest A. Davidson was explicit in his desire to protect the natural beauty of Yakima Park. "The entire development," he writes, "was one within virgin territory, therefore it was decided that every possible means be taken that it be well planned in advance" (Davidson 1932: no pagination). Of the proposed plans for the development of Sunrise, his preference was for the ones that placed the majority of the development either in the west end of the park in the Shadow Lake area, in the east end near where the road entered the park, or both, keeping the central meadow, or "park proper" as he called it, as free from structures and development as possible. Because of economic reasons, however, and the intention of the concessioner company to build approximately 600 cabins in addition to the visitor services lodge, it was decided that the only area suitable for development of that scale was the park proper. As a compromise, the lodge and cabins were built closely together and placed as far north in the park as possible to leave the entire area between the road and the rim of the canyon free of development.

The native vegetation patterns influenced the development of Sunrise as well. The main development in Sunrise took place on the edge between meadow and fir forest. While the lodge and cabins were placed further into the meadow to take maximum advantage of views and open space, the administration cluster was tucked against the forest edge, providing a forested backdrop to the blockhouses and allowing for the concealment of the utility areas behind. The upper auto camp, too, was placed on a small wooded knoll on the edge of the forest, separating it from the main traffic areas and providing some privacy.

Two lakes in Yakima Park influenced the design of Sunrise: Frozen and Shadow Lakes. Fresh

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drinking water was drawn from Frozen Lake in the northeast corner of the park and delivered to Sunrise via a gravity distribution system. To increase the holding capacity of the reservoir, a concrete and rubble dam was built, raising the water level of Frozen Lake by 12 feet. In addition, a Rustic style pump house was built about a mile west of Frozen Lake at Lodi Spring to pump water up to Frozen Lake and supplement the reservoir's water supply. Also, auto camps were placed in the lower Yakima Park area partly to provide visitors access to Shadow Lake. Trails were routed to and around both lakes, and in the case of Frozen Lake, across the dam itself.

Yakima Park routinely receives 15-20 feet of snow each winter and has a short summer season from late June through September. The cabins that were originally built adjacent to the lodge were poorly suited to the heavy snow loads, and high maintenance costs contributed to their removal in 1944. The harsh winter weather took its toll on the lodge and other structures as well, and the roads and trails suffered from the conditions.

#### Current Conditions

Sunrise was built in large part to take advantage of the sweeping views and awe of nature inspired by the surrounding topography and large scale land forms – Mount Rainier, Emmons Glacier, White River Canyon, and the rolling terrain of Yakima Park. This grand landscape is what did, and still does, give Sunrise its unique character. Appearing today as they did during the historic period, these land forms retain their integrity and contribute substantially to the integrity of Sunrise's cultural landscape.

Large scale vegetation patterns in Yakima Park have been relatively stable. However, there has been encroachment of the fir forest on the meadows. Careful comparison of historic and modern photographs of the large meadow area north and east of the lodge shows an increase in number and size of fir trees. While this encroachment has not altered the character of the meadow enough to affect the integrity of the cultural landscape, it may eventually. The meadow is mentioned repeatedly in early descriptions of Yakima Park and in the narratives associated with the design of Sunrise. It played a major part in the master plan of the village and thus contributes to the significance of the cultural landscape. Continued encroachment of the fir forest will eventually diminish the integrity by reducing the visual and experiential impact of the meadow, fundamentally altering the character of Sunrise.

#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Contemporary photo of the west-end parkland showing the site's characteristic subalpine meadows interspersed between dense stands of fir and pine. (PWRO 2002)*

### **Spatial Organization**

Sunrise was conceived as a decentralized Rustic park village with services spread throughout Yakima Park to maximize access to the landscape while minimizing the impact on the sensitive ecosystems. This vision was tempered by the reality of accommodating thousands of visitors per day and providing desired services such as dining, lodging, and camping in a convenient, central location. These conflicting interests were reconciled through compromise, in which a dense central plaza area provided lodging, dining, and parking services, while camping and picnicking were scattered in smaller nodes of development throughout Yakima Park.

Sunrise was organized around a long rectangular parking plaza that was built east to west on the western edge of the large meadow. The primary buildings – the administrative blockhouses, the visitor's center, and the lodge – all faced inward on the plaza, orthogonal to its edges. Behind the lodge were more than two hundred cabins for guest and housekeeping lodging. These cabins, and the auto access roads associated with them were built on a rigid grid to conserve space. A gas service station and a comfort station faced the plaza as well. The result was a compact, strongly rectilinear central visitor service area.

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The parking plaza served as the entry point for Sunrise. The Yakima Park Highway funneled visitors into the plaza from the east, directly opposite the administrative blockhouse cluster on the western edge. Along the long north edge of the plaza were the lodge, the service station, comfort station and cabins. To the south, the park was undeveloped, preserving the expansive views from the plaza and lodge. The three acre plaza with the tremendous views to the south, the broad meadow to the north and east, and carefully spaced buildings around its edge emphasized the expansive nature of the plateau. A ten foot-wide sidewalk bordered the plaza on three sides, beginning on the south edge at the plaza outlet to Lower Yakima Park and continuing around the west end of the plaza and then eastward along the north side to the service station. A curb of native basalt was installed in 1931 to separate the walk from the plaza.

The government administrative cluster, begun in 1930 with the construction of the south blockhouse and finished in 1944 with the completion of the north blockhouse, presided commandingly over the plaza. The finished group consisted of two heavy timber blockhouses and a rectangular log visitor center arranged symmetrically around the central axis of the parking plaza. The architecture of the buildings was inspired by the log forts and blockhouses built by early settlers of the west. The effect of the militaristic styling and strong symmetrical arrangement is one of authority and power. This effect is emphasized by the placement of the buildings at the head of the plaza with Mount Rainier as the backdrop. The area between the blockhouses and extending down to the plaza was designed as a semiformal entryway with symmetric walkways and native vegetation planted in a naturalistic style to imitate the surrounding park vegetation. Behind the visitor center was a utility area enclosed by a tall, heavy log palisades-style fence.

The lodge, cabins, and gas service station on the north edge of the plaza comprised the visitor service area and was built and operated by the concessioner, Rainier National Park Company (RNPC). The lodge was by far the largest building in Sunrise, and sitting virtually alone on the edge of the large meadow, effected an impressive presence. While the administrative buildings, with their formal symmetry and placement at the head of the plaza against the backdrop of Mount Rainier, were clearly intended to be the focus of Sunrise, the lodge, through its sheer size and solitary placement, became the dominant building. Behind the lodge, 200 cabins stood in a dense grid that foreshadowed suburban developments of the post-WWII era. Dirt roads passed between each row of cabins providing auto access. Rounding out the concessioner's visitor service facilities, the gasoline service station and its fueling kiosk faced out on the plaza on the east side of the lodge. Such tight clustering of the visitor services facilities was insisted upon by RNPC for convenience and economy and agreed upon by the NPS landscape architects in order to preserve as much of the open meadow as possible. This arrangement represents one of the many compromises struck in the design of Sunrise.

Also located on the plateau was one of the three auto camps. The campground was the only development in the park proper that was not orthogonally aligned with the parking plaza. It consisted of a curvilinear loop road in the northwest corner of the meadow on a small wooded

knoll. Unpaved drives crisscrossed the loop providing auto access to the campsites. Two comfort stations and a community kitchen were located in the campground. These buildings, as well as the campsites themselves, were oriented to the curved paths, not to the linear grid. Numerous picnic tables dotted the campground, and Rustic log railings that were used to control car access doubled as benches. A large stone campfire circle and amphitheater built of log benches was installed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

There was also more vegetation in the campground than elsewhere in the park proper. Several stands of fir trees were left when the campground was constructed, and what vegetation was removed was replaced by transplanting native plants from elsewhere in the park. While the campground could not have been described as forested, it had a smaller, more intimate scale than the other areas of the park proper. The overall effect of the curvilinear design and the vegetation was of organic, naturalistic design and was in stark contrast to the grand, rectilinear design of the rest of the development in the park proper.

Additional campground and picnic areas were placed outside of the park proper in the Lower Yakima Park area near Shadow Lake. Two areas were originally developed for parking and camping, and were often referred to in the various reports of the time as Campground Area #1 (the southernmost area) and Campground Area #2 (the northernmost). To take advantage of the additional space, these areas were arranged differently than the upper campground in the park proper. Rather than enclosing the campgrounds with a road and providing direct drive-up access to each campsite within, as the upper campground did, the lower campgrounds were organized around central, consolidated parking areas. Winding roads carried campers from the upper Sunrise area through the park and funneled them into the parking areas. The parking areas were surrounded by picnic tables and benches with campers setting up camp in the trees beyond. This arrangement helped consolidate the damage caused by heavy auto use to a few small areas while providing private, wooded campsites for visitors.

#### Current Conditions

Sunrise retains much of the overall spatial organization it had in the historic period. The arrangement of the plaza area and surrounding buildings have remained virtually unchanged since 1944 when the north blockhouse was completed. Both blockhouses, the visitor's center, the palisades fence, the lodge, the service station, and the large comfort station adjacent to the plaza all remain. The plaza and the ten foot-wide walk with its basalt curb border also remain as they were in the period of significance. The spatial organization of the plaza area and its associated buildings retains its historical integrity.

There have, however, been a number of changes to Sunrise. Most notable was the removal of the RNPC cabins during World War II. Due to high maintenance costs and lower than expected revenue, RNPC donated the cabins to the war effort, and they were removed in 1944 during the period of significance. The imprint of the foundations and the rows of access roads are still visible today despite focused efforts to restore the area to its natural meadow state. Today, visitors are not allowed access to the area once occupied by the cabins.

The upper auto camp has also lost much of its spatial integrity. The area is no longer used as a campground and currently serves as a walk-in picnic area. The loop road that borders the camp remains, but it is open to pedestrians and service vehicles only. The comfort station on the south edge of the campground remains and is operational as public restrooms. The second comfort station and the community kitchen, however, have been removed, and no trace of them remains. The pathways through the loop have been rearranged several times with changing use patterns. Today they are a maze of footpaths lined with stones providing access to the many picnic tables. The stone campfire circle now sits at the edge of a large oval clearing surrounded by trees and shrubs, but the log benches comprising the amphitheater have been removed.

