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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

HUMES RANCH

BUILDINGS #699-A and #699-B, CLASS CC

Elwha River Trail
Olympic National Park
Washington

Prepared by
A. Lewis Koue
Architect
January 1969

ON MICROFILM

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Division of Historic Architecture, Br. of Restorations

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

HUMES RANCH

BUILDINGS #699-A and #699-B, CLASS CC

Elwha River Trail
Olympic National Park
Washington

A P P R O V A L S H E E T

Recommended

Superintendent Date _____

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation Date _____

Approved

Regional Director, Western Region Date _____

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FOREWORD

This report is authorized by Resource Study Proposal, OLY-II-1 which calls for a historical investigation of the Humes Ranch in the Elwha Valley of Olympic National Park. This study is required to authenticate the historical quality of the structure and determine its significance. It also calls for the historical data necessary to rehabilitate the cabin in order to use it as an exhibit representing pioneer life in the Olympics.

It is not the intention of this report to present a fully-documented and detailed study. Rather it seeks to draw a preliminary judgement on the basis of personal observation and review of the most obvious data. It shall be left to the Part II report, to present a more definitive study of the structures.

III ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Structure:

Humes Ranch Cabin - Building 699-A.

Humes Ranch Barn - Building 699-B.

(Note: Structures inventory prepared July 28, 1952, and the Master Plan, combine a portion of the barn with the cabin and assigns one number--699--to include both structures. These structures actually are two separate buildings and for clarity are referred to here in as 699-A for the Cabin and 699-B for the Barn.)

Wood and Tool Shed - Building 700 (destroyed).

(Note: This structure which is recorded in the structure inventory and the Master Plan no longer exists (May 1968), but by description appears to be the structure once situated at the approximate spot from which the photograph, Illustration No. 5, was taken. It appears in an early photograph of the complex, Illustration No. 2.)

B. Proposed Use of Structures:

Original, in-place interpretive exhibits to assist visitors in their understanding of homestead life in the Olympic Mountains.

C. Justification for Such Use:

The Master Plan states that "the only historic buildings remaining are a few old structures dating back to the Homestead period, one of which is the Humes Ranch on the Elwha River."

D. Provisions for Operating the Structures:

The Cabin will not be open for active visitation. People will view the exterior, surroundings and peer through the windows. Occasional ranger patrols will provide protection for the structure. Metal-photo signs will interpret the scene. The Barn will be accessible for emergency shelter.

E. Cooperative Agreements:

None.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity:

The Cabin shall be restored to its original condition requiring replacement of decayed foundation and structural logs; new shake roof and floor construction; new windows and doors.

The adjoining Barn will require repairs to the frame, and to shake roof and shake siding, to be preserved as part of the scene to be interpreted.

Determination for reconstruction of the Wood and Tool Shed, Building 700, and fences should be deferred for future consideration. Further investigation should determine the significance of the privy and the concrete foundation structure and their disposition. The spring and water system should be reactivated.

G. Copy of P.C.P.:

At end of report.

IV HISTORICAL DATA

A. Origin of the Humes Cabin:

Testimony transcribed and filed at Olympic National Park indicates that the Humes Cabin was built by William Humes around the turn of the century. He was an Easterner who joined his brother Martin and Cousin Ward Sanders on a trip to the gold fields of Alaska. An early winter stalled their plans at Seattle and by the following year they had already settled in the Olympics.

William was joined a few years later by his brother, Grant, who became the sole proprietor of the Humes ranch after William returned east after the death of his father.

Grant Humes

Grant Humes was a modern-day recluse who earned his living by hunting and packing. It is said that he had as many as a dozen pack trains in the mountains at one time.

Humes also acted as guide for and participant in a great number of mountaineering ventures. He scouted the trails for the earliest authenticated conquest of Mount Olympus and personally scaled a number of peaks in the range.

B. Structural History:

There can be little doubt that the cabin and adjoining barn are authentic. A photograph of the structures with Grant Humes standing in front appears in Ruby El Hult's, The

Untamed Olympics, Illustration No. 1. Human testimony further corroborates the indications of the buildings's historical nature.

After Grant Humes' death in 1934, the cabin was occupied by Herb and Lois Crisler who filmed the Walt Disney classic on the Olympic Elk. They may have made minor alterations in the cabin but photographs, news accounts, and human testimony indicate that the structure is fundamentally original.