The lower campgrounds have undergone even more drastic changes since the historic period. In 1973 the entire area of Lower Yakima Park was closed to visitor automobile traffic. All of the camping areas except for the southern most area (Campground Area #1) were closed to visitors altogether and vegetative restoration has been underway since 1997. All but one of the comfort stations and community kitchens were also removed, and no traces of the foundations remain today. In the camping areas that were closed to visitors, only the imprints of the roads and parking areas are still visible, and these traces are slowly being populated by native vegetation. Campground Area #1 was converted to a small walk-in campground, now named Sunrise Campground, with 8 individual sites and 2 group sites. The last remaining historic structure associated with these lower auto campgrounds, a comfort station built in 1930, is in Area #1, but it is boarded up and not in use. Vegetation has grown up around the structure partially obscuring it. Like the other parking areas in Lower Yakima Park, the parking area in Area #1 is closed to pedestrians and is currently being revegetated. Aside from the scars of the roads and parking areas left on the fragile soil and the one remaining structure, Sunrise Campground, like the other former camping areas in Lower Yakima Park, has lost all historic integrity and no longer contributes to the cultural landscape at Sunrise.

### **Land Use**

Land use in Sunrise was historically divided into two main categories by management: guest accommodations, dining, and gift services provided by the concessionaire company; and the NPS administration, education, camping and picnic services. The concessionaire, RNPC, operated the lodge, the cabins and the two comfort stations associated with them, and the gasoline service station. The lodge, originally intended as the first wing of a large inn, provided meal service for both day visitors and overnight cabin guests. The second story of the lodge housed the living quarters of the kitchen and housekeeping staff associated with the lodge and cabins. Behind the lodge were 200 single-room cabins and 15 3-room cabins for overnight guests and housekeeping staff. It was important to the RNPC that these visitor services be consolidated in one central location for the convenience of both visitors and staff. This intention to have such a large service development consolidated in one area, combined with the landscape architects' desire to preserve as much of the meadow area as possible, led in part to the uniquely dense and orthogonal arrangement of the Sunrise central plaza area.

The rest of the Sunrise development, the administrative buildings, parking plaza, comfort

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stations, campgrounds, and all of the roads and utilities associated therewith, were under NPS management. The two blockhouses and the Visitor Center comprised the NPS central administrative facilities. The blockhouses were primarily to provide living quarters for NPS employees while working at Sunrise, but also contained offices and a lobby for visitor information. The Visitor Center was conceived as a lodge-like shelter for campers in the auto camps, and consisted of one large room with a grand fireplace and a small office.

The parking plaza was specifically designed to accommodate large numbers of automobiles. According to Chittenden's engineering report of 1932, the plaza could hold up to 900 cars. Presumably, the majority of people who parked in the plaza were day-use visitors, since all of the overnight facilities offered their own parking. Services for these day-use visitors were provided by the visitor's center, the lodge and one duplex comfort station in the northwest corner of the plaza.

Northwest of the plaza on a small wooded knoll, the upper campground gave visitors the opportunity for overnight car camping. The loop road that surrounded the campground and the spur roads into it provided automobile access to each campsite. Two comfort stations and a community kitchen provided facilities for the campers. Numerous picnic tables also accommodated day-use picnickers.

A network of subsidiary roads provided automobile access to campsites in the lower Yakima Park area. The lower campgrounds themselves were less defined than the campground near the plaza. Visitors parked in one of several parking areas and camped or picnicked in the surrounding meadows and trees. A total of four comfort stations and three community kitchens located near the parking areas provided services for the campers.

#### Current Conditions

Many of the use patterns in the central plaza area are similar today to the historic land uses. Although the National Park Service bought the RNPC holdings in 1952, the RNPC continued to lease and operate the lodge. Today, another concessionaire, Guest Services Inc. (GSI), operates the lodge, running the snack bar and gift shop on its first floor. The second floor of the lodge still houses living quarters for concessionaire employees during their summer work. As previously mentioned, the guest cabins behind the lodge were removed in 1944. Meadow restoration efforts began in the 1970s in an effort to erase the scars of the cabin development. Today these efforts continue, and no visitors are allowed in the meadow or in the former cabin area.

The administrative buildings also retain much of their historic use. The Visitor Center serves as the educational and orientation center for Sunrise with interpretive displays and an information counter staffed by park rangers. There is also a small gift shop operated by the NPS selling books, maps, and other park-related educational materials. With the closure of the upper campground in the 1960s, there was no longer need for the shelter function of the Visitor Center. The blockhouses are still used as NPS staff quarters, but now exclusively so. The

blockhouses no longer house offices or information counters, and visitors are not allowed to access the buildings. The area behind the Visitor Center enclosed by the Stockade fence is also still used as a utility area for storage and parking of government vehicles. In 2008, the utility area was completely altered to contain a water treatment facility, as well as parking and equipment storage, which are screened from visitor view by the Stockade fence.

The greatest change in the land use of Sunrise has been in the campgrounds. The campgrounds at Sunrise used to be able to accommodate nearly 1,000 campers. Today, that number has dwindled to less than fifty. This drastic change in the number of campers came in response to the enormous pressures that large numbers of people were putting on the natural environment.

The upper campground located northwest of the parking plaza was closed to overnight camping in the 1960s. Its loop road and interior access drives were closed to visitor auto traffic and now serve as footpaths and provide access for service vehicles. The many picnic tables scattered throughout the campground remain, and the area now serves as a day-use walk-in picnic area. One of the original comfort stations and the community kitchen have been removed, leaving one comfort station operational. Today this comfort station provides facilities for the picnic area. In 1973, automobile traffic was barred from the Lower Yakima Park area. Campground Area #2 was closed to visitor access altogether, while Campground Area #1 was converted into a small walk-in camp with 8 individual sites and 2 group sites.

Despite the changes to the land use associated with the closing of the campgrounds, Sunrise retains much of its overall historic land use patterns. The land use patterns in the plaza area in particular, including the separation of management functions between the NPS and the public concessionaire, have changed very little. The extensive trail system radiating from the plaza area still functions as it did in the historic period, carrying visitors into the surrounding countryside. As a landscape characteristic, land use retains its integrity and helps to convey the historic character of the area.

### **Circulation**

Prior to the development of Sunrise and the Yakima Park Highway, the Yakima Park area was accessed via the Wonderland Trail. The developers of Sunrise recognized circulation as a vital part of the master plan and exercised considerable care in designing the parking areas, roads, and trails. The intent of the layout was to provide large numbers of people access to the outstanding scenery and natural beauty of Yakima Park while protecting its fragile environment. The result was a large central parking area, referred to as the “plaza” that provided access to the main core of buildings and services, and a network of roads and trails that branched from the plaza providing access to campgrounds and viewing platforms. Since 1944, the plaza area and the trails remain relatively unchanged. Most roads, however, have been closed to public vehicles and converted to trails or NPS service roads, but continue to follow their original alignments, provide access to the same locations and services, and retain their associated culverts with stone headwalls. One historic road and two campground parking areas in Lower Yakima Park have been removed and are being revegetated to obscure them. The trails system is highly intact, including several trails that provide access through Lower Yakima Park and several scenic overlooks and ridgelines. Despite these changes, the overall

## Sunrise Developed Area

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circulation system, the plaza, trails, and service roads continue to reflect the overall historic, Rustic character of the developed area as it was envisioned in the 1930s and continues to provide access to the viewing areas, a walk-in campground, a picnic area, and junctions with other trails, such as the Wonderland Trail.

#### Plaza Area

##### Plaza (Contributing)

The plaza is a long and narrow, roughly rectangular area that serves as the central public parking area for park visitors. It has changed very little since 1944. The plaza has straight edges along the west, north and south edges and tapers as it extends east to join the Yakima Park Highway. The plaza was described by Chittenden as “a reservoir designed to receive the flow of incoming traffic, store some of it, and distribute the remainder over the Subsidiary Road System” (Chittenden 1932, p. 43). Although the subsidiary roads have been closed to public vehicular traffic, the plaza still serves as a “reservoir” that accommodates all incoming traffic from the Yakima Park Highway and distributes pedestrians to visitor amenities.

The plaza is a large, open area measuring approximately 625 feet long by 180 feet wide. It is paved with asphalt and painted with white stripes to demarcate angle-in parking stalls in a herringbone pattern. The north, south, and west edges are defined by a combination of buildings, sidewalks, and curbs.

##### Plaza Sidewalk (Contributing)

The western half of the parking area is defined by a ten-foot wide sidewalk along its perimeter. The sidewalk begins near the midpoint of the southern edge of the plaza at the maintenance road to Lower Yakima Park. It continues to follow the perimeter of the plaza in a clockwise direction along the southern, western, and northern edges, and terminates east of the Lodge. Originally this sidewalk was surfaced with crushed stone, but was later resurfaced with asphalt. A six-inch high, mortared, cut-stone basalt curb edges the sidewalk along its entire length. The sidewalk around the plaza appears today essentially as it did during the historic period. The sidewalk is in good condition, and the basalt curb remains intact.

##### Visitor Center Walkways (Contributing)

On the west end of the plaza, two sets of stone steps brought visitors up from the plaza sidewalk to a half-circle walkway that leads to the entrances of the visitor center and block houses. These paths were intended to provide a somewhat formal entryway for the strongly symmetric building cluster. These paths were also originally surfaced with crushed stone, but are currently surfaced with concrete irregularly scored to resemble flagstones. The stone steps have three risers each and were constructed of the same basalt stone used in building foundations and sidewalk curbs. Similar steps lead up to the main door of each of the three buildings. An asphalt-surfaced ramp has been added to one side of the northern set of steps to make the buildings more accessible. This ramp is edged with basalt stone and is compatible with the other paths.

#### Sunrise Gas Station Plaza (Contributing)

Adjacent to the northern edge of the plaza, east of the Lodge, is a smaller, secondary plaza associated with the historic gas station. It is an irregularly-shaped area with an entrance and an exit to allow one-way traffic past the historic gas station. The area's shape and size appears to be the same as it was historically.

#### Historic Cabin Area Entrance (Contributing)

Historically, a road continued from the northwestern portion of the gas station plaza to the historic RNPC cabin area. Although the cabins were razed in 1944, the entrance to the area still remains. It is a short road segment that is currently used to access the back side of the Lodge.