Personal inspection of the buildings reveals a cinder block chimney which appears to be a later addition. A cut-out spot just within the doorway suggests a root cellar or storage space. The cut-out sockets along the wall indicate the existence, at one time, of a loft supported by cross-beams fitted into the walls. These elements and others are not suggested by the building itself and will have to be documented by the intensive research projected for the Part II report.

The sheds across the yard from the cabin are probably not historic. One has been made into a privy. In front of this structure is a concrete wall which suggests that this complex may have been used as a pen of some kind at one time. Illustration No. 4.

C. The Grounds:

Still standing in front of the cabin are a plum tree and an apple tree. These trees were planted by Humes and

still bear fruit. There is evidence of a flower garden beside the cabin but some old-timers believe that Grant did not garden and that the Crislors were responsible for that particular flower patch. There is talk also about Grant having installed a log runway for spring water that flowed down the upper slope. The spout terminated near the base of the apple tree.

The pasture below is reached by a path. The struggle necessary to clear the pasture is evident from the multitude of depressions left by the roots of trees pulled out. Although a barn once located at the lower meadow is gone, a vague outline of its foundation can still be detected.

Illustration No. 3.

D. Significance:

The Humes cabin is of local significance but of primary importance historically because it is one of the few remaining structures representing pioneer life in the Olympics. It is true that some question can be raised as to whether Grant Humes was in truth a "pioneer" having settled in the area so late. But actually the period of settlement in that region was itself of late vintage and few settlers preceded the Humes brothers to that region. Therefore, a rehabilitated Humes Cabin, properly interpreted, is an appropriate means of telling the story of the settlement of the Olympics.

E. Conclusion:

The Humes Ranch Cabin and adjoining barn are both significant and authentic. They would be a fitting vehicle with which to convey an important chapter in the history of the Olympics. Furthermore, it would be convenient to do so since the cabin is located along a main hiking trail making it accessible and attractive to visitors.

V ARCHITECTURAL DATA

A. Brief Description of Structural and Architectural Design:

The cabin consists of one room constructed of logs approximately 15 feet wide by 18 feet long (exterior dimensions); and a kitchen to the rear the same width and approximately 10'-9" deep constructed with a sapling frame and vertical weatherboarding. The roof of the log section is constructed of split cedar shakes secured to purlins bearing on the gable end walls with the additional support of rafters at mid-section. It appears that sapling tie poles extended across the room probably supporting a ceiling of sorts. (One such pole appears in Illustration No. 7.) The gable roof over the kitchen is similar but lower than that over the log section and extends over the rear porch the width of the cabin. A porch six feet deep with a hipped roof extends the width of the cabin at front. The spring line of the roof in the log section is approximately 7'-6". The floor consists of one-inch plank of random width and length secured to six-inch puncheon sleepers resting on earth. The kitchen has a rough ceiling at height of 6'-8". A larder is built into one corner of the room. The log section has one window 5'-7" wide by 2'-7" high, originally containing bi-parting sliding wood sash. (The "ghost" of this sash is readily discernable on the window sill.) There is an entrance door 2'-8" X 6'-0", and one door 2'-8" X 6'-0" leading to the kitchen. Another door,

3'-0" X 6'-0" opens opposite a door to the barn which is separated from the cabin by approximately 16 inches.

Further research should determine if this doorway dates to the Humes' period.

The openings in the kitchen consist of one door 2'-9" X 6'-0" opening to the porch, one bi-parting sliding window 4'-8" X 2'-9" also opening to the porch, and one hinged window 2'-0" X 2'-7" in the westerly wall. All existing doors are hand made.

A chimney constructed of special concrete blocks 14" X 14" X 8" with a special interlocking joint layed up without mortar has been installed in the thickness of the log wall with flue openings serving the kitchen and the log cabin. Spaced roof purlins near this chimney would indicate that they once supported a metal chimney and were charred by overheating of the chimney collar. Illustration No. 7.

The log walls are assembled with dovetail joints at the corners. A hand made gutter, badly decayed, extends along the eaves of the cabin between the cabin and the barn.

No exterior or interior paint finish is evident.

A barn approximately 28'-6" X 17'-6" adjoins the cabin, but separated from it by 16 inches. This structure is of pole and girt construction with split cedar shake roof and siding and earth floor. Illustration No. 8. Presently, the interior has been adapted with bunks constructed of saplings with plywood decks.

Water shedding off the cabin roof and the barn which has been unable to drain from between the buildings due to accumulation of debris has caused the logs of the cabin to decay badly.