#### Overspill Parking Area (Contributing)

To the east of the main plaza parking area is a historic overspill parking area that is still used for overflow parking today. It is adjacent to the northern edge of the Yakima Park Highway as it approaches the plaza. It is approximately 600 feet long and is surfaced with gravel.

#### Road and Trail System

A subsidiary road and trail system was designed to access several campgrounds, buildings, viewpoints, and trailheads throughout the developed area.

NPS landscape architect E. A. Davidson reflected in 1926, well before any development began, that "trails must be carefully laid out, and surfaced to stand travel" in order to protect the environment (Davidson 1932, no pagination). Chittenden wrote in his engineering report, "the trail system for Yakima Park has been developed with the controlling purpose in mind of making available with as little physical effort as possible the natural beauty with which the region is so richly endowed. At the same time, an effort has been made to make the trails as inconspicuous as possible." From their comments, it is apparent that a comprehensive system of trails was an integral, and well-thought out part of the development plans for Sunrise.

Of the historic features at Sunrise, the trail system is among those that retain the most historical integrity. Three primary historic trails are in use today, carrying visitors from Sunrise into the natural landscape beyond. Extending from the plaza area, the Sunrise Rim Trail/Silver Forest Trail follows the northern the rim of White River Canyon, offering unchallenged views of Mt. Rainier, Emmons Glacier, and the canyon itself; along the top of Sourdough Ridge, Sourdough Ridge Trail provides even more territorial views of the terrain to the south, plus views of the mountains north of the ridge; and over the alpine tundra on Burroughs Mountain is the Burroughs Loop Trail. A secondary trail is the utilitarian access trail to the Power House. All of the trails lie either in or very near their historical alignment. They have been well maintained and repairs have been made with compatible materials and methods. The trail system as a whole retains the function, structure, and character it had as part of the original master plan of

Sunrise.

The Wonderland Trail, completed by the 1920s, passed through the area prior to development of Sunrise. It wound its way up the canyon wall from White River camp to the Yakima Park plateau and continued westward toward Berkeley Park. This pre-existing trail was incorporated into the new trail system, and in some location the trails overlap. The Wonderland Trail segments are an integral part of the Sunrise trail system, but it is covered separately and in more detail in the Wonderland Trail CLI.

All of the roads originated from the main plaza area and lead to the following developed areas: the upper Public Campground, the RNPC cabins, the Power House, the lower Yakima Park Campgrounds #1 and #2, and a quarry site. After 1944, several changes to the circulation system occurred when the campgrounds were closed to vehicular traffic. The upper campground was converted to a picnic area, but the access loop is still used as a service road. After Campground #1 in Lower Yakima Park was converted from a drive-in campground to a hike-in campground in 1973, the last portion of the Maintenance Road was converted into a trail. Campground #2 was closed and the access road was closed in 1973 and revegetated in 1997. A Maintenance Road still remains open for NPS service vehicles to access Lower Yakima Park, including the Sunrise Campground trail head, the Power House Road junction, and Wonderland Trail junction. The road to the quarry and the road system within the RNPC cabin area have lost their integrity.

#### Sunrise Rim Trail/Silver Forest Trail (Contributing)

The Rim Trail and Silver Fir Trail run along the White River Canyon rim, overlapping with the Wonderland Trail near Campground Area #1. These mostly level trails are an easy walk through dense fir stands, small flower filled meadows, and canyon vistas. Along the way, the trail crosses numerous streams, necessitating the construction of small culverts and footbridges. The jewels of these trails are two scenic overlook parapets built directly south of the plaza area. These parapets were constructed of stone retaining walls that extended over the edge of the canyon, providing sweeping views from the White River Valley, up Emmons Glacier, to Mt. Rainier itself. The Rim Trail, like most of the trails in the trail system, was originally designed as a horse trail and averaged six feet in width.

#### Sourdough Ridge Trail and Access Trail (Contributing)

The Sourdough Ridge Trail runs the length of Sourdough Ridge from Frozen Lake to Sunrise Point. This trail is fed by a stepped access trail from the north edge of the Upper Campground loop in the northwest corner of the plaza. From the ridge, a hiker can either head west toward Frozen Lake or east toward Sunrise Point. The west half of the trail runs just below the ridge top, offering the best views of Lower Yakima Park and Burroughs Mountain, and through steep talus slopes where eight-foot-high dry-stacked stone walls held back large loose rock slides. These dry walls, both above and below the trail, were carefully constructed, with the rocks being well selected and placed, and were an excellent example of dry-stone masonry. The east half of the trail traverses the ridge, widening at several saddle points where benches are located

to offer rest and viewpoints. The Sourdough Ridge Trail terminates at the Yakima Park Highway on the west edge of Sunrise Point.

#### Burroughs Loop Trail (Contributing)

The Burroughs Mountain Trail begins at Campground Area #1, ascending the south side of the Lower Burroughs Mountain, and descending the north side to a junction with the Berkeley Park trail near Frozen Lake. Shortly after leaving Campground Area #1, the trail arrives at a stone parapet overlook. This parapet, like the two on the Rim Trail/Silver Fir Trail, offers wide angle views of White River Canyon, Emmons Glacier, and Mt. Rainier. This overlook, however, has the added advantage of a higher elevation. At 6,400 feet, the view point also offers views of Lower Yakima Park, Sourdough Ridge, and Sunrise itself on the main plateau. The retaining wall below the overlook is about 12 feet of dry stacked rock with a 2-foot-high mortared, cut-stone guard wall extending above the level of the overlook. Considerable lengths of dry stacked retaining walls such as those used on the Sourdough Ridge Trail are used on the Burroughs Mountain Trail to hold back rock slides.

#### Sunrise Picnic Loop Road (Contributing)

The Sunrise Picnic Loop exits the plaza in the northwest corner and loops around the historic Upper Yakima Park Campground now used as a picnic area. The road is an approximately 0.4 mile long, tear-drop shaped loop. The road bed is 18 feet wide and originally provided parallel parking along its edges. The looped road was closed to public vehicular traffic when the campground was converted into a walk-in picnic area. Today, it is used as an NPS service road to access the picnic area, comfort station, and utility area behind the Visitor Center. This looped road has been resurfaced, but has been otherwise relatively unaltered since 1944.

#### Maintenance Road (Contributing)

The Maintenance Road was originally designed for slow-moving, two-way traffic for visitors and park staff to access several points within Lower Yakima Park. Several changes to the use of Lower Yakima Park have lead to the shortening of the road and closure to public traffic. Today it is only accessible by park staff. The portion of the road that continues to be maintained as a service road extends about 0.9 miles from the southern edge of the plaza to the junction with the Wonderland Trail. Originally, the road was surfaced with oiled gravel and varied in width, averaging between 18 and 22 feet. Overtime, the road has been widened by snowplowing activities and it is surfaced with compacted soil and gravel.

Historically, the maintenance road branched into two spur roads to Campground Areas #1 and 2. The spur to Campground # 1 has been converted to a trail (described below) and the spur to Campground #2 has been removed. Campground Area #2 was closed in 1973, as was its access road. A vegetation restoration program was initiated in 1997 in an effort to erase the scars of the campground and access road, which are barely discernable today. As a result, the spur road no longer has integrity.

Sunrise Campground Trail (Contributing)

Originally, a spur road to Campground Area #1, the campground and road were closed to vehicular traffic in 1973. The spur road was converted to a trail. The trail continues to follow the same alignment of the road and many of the original culverts, massive enough to support automobile traffic, still exist under the trail. The original width of the road bed is still discernable.

Power House Road (Contributing)

The Power House road, branches north off of the Maintenance Road to access the Power House. It follows its historic alignment, measures approximately 18 feet wide, and is surfaced with compacted soil and gravel.

Power House Trail (Contributing)

The power house trail is a narrow path that runs westward from the picnic area to join with the Power House Road. It is an informal, unpaved, unmaintained path.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Sunrise Plaza Parking Area

Feature Identification Number: 129957

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Gas Station Plaza

Feature Identification Number: 129959

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Historic Cabin Area Entrance

Feature Identification Number: 129961

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Overspill Parking Area

Feature Identification Number: 129963

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Picnic Area Loop

Feature Identification Number: 129967

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Maintenance Road

Feature Identification Number: 129971

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Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Plaza Sidewalk with Stone Curb