The frame of the barn is in fair condition except for the bottoms of posts. Some of the shake siding has been removed. Both the cabin and barn are good examples of handcrafted construction with local timber by a logical application of engineering principles by a layman in a pioneering situation.

B. Number of Stories:

One.

C. Principal Construction Materials:

Hand produced from local forest.

D. Brief Description of Special Features:

See "a" above.

E. Brief Description of Existing Condition of Basic Structure and of Exterior and Interior Finish:

The lower tiers of logs, floor sleepers, flooring and logs in wall of cabin adjacent to the barn are badly decayed and will require replacement. Windows and doors are missing except for one small sash and two doors which are in bad repair. The structural frame of the barn is in fair condition except for that in contact with the earth. The shake siding has been vandalized, and some is in bad repair.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity:

The cabin, kitchen and porches should be restored to a sound condition with all decayed and missing elements replaced, and building leveled up. The building should be enclosed

with job-built doors per original. Sliding sash without glass should be reinstalled and windows should be covered with 1/2-inch mesh hardware cloth to thwart vandals, or glazed with plexiglass.

The barn should be made structurally sound by repairing structural members. Bottoms of posts should be spliced as necessary to eliminate decay. Shake roof and siding should be repaired. Barn should be left accessible, and bunks could remain to provide emergency shelter in the wet climate until future determination of other possible use.

Like materials for the restoration should be garnered from the local forest.

The fences, shed and other outbuildings of record will not be reconstructed under this program, but should be reserved for future consideration.

VI ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

No archeological survey of the site has been made nor contemplated. However, diligence should be exercised during restoration activity to preserve any artifacts uncovered. Exploration should be made of the small pit just inside the entrance to the cabin in an effort to determine its size and significance. Farm implements and the old gasoline powered saw should be removed from the yard to the shelter of the barn.

VII LANDSCAPE DATA

The cabin and barn occupy the southern extremity of a gently sloping natural mountain terrace comprising approximately one half acre on the easterly side of the narrow Elwha River Valley. This terrace is situated 100 feet or more above the flood plane where crops were planted and domestic animals grazed, and which was reached by a crude roadway (now reduced to a trail) cut into the rather steep embankment. The terrace is served by a spring emanating from the mountainside. A small dam empounding water (now silted in) is situated at an elevation which would provide a flow of water by pipe or wood flume to the cabin. Presently, the water flows in an uncontrolled manner across the former yard. The flow should be placed under control. The principal view is to the west across the narrow Elwha Valley toward rugged terrain. The site is reached by the Elwha River Trail approximately 2 1/2 miles from the mountain road at Whiskey Bend just south and east of Lake Mills.

Old photographs show fences and other outbuildings, the reconstruction of which is not contemplated at this time. Two fruit trees, planted by Humes--an apple and a plum tree--should be preserved.



Illustration No. 1: Grant Humes standing in front of his cabin and barn, Building 699, A. and B. Date unknown. Source, Ruby El Hult, Untamed Olympics.



Illustration No. 2: Humes homestead with Building #700, Wood and Tool Shed (now destroyed), left center. Rubbish in foreground is the fencework. Date unknown. Files of Olympic National Park.



Illustration No. 3: Humes Barn on the pasture beneath the cabin. The crowbars and hammers of the Student Conservation Program soon finished the job of demolition that time and weather began. Date unknown. Files of Olympic National Park.