Feature Identification Number: 129973

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Visitor Center Walkways

Feature Identification Number: 129975

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Lodge Walkways

Feature Identification Number: 129977

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Rim Trail

Feature Identification Number: 129979

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Power House Trail

Feature Identification Number: 129981

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Power House Road

Feature Identification Number: 136752

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sourdough Ridge Trail

Feature Identification Number: 129983

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Campground Trail

Feature Identification Number: 129985

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Burroughs Loop Trail

Feature Identification Number: 129987

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Silver Forest Trail

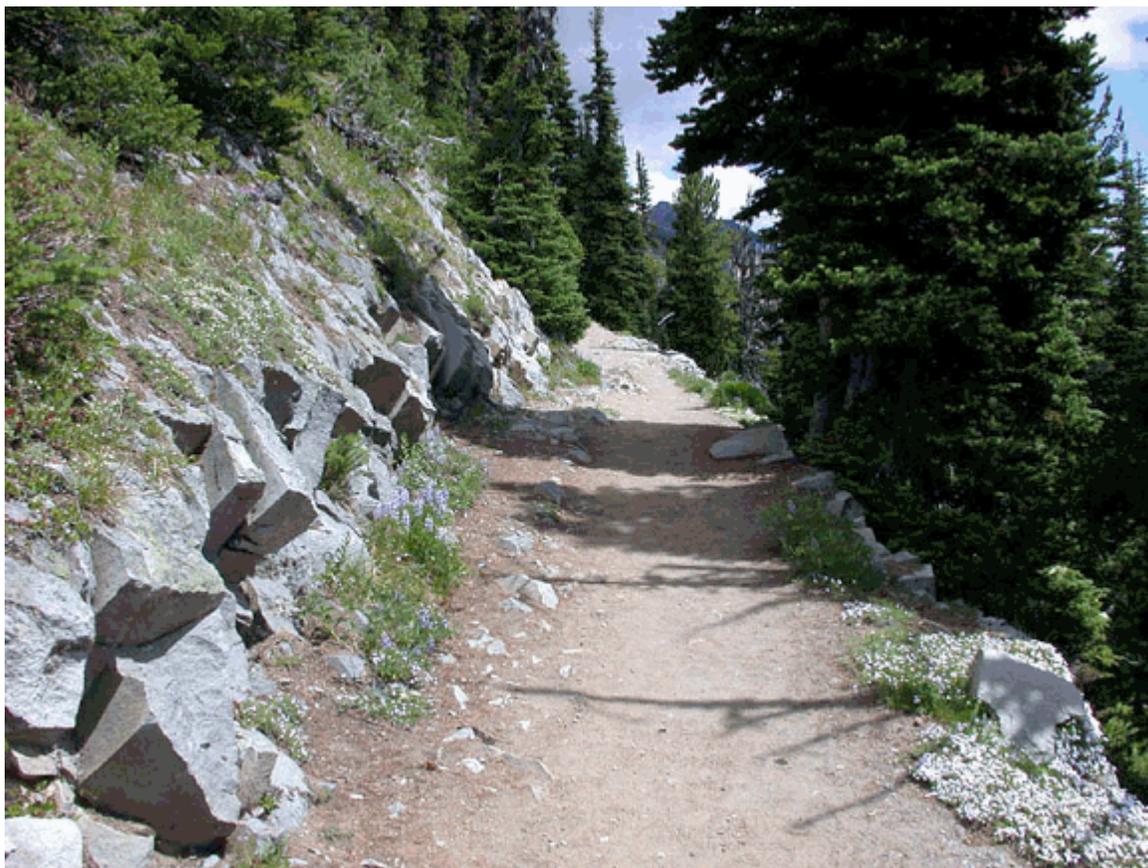
Feature Identification Number: 129989

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Contemporary photo of staircase connecting an overlook to Sunrise Rim Trail. (PWRO 2008)*



*Contemporary photo of Sourdough Ridge Trail northwest of Sunrise showing dry-stacked retaining wall. (PWRO 2002)*

### **Buildings and Structures**

The buildings and structures built at Sunrise between 1930 and 1944 reflect the efforts of E.A. Davidson, NPS landscape architect, to develop a village master plan under the principles of Rustic architecture and naturalistic landscape design. The village's eighteen buildings in 1944, plus the 215 cabins removed that same year, embodied a range of architectural styles recognized as "Rustic" by the National Park Service, including pioneer log Stockade, log-and-stone cabin, alpine chalet, and Rustic utility styles. Five structures at Sunrise: the Frozen Lake Dam, the three Emmons Glacier Overlooks, and the Stockade, demonstrate the principles of naturalistic landscape design by using native materials and blending the structures in with the environment.

In 1929, before construction commenced, native materials were collected from surrounding park areas (Davidson, 1932, no pagination). Light gray basalt rocks were excavated at a nearby quarry site on the east slope of Lower Burroughs Mountain. Logs were harvested at a site along the Old White River Road for the comfort stations, park buildings, and community kitchens. These materials would become a common theme that tied all of the Sunrise buildings together and rendered them more harmonious with the surrounding landscape.

The majority of the realized master plan was developed between 1930 and 1932. Between these years, 234 buildings were constructed including: the South Blockhouse (S-001, built in 1930), a timber frame utility building behind the South Blockhouse (built 1930, removed at an unknown date), 200 one-bedroom cabins (built in 1930, removed in 1944), 6 nearly identical comfort stations within the campgrounds (built in 1930-1931, removed in the 1970s except for S-310), four community kitchens within the campgrounds (built in 1930-1931, removed in the 1970s), 15 three-bedroom cabins (built in 1931, removed in 1944), the Gas Station (S-602, built in 1931), the Sunrise Lodge (S-601, built in 1931), a pump house at Lodi Spring in Berkeley Park (built in 1931, removed in the 1970s), the plaza comfort station (S-005, built in 1932), the Power House (S-201, built in 1932), and two utility structures near the pump house (built in c.1932, removed at an unknown date).

Also during this time, four structures were built: the Frozen Lake Dam (built in 1930), the Stockade (built in 1930), and two Emmons Glacier Overlooks (one on the Burroughs Mountain Trail above Shadow Lake, built in 1931, and another along the lower Rim Trail (built in 1932). After 1932, the development of Sunrise was temporarily halted due to lack of funds.

Development picked up again in the late 1930s. The CCC constructed the third Emmons Glacier overlook along the Rim Trail by 1940. Construction of the Sunrise Visitor Center, S-003 (originally referred to as the “Camper’s Shelter”) and the North Blockhouse (S-002) was started in 1939, but was not completed until 1943 and 1944 respectively. In 1944, development at Sunrise ceased due to US involvement in World War II. The master plan, although not fully implemented, was developed as far as it would ever be at this point. By the end of 1944, all 215 of the cabins located behind the Sunrise Lodge were sold to the military as part of the war effort, leaving 18 buildings and five structures within the village.

#### Current Conditions

Today, eight historic buildings and five historic structures remain within the district, including all of the buildings constructed around the plaza during the period of significance, which have historically been the most prominent of the Sunrise buildings and continue to define the district today. These buildings include: the Sunrise Lodge, the comfort station, the Gas Station, the North Blockhouse, the South Blockhouse, and the Visitor Center. In addition, the campground comfort station at Campground Area #1 and the Power House, which are located outside the main plaza development, also remain. The five remaining historic structures at Sunrise are: the Frozen Lake Dam, the Stockade, and the Emmons Glacier Overlook and the two Rim Tail Overlooks #1 and #2. All of these buildings and structures remain relatively unaltered in appearance and help to retain the historic feeling, character, and presence intended by the master plan.

Since the period of significance, changes in park management goals (primarily the closure of campgrounds) have resulted in the removal of ten historic buildings, all of which were secondary buildings located outside the main plaza development. The pump house at Lodi

Springs was removed in the 1970s. Five comfort stations and four community kitchens associated with the campgrounds were also removed in the 1970s, in conjunction with their closure. One comfort station still remains, although closed, at the Campground Area #1 where walk-in camping is still permitted. In addition, the stone foundation walls of a the comfort station associated with the historic upper campground (current picnic area) still remain, but the wooden portion of the walls and roof have been so altered that it has lost integrity. However, this comfort station (the Picnic Area Campground) has the potential to be restored. In 2008, a water treatment facility was constructed within the confines of the Stockade fence behind the Visitor Center, helping to screen it from view.

Descriptions of the buildings and structures are below:

#### Visitor Center (Contributing)

The Visitor Center (S-003) is a pioneer Stockade-style, log construction, one and a half-story, rectangular building. It has a medium-pitched cedar shingle, gable roof with projecting eaves and rafters (with whittled ends), and an ornamental exposed log ridge beam. Whole log corners and Pratt roof trusses support whole log purlins and rafters. The stone masonry foundation walls extend to the window sill level. Above the windowsills, the walls are constructed of whole Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) logs held together with drift pins and corner saddle notching. Together, the cedar shingle roof, projecting log rafters, and protruding log beams (under east façade windows) visually tie together the entire Visitor Center area. After completion in 1943, the Sunrise Visitor Center superceded the South Blockhouse as an interpretive center. In 1952, a stone fireplace and chimney were installed. The building has remained virtually unaltered since. It continues to serve as the interpretive center for Sunrise. This building is an outstanding example of the exaggerated Rustic style found in the National Parks. This building is an independent National Historic Landmark, along with the other structures in the “Stockade Group,” including the Blockhouses and the Stockade fence.

#### South Blockhouse and North Blockhouse (Contributing)

The South Blockhouse (S-001) and North Blockhouse (S-002) are identical to one another. Both are pioneer Stockade-style, timber frame, two-story, square-shaped buildings. They have low-pitched cedar shingle hip roofs with projecting eaves. The exterior siding is log slab veneer with projecting whole log rafters, second floor beams, and saddle notched corners. The stone foundation walls extend to the level of the windowsills. The stonework is battered at the corners to reduce the squareness of the first floor. The main entrances are in the back, on the west façades of the buildings. The South Blockhouse functioned as an interpretive museum, administrative facility and ranger’s residence in the 1930s. In the 1940s, it was used solely as a ranger’s residence. The interior has been remodeled twice, in 1952 and 1980-81, and continues to serve as park employee housing today. The North Blockhouse, completed in 1944 was historically used as park employee housing. The interior was remodeled in 1980-81 and continues to serve as housing for park employees. These buildings are independent National Historic Landmarks, along with the other structures in the “Stockade Group,” including the Visitor Center and the Stockade fence.

#### Stockade (Contributing)

The Stockade is located behind the Visitor Center. It is an approximately 12 foot tall, whole timber pallisade fence made of Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*). The vertically placed logs are axe cut to a rough taper at the top. The entrance gate, accessible by road on the north side, is made of Alaska yellow cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*). The gate is made of half logs to make the door lighter and easier to move (NPS blueprint, 1933). Two smaller gates are located along the western fence line and at the southwest corner of the Visitor Center. The fence encloses an approximately 90 foot by 95 foot maintenance and storage area. This structure is an independent National Historic Landmark, along with the other structures in the “Stockade Group,” including the Blockhouses and the Visitor Center.

#### Plaza Comfort Station (Contributing)

The plaza comfort station (S-005), near the parking plaza, is a stone and timber frame, one-story, rectangular building. It has a medium-pitched cedar shingle gable roof with projecting eaves and verges, and whole log rafters. The exterior walls are clad with half log veneer and stone. The stone wall extends to the window sill level and is battered at the corners. Above the stonework, whole logs project under the gable ends and in framing around the windows. This building is representative of non-intrusive architecture employed in most NPS structures in the 1920s and 1930s. The low pitched gable roof and elongated rectangular shape was designed to blend in with the gently sloping hill behind. Except for the removal of a non-structural, exposed log ridge beam, the building remains largely unaltered.

#### Sunrise Lodge (Contributing)

The lodge (S-601) is a timber frame, two and a half-story, rectangular-shaped building. It has a steeply pitched, cedar shingle roof with intersecting gables, projecting verges and eaves, a stone and brick chimney, and shed roof dormers. The exterior is clad with cedar shingles and ornamental timber trussing under the south gable end. The entrance on the west façade has a porch covered by a shed roof. Originally intended to be a resort hotel, the lodge was designed with accommodations for overnight guests. Due to lack of funds, only a portion of the designed lodge was built, with plans to complete it at a later date. However, the building was never completed and remains unfinished today. The exterior remains relatively unaltered since its original construction. Historically, the lodge provided services to the 215 overnight cabins, contained a cafeteria, and had concessionaire employee housing. In the 1940s, the basement was excavated and a gift shop was installed. Despite the removal of the cabins in the 1940s, the lodge still serves as a cafeteria for day visitors and as concessionaire employee housing. The gift shop has been moved to the main level, and a ranger station has been placed in the basement.

#### Gas Station (Contributing)

The Gas Station (S-602) is a wood and reinforced concrete frame, one-story, T-shaped building with a gas pump island in front. It has intersecting medium-pitched gable roofs. Metal sheeting

has replaced the original cedar roof shingles over whole log rafters and purlins. The exterior walls are log and stone veneer with vertical boards at the gable ends. The gas pump and canopy are of stone and log construction. The building has living quarters in the rear and an office with restrooms in the front. The station was designed and constructed by the Associated Oil Company of Seattle, Washington. The station remained in operation until at least 1983. Currently, the building is mothballed in a stable condition, pending a decision regarding adaptive use. The future use of the Gas Station area is still to be decided. Current suggestions include rehabilitating the area as a pick-up zone for shuttle and tour buses, and using the building and gas pump island for interpretive and visitor orientation purposes.

#### Power House (Contributing)

The Power House (S-201) is a reinforced concrete, one and a half-story, rectangular building. It has a medium-pitched cedar-shingled gable roof on timber sheathing resting on steel angle purlins, all supported on riveted fink roof trusses. The exterior is unfinished concrete. An effort was made to reduce the walls' solid concrete block appearance by placing chamfer strips along the forms prior to pouring giving the impression of board and batton. In addition, stone veneer was intended to be added to the lower portions of the exterior walls and a Keranick treatment applied to the upper portion of the walls to stain them brown (Chittenden 1935; 93). These finishes were never realized. The Power House historically and currently houses two diesel generators that continue to provide electricity to Sunrise.

#### Campground Comfort Station (Contributing)

The campground comfort station (S-310) at Campground Area #1 (or Sunrise Campground) is a stone and log construction, one-story, rectangular-shaped building. It has a medium-pitched cedar shingle gable roof with projecting eaves and verges, and whole log rafters. The walls are constructed of logs and stone. The stone used in the walls' lower half have battered corners to mask the building's rectangular lines. Half log veneer extends up from the stone sills to the eaves. Projecting whole log struts support the verges at the gable ends. Six nearly identical comfort stations were constructed in the lower and upper campgrounds. This is the only remaining example of the standardized design used for campground comfort stations at Sunrise.

#### Frozen Lake Dam (Contributing)

The Frozen Lake Dam, located northwest of the plaza was constructed to supply potable water to the developed areas of the village. It is an earth fill dam with a rubble masonry core. The core measures 220 feet in length and varies in depth from four feet at the south end, to nineteen feet at the center, and seven feet at the north end. Cement and sand for the dam core was shipped from Enumclaw, Washington. Fill material was taken from the reservoir basin. Naturalistic design principles were embodied in Chittenden's redesign of the original drawings by adding a slight aesthetic curvature to the dam that was not needed for engineering purposes. The curvature was intended to visually enhance the equestrian trail that crossed the top of the dam (Chittenden, 1935, 26). In addition, the dam core was designed with a flared top to support the trail. At its base, the core measured six feet thick, which tapered to two feet towards the top, then flared out again to four feet at the very top. A four foot high woven wire fence was

erected around the reservoir to protect the water supply, which greatly detracted from the attempt to blend the dam in with its surroundings. The dam still exists and continues to provide water to Sunrise. The reservoir is still protected by a metal wire fence. The trail that once crossed over the dam has been rerouted.

#### Overlooks

Three Overlooks were built within the Sunrise developed area to provide visitors with exceptional views of the White River Canyon, Emmons Glacier, and the mountain peak. The views from these three Overlooks are still magnificent. However, some trees have been allowed to grow and slightly block views.

#### Emmons Glacier Overlook (Burroughs Mountain Trail) (Contributing)

The Emmons Glacier overlook along Burroughs Mountain Trail is located above Campground Area #1. The viewing area is a curvilinear, widened portion of the trail as it turns around a corner. The terrace is retained by a stone wall that is dry stacked below the terrace and is mortared to form a guardwall above the terrace. The dry stacked wall blends with the native rock of the slope below. The stone used to construct the wall includes a combination of irregular and more rectilinear shaped rocks. The wall is approximately 18 feet thick and rises 4 feet above the terrace. The terrace has a slight slope following that of the trail. The tread material is mainly crushed pumice, mixed with forest duff and some gravel.

#### Rim Trail Overlook #1 (Contributing)

One of two Emmons Glacier Overlooks along Rim Trail is located directly south of the plaza. The overlook consists of a semi-circle terrace that is retained by a curved, rough hewn and mortared stone wall. It is approximately 18 feet thick and 12 feet tall, extending 3 feet above the terrace. The tread material consists of crushed pumice, gravel, and forest duff. Two sets of three foot wide cut-and-mortared stone steps lead from the Rim Trail down to the terrace. Both sets of stairs curve with the landscape. The stone risers are edged with a 12 to 18 inch tall stones. One interpretive sign has been mounted to the wall since the period of significance.

#### Rim Trail Overlook #2 and Kiosk (Contributing)

The second Emmons Glacier overlook along Rim Trail, built by the CCC circa 1940, is located further southeast of the first. The overlook consists of a rough pentagon-shaped area, defined by a rock wall on two sides, whole logs on two sides, and a wood kiosk on the last side. The rough hewn and mortared stone wall is approximately three feet tall on a concrete foundation. The tread material in the viewing area is crushed pumice, gravel, and forest duff. One set of informal stairs provides access to the viewing area from Rim Trail. These stairs consist of four risers made of dry laid, cut stone. The informational kiosk, a historic, Rustic structure still exists, although it is no longer in use. Signs are intended to be held up by the four large-diameter vertical timbers, two on either end, and four horizontal logs. The signs were protected by a wood-shingled gable roof. The ends of the vertical and horizontal logs extend beyond the roof. The kiosk is leaning to one side and requires maintenance, but still retains integrity. Two interpretive signs mounted on the stone wall have been added since the period of significance.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Sunrise Developed Area  
Mount Rainier National Park

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Feature: Sunrise North Blockhouse  
Feature Identification Number: 129997  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise South Blockhouse  
Feature Identification Number: 129999  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Visitor Center  
Feature Identification Number: 130001  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Gas Station and Pump  
Feature Identification Number: 129991  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Plaza Comfort Station  
Feature Identification Number: 129995  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Lodge  
Feature Identification Number: 129993  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Stockade Fence  
Feature Identification Number: 130009  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Fire Pit  
Feature Identification Number: 130011  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Campground #1 Comfort Station  
Feature Identification Number: 130013  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Power House

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Feature Identification Number: 130015

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Emmon`s Glacier Overlook

Feature Identification Number: 130017

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Rim Trail Overlook #1

Feature Identification Number: 130019

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Rim Trail Overlook #2

Feature Identification Number: 136754

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Rim Trail Overlook Interpretive Kiosk

Feature Identification Number: 130021

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Frozen Lake Dam

Feature Identification Number: 130023

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Picnic Area Comfort Station

Feature Identification Number: 130003

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Water Treatment Building

Feature Identification Number: 140838

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

Sunrise Developed Area  
Mount Rainier National Park

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*Contemporary photo of stockade buildings: the South Blockhouse (S-001), North Blockhouse (S-002) and Sunrise Visitor Center (S-003). (PWRO 2002)*



*Contemporary photo of Sunrise Lodge (S-601). (PWRO 2002)*



*Contemporary photo of the Comfort Station (S-005). (PWRO 2002)*



*Contemporary photo of the Power House (S-201). (PWRO, 2002)*



*Contemporary photo showing rock wall at Emmon's Glacier Overlook along Burroughs Mountain Trail. (PWRO 2002)*



*Contemporary photo of Frozen Lake Dam structure. (PWRO 2002)*

### **Small Scale Features**

Small-scale features interspersed throughout Sunrise, such as benches, drinking fountains, picnic tables and culverts, were historically placed to support visitor use of the area. The small scale features found throughout the Sunrise Developed Area collectively add to the functions and aesthetics of the site and demonstrate care taken by NPS designers to seamlessly incorporate small built elements into the surrounding landscape. Remaining historic small-scale features interspersed throughout Sunrise include benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, water spigots, culverts, dry-stacked walls, and the amphitheater fire pit. Non-contributing small scale features include several non-historic benches, picnic tables, telescopes, and footbridges that have replaced historic features. Although not historic, they have been constructed of similar materials and in the rustic style to blend with the historic setting. Today, remaining historic small-scale features add to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

### **Contributing Features**

Benches were placed throughout the village, in the campgrounds, next to buildings, and along trails, for visitors to relax or appreciate views. Many benches were originally created from “log

protection rails” used during construction to protect sensitive vegetated areas. After construction, the rails became parking guardrails and benches (Davidson, 1932, no pagination). The benches were stabilized with the placement of two smaller logs underneath and perpendicular to each log-end. Two methods were used to create flat seating on top of the logs. One method was to cut a wide notch, or seating area, in the middle of the log while the ends of the logs were left whole. Two such benches were historically located in front of the lodge. The other method was to cut the log in half length-wise to make the entire length of the log flat for seating. This style of bench was historically used in other parts of the village, such as the amphitheater. Today, both styles of benches can be found near the picnic area, at trailheads, along trails at viewpoints, and outside the Visitor Center and lodge. Many of the historic benches have been replaced and new ones added, but the benches are constructed of whole logs and are compatible with the historic area. The historic benches can be determined by their large size, both in diameter and length.

The first picnic tables to be located within Sunrise were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Made of solid wood, the seats and table top were hand split, two inch thick cedar planks. At Campground Areas #1 and #2, the picnic tables were made of whole logs. By 1940, permanent picnic tables were added to the upper campground (the picnic area today). These tables had cut-and-mortared stone bases with wood table tops and seats. In the early 1970s, after the upper campground was converted to a picnic area, additional permanent picnic tables were added with concrete bases and wood tabletops and seats. Examples of all three types of picnic table (the CCC, stone base, and concrete base tables) are still present within the picnic area. The tops of the original wooden tables are engraved, “Columbia Basin, CCC”. The wooden tables built by the CCC and the tables with stone bases are historic features. The tables with concrete bases are non-contributing.

Within the upper campground, an outdoor amphitheater and fire pit were built circa 1931 for ranger naturalist programs. Whole logs were arranged in a semi-circle providing seating for visitors. The seating has since been removed. However, the amphitheater clearing and fire pit still remain. The fire pit is constructed of cut-and-mortared stone with a four foot high back wall and a semicircle pit edged with mortared stone, about nine inches high.

Drinking fountains and water spigots were placed within the plaza and upper campground. Two drinking fountains still remain, one in front of the Visitor Center, the other at the west entrance of the lodge. Both are made of mortared cobblestones and stand approximately three feet high. Two water spigots still remain within the upper campground. These are made of cut-and-mortared stone and stand approximately three feet high. Two similar structures are located near the Gas Station. Currently unused, they have capped pipes protruding from their sides.

Culverts with cut stone and mortared headwalls built in the Rustic style were located along the Campground Road and the road to the Pump House and still remain along these roads today. They vary in size depending on the topography, but range from 2 to 5-foot tall headwalls.

Along the Sourdough Ridge Trail, dry-stack rock walls were built along a 1,200 foot stretch east of Frozen Lake. The walls were built both above and below the trail to stabilize the trail through a loose rock slide area. This wall averages six feet tall, reaching eight feet at some points. Another dry-stack wall was constructed along the Rim Trail that is partially concealed by vegetation. These walls are still located in their original locations.

#### Non-contributing Features

A wooden flagpole was erected in front of the Visitor Center on axis with the front entrance. The original flagpole has been removed, but the historic base remains. A new metal pole is now located on the same axis, but closer to the plaza. This flagpole is non-contributing.

Located behind the South Blockhouse and within the Visitor Center are two telescopes that provide visitors close-up views of the mountain peak. Originally, a telescope was placed at the southwest corner of the plaza for visitors to watch climbers on the mountain (Lane, 2002). In 1979, the telescope was moved behind the South Blockhouse when new Visitor Center exhibits were put in place. In the 1980s, the original telescope was replaced with a seacoast telescope that was easier for the public to use. This telescope is the one used today. Inside the Visitor Center, the currently used telescope was bought in 1979 to replace the original ship binoculars (Lane, 2002). Neither of the telescopes in use at Sunrise are historic, however, the placement of telescopes for visitor use within Sunrise is a historic practice.

Wooden footbridges were located on the Rim Trail where it crossed drainages. Bridges that exist today are replacements built in the Rustic style. The two found on the Rim Trail are two-stringer footbridges with split cedar decking. At three feet wide, they are narrower than typical Rustic trail bridges built during the period of significance, which were four to five feet wide. The existing bridges do not have guardrails, which were historically used to guide horses across bridges.

#### Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Sunrise Rustic Log Benches
- Feature Identification Number: 130041
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Sunrise Rustic Picnic Tables
- Feature Identification Number: 130039
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Sunrise Amphitheater Firepit

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Feature Identification Number: 141394

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (5) Sunrise Water Fountains/Spigots

Feature Identification Number: 130037

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Culverts

Feature Identification Number: 130035

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sourdough Ridge Trail Dry-stack Rock Wa

Feature Identification Number: 141460

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Rim Trail Dry-stack Rock Wall

Feature Identification Number: 141476

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunrise Flagpole

Feature Identification Number: 141462

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Telescopes

Feature Identification Number: 141484

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Wooden Footbridges

Feature Identification Number: 141486

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Contemporary photo of historic whole-log bench. The log support footings have decayed causing the bench to sink onto the ground. (PWRO 2002)*



*Contemporary photo of historic picnic bench in good condition. (PWRO 2002)*



*Contemporary photo of historic culvert along the historic road to the rock quarry (now a part of the Wonderland Trail). (PWRO 2002)*



*Contemporary photo of historic amphitheater firepit in the picnic area. (PWRO 2002)*

### **Vegetation**

Vegetative plantings within the Sunrise developed area were intended to blend the village development into the surrounding landscape, following naturalistic landscape design principles. This design philosophy, characteristically used by the NPS at the time, encouraged the use of native vegetation clustered in irregular groupings or in masses evocative of indigenous plant patterns. Vegetation was planted to frame views or to anchor new buildings and structures to the rest of the landscape.

In his Sunrise development plan, NPS landscape architect E.A. Davidson specifically mentioned that landscaping around buildings and the plaza would include transplanted native plant materials (Davidson, 1942: no pagination). During the construction process, building sites were typically denuded of vegetation. As each building was completed, the impacted land required revegetation to prevent erosion and blend the buildings with the landscape. Planting projects were undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1940 (see History section). Historic photographs show vegetation planted around buildings as early as 1933. The plantings reflected the vegetation of the surrounding landscape. Subalpine firs (*Abies lasiocarpa*) were the most common tree species used near the lodge and plaza comfort station.

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Herbaceous meadow species were planted in front of the Visitor Center. Native trees and shrubs were planted at the Emmons Glacier Overlooks. (McClellan, 1993:207-208).

Few plantings were added to the existing vegetation within the western half of the upper campground, located north of the Visitor Center. Minimal vegetation created an open area where campers had views of the surrounding meadow, ridgelines to the north and south, and of Mt. Rainier's peak. Within the eastern half of the campground, the NPS landscape architect for the Emergency Conservation Work, Halsey Davidson, designed an amphitheater enclosed by a thick screen of Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), Mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) (McClellan, 1992: 207-208). In a few instances, measures were taken to preserve native vegetation from removal or damage during the construction process. For example, during the development of the upper campground, native tree groupings were protected by a log barrier (Davidson, 1942: no pagination).

#### Current Conditions

Since the period of significance, native vegetation has continued to be planted within the Yakima Park area, for meadow revegetation projects. In the 1960s, the negative impact of visitor overuse at Mt. Rainier became a major concern. As a result, a shift in land use and management practices occurred in several areas of Yakima Park.

In 1973, Campground Area #1 was closed to automobile traffic and designated a walk-in campground. Campground Area #2 was completely closed. Revegetation projects have been since been organized and implemented to repair damage in the parking plaza s within the campgrounds. The old roads leading to the former campgrounds have been narrowed in width using several techniques such as planting native vegetation along their edges. Due to harsh weather, slow plant growth in subalpine areas and soil compaction, revegetation projects have been slow to establish. The revegetation of the campgrounds (along with change in land use) have lead to the loss of integrity of the historic campgrounds and roads in the western portion of Yakima Park.

Historically, small clusters of trees were dispersed throughout the upper campground. After the conversion of the campground to a picnic area in the early 1970s, the area was reconfigured with new pathways and additional native plantings. These plantings include primarily subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and an understory of herbaceous meadow species. As a result, many small, young trees (mainly Subalpine fir) have established within the picnic area that did not exist during the period of significance and have begun to change the historic character of the area. As the trees mature over time, they will begin to change the character of the picnic area from an open area with views of the surrounding meadow and ridgelines to an enclosed space surrounded by trees. This poses a threat to the integrity of the picnic area. The amphitheater area designed by H. Davidson, although no longer in use, is still surrounded by a mature screen of trees of Subalpine fir interspersed with Whitebark pine and Mountain hemlock. This screen of trees still meets the design intent and contributes to the historic integrity of the Sunrise

cultural landscape.

By the late 1950s, an interpretive garden was planted in front of the Visitor Center and blockhouses, to interpret meadow species for visitors. Labeled plants in the garden include: Subalpine lupine (*Lupinus latifolius* var. *subalpinus*), Sitka valerian (*Valeriana sitchensis*), Fan-leaf cinquefoil (*Potentilla flabellifolia*), Bistort (*Polygonum bistortoides*), Green fescue (*Festuca viridula*), Red mountain heather (*Phyllodoce empetrifomis*), Magenta paintbrush (*Castilleja parviflora* var. *oreopola*), Cusick's speedwell (*Veronica cusickii*), Pasqueflower (*Anemone occidentalis*), Glacier lily (*Erythronium grandiflorum*), False hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), Showy sedge (*Carex spectabilis*), Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium pulcherrimum*), Avalanche lily (*Erythronium montanum*), Spreading phlox (*Phlox diffusa*), and Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). Although this botanical garden was built after the period of significance and does not contribute to the integrity of the cultural landscape, it is compatible in its incorporation of native plantings within the developed areas of the village.

The original plantings around the lodge and plaza comfort station have matured over time, but remain in place. At the west entrance of the lodge is a grouping of Mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*), Red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*), and Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). Surrounding the comfort station are Red mountain heather (*Phyllodoce empetrifomis*), Mountain ash, Pacific rhododendron (*Rhododendron albiflorum*), Willow (*Salix* sp.), and Subalpine fir. The Emmons Glacier Overlooks have vegetative screens that enclose the terraces and screen them from the trail. At the overlook directly south of the plaza, trees, shrubs, and wildflowers were planted to cascade over walls and stairs that make the built structures appear to be a part of the landscape. The Overlooks are all surrounded by Mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), and Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). These plantings are the original plantings as seen in historic photographs from the period of significance and retain integrity.

Vegetation is a landscape characteristic that retains historic integrity. The native plantings established around the lodge, plaza comfort station, and upper Picnic Area still exist. Newer plantings have been added since the period of significance to restore damaged meadows, to conceal historic campgrounds and roads, and to create an interpretive garden at the Visitor Center. While these are not historic, the use of native plant materials in front of the Visitor Center is compatible with the historic design practices at Sunrise. The newer plantings do not detract from the integrity of the cultural landscape.

### **Views and Vistas**

Magnificent views of Mt. Rainier and the Cascades from Yakima Park were a major consideration in selecting the site for a park village in 1926 (Davidson, 1932; no pagination; Chittenden, 1935; 2). E.A. Davidson, NPS landscape architect, wrote of Yakima Park, "The views and scenery are so exceptionally fine that adequate description is difficult" (1932; no pagination). As the village plans were developed, views played a role in the layout of the lodge, parking plaza, and trail system (Davidson, 1932; no pagination). They were designed and constructed to take advantage of views of Mt. Rainier, Emmons Glacier, White River Canyon, Huckleberry Park, and the meadows of Yakima Park itself.

#### Current Conditions

Today, the same spectacular views of the surrounding landscape are still a predominant characteristic of Sunrise. Approaching the parking plaza, visitors are greeted with a spectacular view of the mountain peak. The Rim and Burroughs Mountain Trails continue to provide unparalleled views of Emmons Glacier and White River Canyon at three constructed Overlooks. Views on both sides of Sourdough Ridge, Yakima Park to the south and Huckleberry Park to the north, are accessible along the Sourdough Ridge Trail. Large windows on the south façade of Sunrise Lodge look out upon Mt. Rainier's peak and ridges. Views of the surrounding meadows and mountain ridges are visible from the picnic area (former upper campground) and the trails running throughout the village. These views continue to dominate the character of Sunrise as they did during the period of significance and therefore retain integrity.

#### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*View of glacial lake and Mt. Rainier from Emmon's Glacier Overlook. (PWRO 2002)*



*View of Burroughs Mountain up to Mount Rainier from Sourdough Ridge Trail. (PWRO 2008)*

### Archeological Sites

Archeological sites inventoried in the CLI include the location of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape that are associated with the period of significance and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Every effort is made to not disclose the location of sensitive sites. Sunrise has two historic archeological sites: areas that were constructed as part of the master plan, but have since been removed with visible traces still remaining. One site is the historic location of the Rainier National Park Company visitor cabins built in 1930 and 1931 north of Sunrise Lodge. The other site includes the former Campground Areas #1 and #2 constructed in the vicinity of Shadow Lake between 1930 and 1931.

Although the 200 one-bedroom and 15 three-bedroom cabins were sold and removed in 1944 as part of the war effort, traces of the development are still visible today. Within the meadow behind the lodge are parallel lines of bare earth and small ridges indicating where roads and paths between the cabins once existed. Footpaths that are no longer in use can still be seen sweeping up the hillside from the cabin complex to Sourdough Ridge Trail above. A shallow ditch along the north side of the cabin complex is also visible and may have been part of the infrastructure of the site.

Several auto-accessed campgrounds developed within the western end of Sunrise were closed in the early 1970s. The Campground Area #1 has remained open to walk-in campers only. As part of the closure, the NPS removed all buildings (four community kitchens and five comfort stations), except for the comfort station at Campground Area #1. In addition, the NPS implemented revegetation and regrading projects to repair the original meadow in the parking areas and to narrow the original roads to trails. Over time, these efforts have made progress in hiding the original width of the roads. However, the original parking plazas are still visible in most areas. More rehabilitation effort has been focused on the parking plaza at Campground Area #1, where visitors can still hike and camp, than at the former Campground Area #2. Due to topography of the parkland, the parking plazas at Campground Area #2 are hidden from the visitor's view.

### Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Lodi Road  
Feature Identification Number: 130051  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature: Sunrise Campground #2 with roads  
Feature Identification Number: 130053  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature: Sunrise Campground #1  
Feature Identification Number: 130057

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Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      Burroughs Loop Access Trail

Feature Identification Number:      130055

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      Sunrise Bridal Trail Trace

Feature Identification Number:      130059

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

<b>Condition Assessment:</b>	Good
<b>Assessment Date:</b>	09/30/1998
<b>Condition Assessment:</b>	Fair
<b>Assessment Date:</b>	07/22/2008

#### Stabilization Measures:

##### Culvert Cleaning

The cleaning and repair of culverts will be required in order to permit the proper drainage of trails and roads and to prevent their deterioration. This process will involve the hand removal of vegetation adjacent to the stone headwall of each culvert. The repair of the culverts will often also require the excavation of the headwall, some of which have been partially obscured by the buildup of sediment and debris. The stone headwalls of the culverts are important for the proper function of the culverts as they serve to protect the otherwise exposed end of the culvert and to anchor it in place. For this reason, as well as to preserve the integrity of these historic features, the headwalls that have been damaged should be repaired. The culvert pipes should also be cleaned out using an appropriate method. Again, care should be taken to ensure the protection of the historic components of the culverts throughout the cleaning process. Culverts with the most apparent damage are located on the Maintenance Road.

##### Stonework Maintenance & Reconstruction

The historic stonework within walls and at the three glacier overlooks is in need of basic maintenance as well as some minor repairs. Basic maintenance that should be undertaken includes repointing the mortar joints which have begun to deteriorate over time and removing vegetation from crevices and along curb edges. Walls and overlooks that have loose or missing stones should be repaired. Care should be taken to ensure that the proper color, texture, size and finishing technique are maintained in order to preserve the historic character of the features. The most severe damage is at Emmon's Overlook off of Burroughs Loop Trail.

##### Vegetation Management

Although vegetation is slow to grow and slower to establish in such a harsh environment, growth does occur and may lead to damage of historic features and views. A collection of small firs that has colonized the fire pit area inside of the historic amphitheater should be removed.

##### Trail Maintenance and Stabilization

Stabilization measures are necessary along many of the trails in the area. In areas where trail widening has occurred, physical barriers and clear signage will be necessary to discourage further wear due to visitation. Repairs are needed to address the erosion and weather wear along the loop trail around the Sunrise picnic area.

#### Small Scale Features Maintenance and Repair

Across the developed area, small features such as benches, picnic tables, spigot stations and water fountains, are in need of repairs, such as repointing masonry work and securing loose stonework. Many of the picnic tables are missing their wooden benches and table tops, which should be replaced. A historic whole-log bench, with a hand hewn, flat seat, located at the junction of the Picnic Area Loop Trail and the Sourdough Ridge Access Trail has begun to sink into the ground and should be lifted to prevent further deterioration.

#### Buildings and Structures

Most of the buildings on site, including all of the buildings in the Plaza area, are on a regular cyclic maintenance schedule and remain in fair to good condition. However, the information kiosk associated with the Rim Trail Overlook is leaning to the right and is missing roof shingles. This historic structure needs to be righted and reroofed to prevent further deterioration.

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Structural Deterioration

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Several historic features show signs of structural deterioration ranging from minor to severe. Mortar is cracked and chipping and some stones have come loose from the rock wall on Emmon`s Glacier overlook along the Burroughs Mountain Trail. The two Rim Trail overlooks require some repointing and minor repairs. The rustic log and stone exhibit kiosk adjacent to the lower Rim Trail Overlook is leaning and needs shingles. Some culverts on the old road to the lower campgrounds have suffered damage due to weather and erosion and have become clogged, have damaged headwalls, and are in danger of further deterioration. Also, many picnic tables and historic log benches have fallen into disrepair.

**Type of Impact:** Deferred Maintenance

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** The fire pit in the unused historic amphitheater site is becoming colonized by small firs, which threaten its stability and integrity. Unchecked, vegetation may continue to spread, overtaking the amphitheater site.

**Type of Impact:** Visitation

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:**

Trail widening appears throughout the site where visitors pass slower hikers or seek the high ground to avoid damp spots along the path. This impact is particularly evident on the steep ascent up to and along the Sourdough Ridge Trail, and along portions of the Rim Trail between Sunrise Campground and Shadow Lake.

## **Treatment**

### **Treatment**

**Approved Treatment:** Rehabilitation  
**Approved Treatment Document:** General Management Plan  
**Document Date:** 08/01/2001  
**Approved Treatment Completed:** No

### **Approved Treatment Costs**

**Cost Date:** 08/01/2001

## **Bibliography and Supplemental Information**

### **Bibliography**

**Citation Title:** See Supplemental Information for bibliography.

## Supplemental Information

**Title:** Additional Photographs

**Description:** Additional historic and contemporary photographs are available in a separate pdf file. This file is available from the Pacific West Regional CLI Coordinator or from the cultural resources staff at Mount Rainier National Park.

**Title:** Bibliography

**Description:** Burchard, Greg C. Environment, Prehistory, and Archaeology of Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. Seattle: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Columbia Cascades Support Office, 1998.

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Chittenden, Hiram Martin. "Development of a Mountain Resort at Yakima Park Mount Rainier National Park." Masters thesis, University of Washington, 1935.

Davidson, E.A. "Report to Thomas C. Vint, Chief of the Landscape Division," 1932. Location: Tahoma Woods Archives.

Lane, Loren. Email correspondence. September 2002.

McClelland, Linda Flint. Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service: 1916 to 1942. N.p.: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, Interagency Resources Division, National Register of Historic Places, 1993.

Mills, Libby. "History of East Side Development: Ohanapecosh Area," Summer 1976.

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Quinn, Richard H. "The Roads and Bridges of Mount Rainier National Park, HAER Report," 1992.

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Thompson, Erwin N. "Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, Historic Resource Study," 1981.

Torres, Louis and Anthony Crosby. "Historic Structure Report, Sunrise Lodge, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington," 1983.

**Title:** Site Plans

**Description:** Larger versions of both site plans for Sunrise Developed Area are available in a separate pdf file. This file is available from the Pacific West Regional CLI Coordinator or from the cultural resources staff at Mount Rainier National Park.





Supplemental Images  
Sunrise Developed Area CLI



Historic photograph taken from the Sourdough Ridge Trail showing view circa 1930 of Sunrise and Mount Rainier. (Tahoma Woods Collection, twc2988) Note: the cabins north of the Lodge were removed near the end of the period of significance in 1944.



Contemporary photograph taken from the Sourdough Ridge Trail showing view of Sunrise and Mount Rainier. (PWRO 2002)

Supplemental Images  
Sunrise Developed Area CLI



Historic photograph taken from the Sourdough Ridge Trail showing view in 1930 of the Sunrise meadow and mountain ridges beyond. (Tahoma Woods Collection, n3032)



Contemporary photograph from Sourdough Ridge Trail showing view in 2002 of the Sunrise meadow and mountain ridges beyond. (PWRO 2002)

Supplemental Images  
Sunrise Developed Area CLI



Sunrise lodge and housekeeping cabins with Sourdough Ridge and Sunrise meadow behind, circa 1935. (Tahoma Woods Collection, twc3132)



Contemporary view of the meadow. An increase in both the number and size of the fir trees in the meadow is evident. (PWRO 2002)

Supplemental Images  
Sunrise Developed Area CLI



Historic photo, 1951, showing the administration buildings as viewed from the lodge. The strong, symmetric arrangement and the dramatic backdrop of Mount Rainier created a commanding presence. (Tahoma Woods Collection, is318)



Historic photo, taken in 1933, showing native plantings on the north side of the comfort station. (Tahoma Woods Collection, twc3135)

Supplemental Images  
Sunrise Developed Area CLI



Contemporary photo of north façade of Sunrise Lodge from the Sourdough Ridge Trail. (PWRO 2002)



Contemporary photo of view from the historic Rim Trail Overlook #1. (PWRO 2002) Non-historic wayside panels have been mounted on the historic mortared stone wall.

Supplemental Images  
Sunrise Developed Area CLI



Contemporary photo showing view from the historic Rim Trail Overlook #2. (PWRO 2002) Non-historic wayside panels have been mounted on the historic mortared stone wall.



Contemporary photo of exhibit kiosk built by the CCCs at the historic Rim Trail Overlook #2.. The kiosk is leaning to the right and is missing roof shingles. (PWRO 2002)



Contemporary photograph showing the wall and terrace of the Emmon's Glacier overlook along the Burrough's Mountain Trail. (PWRO 2001)



Contemporary photo of Sourdough Ridge Trail northwest of Sunrise showing dry-stacked retaining wall. (PWRO 2002)

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Contemporary photo of historic amphitheater area. Semi-circle of log benches has been removed but the space retains historic proportion. (PWRO 2002)



Contemporary photo of historic water station in the picnic area. Spigot has been capped. (PWRO 2002)

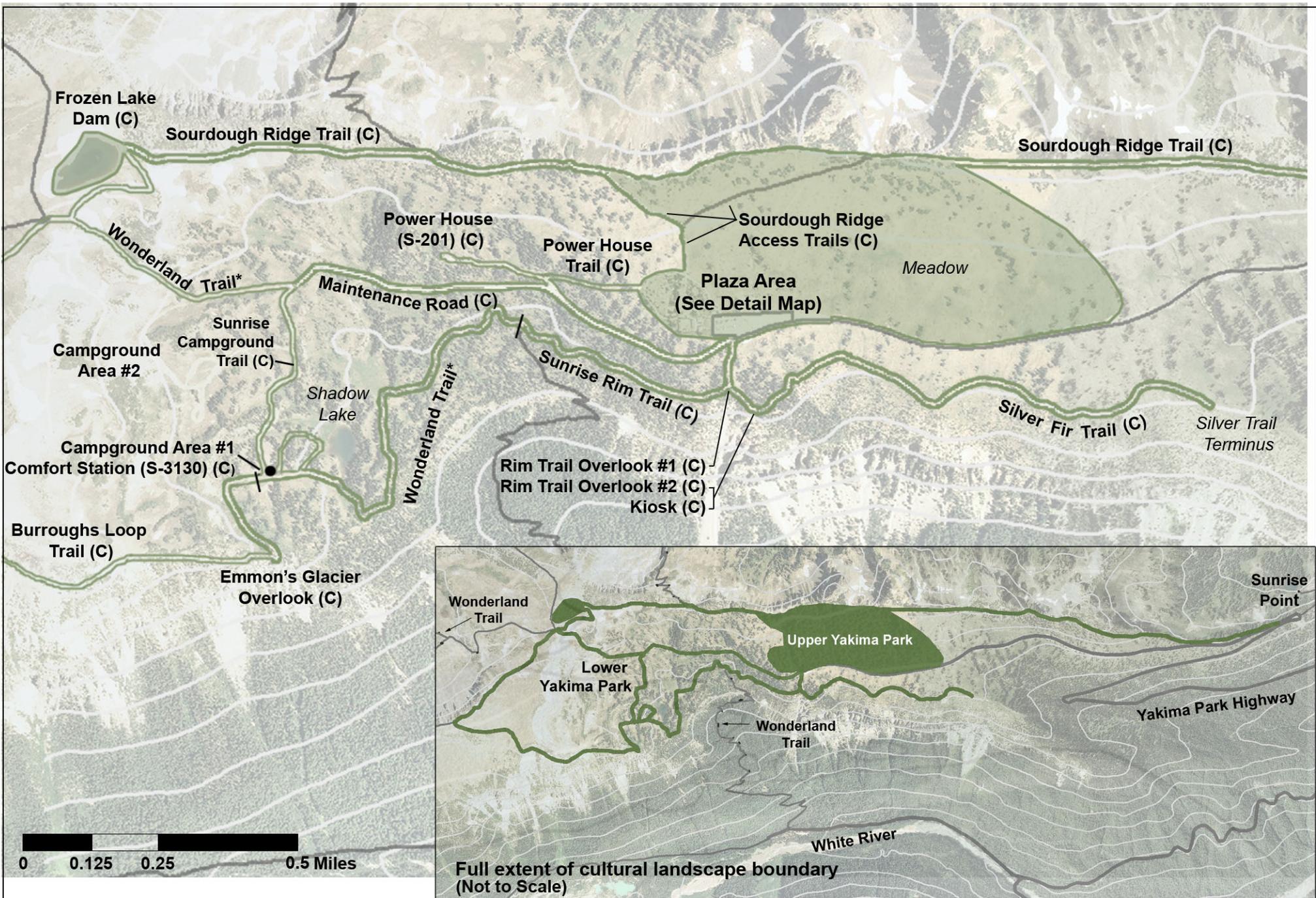
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A historic photograph, taken in 1960, of the Shadow Lake Campground Area #1 juxtaposed with a contemporary photo taken in 2002. Restoration projects are underway to revegetated the former parking area. (Tahoma Woods Archives, is2293/ PWRO 2002)



Contemporary photograph of the Sunrise Picnic Area Comfort Station. (PWRO 2002) This building was constructed in the 1930s, but the wooden portion of the walls and roof have been so altered that it has lost integrity and is no longer contributing. The stone foundation walls still remain, however, and this comfort station has the potential to be restored.

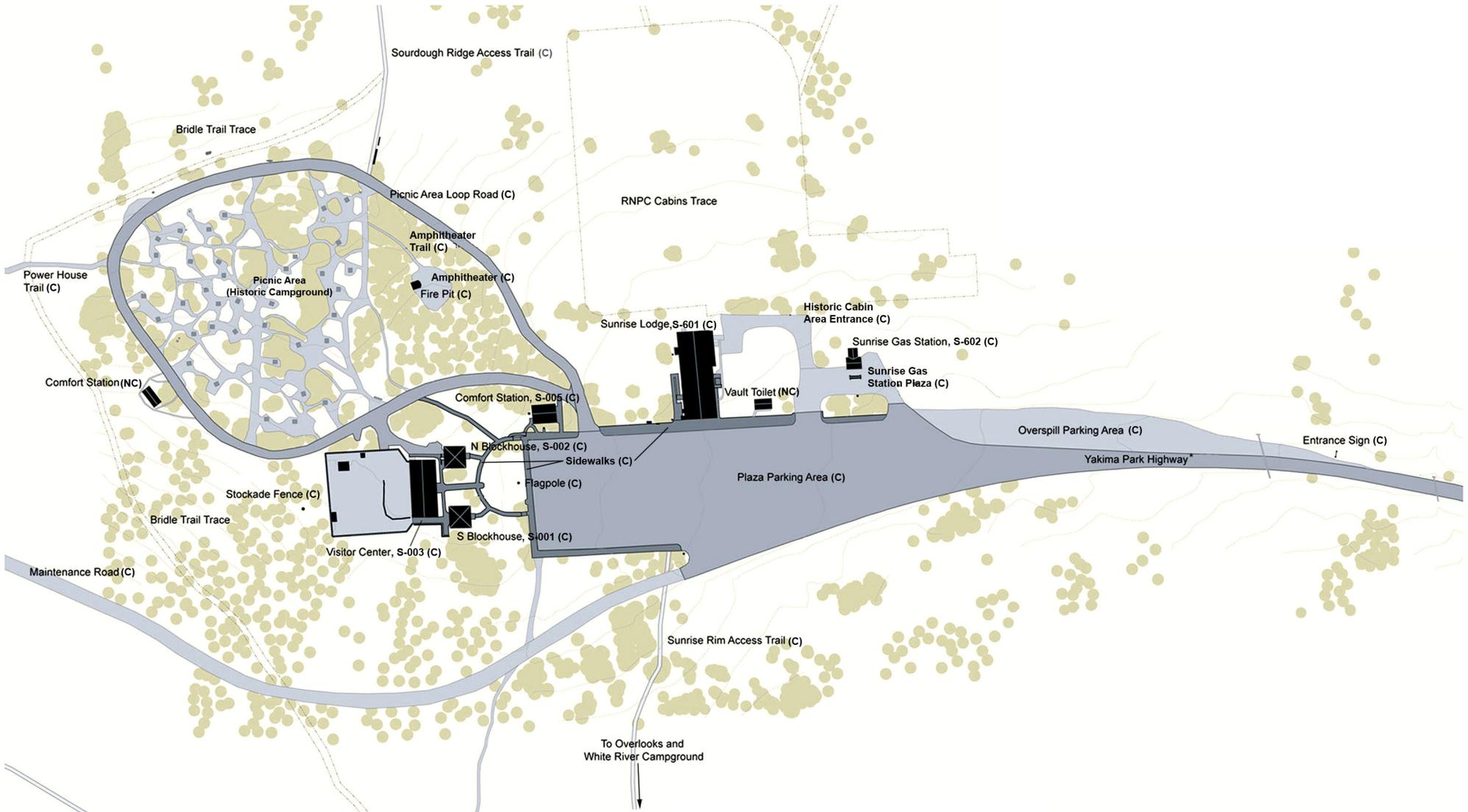


**Sunrise Developed Area  
Mount Rainier National Park  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2009**

**KEY:** — Boundary  
 (C) Contributing feature  
 \* Wonderland Trail is documented in the Wonderland Trail CLI.







**Sunrise Developed Area, Plaza Detail**  
**Mount Rainier National Park**  
**Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2009**

**KEY:** (C) Contributing Feature  
 (NC) Non-contributing Feature  
 \* Yakima Park Highway is documented in the Yakima Park Highway CLI.