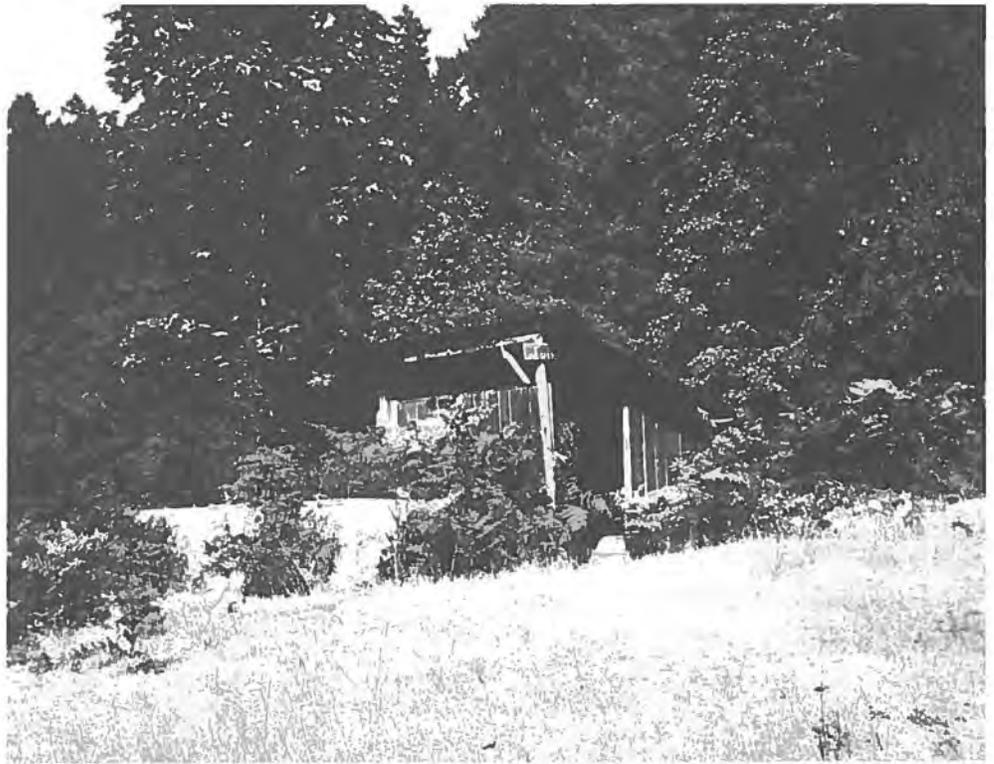


Illustration No. 4: Alleged greenhouse at the Humes homestead. At one time used as a privy. Taken 1967. Files of the Division of History.



Illustration No. 5: Present view of Cabin and Barn.



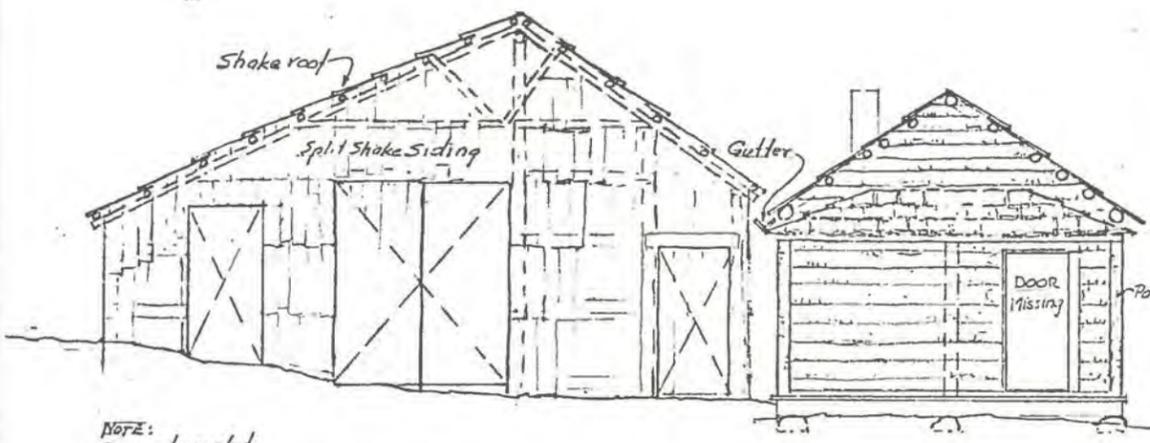
Illustration No. 6: Close-up of west side of Cabin.



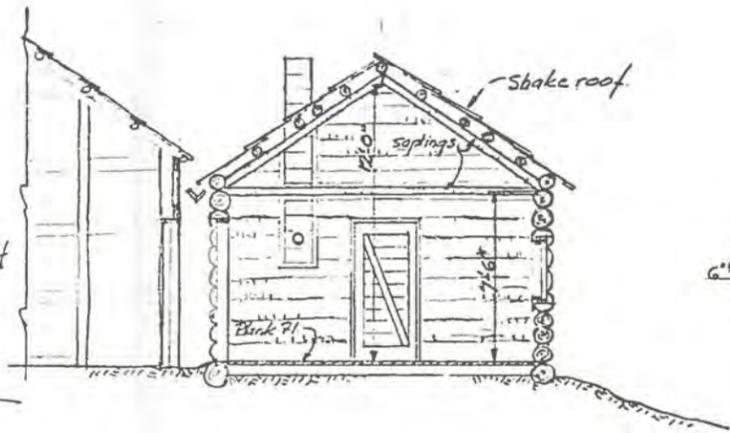
Illustration No. 7: Interior of Cabin. Note charred purlins that appear to have once supported a metal chimney.



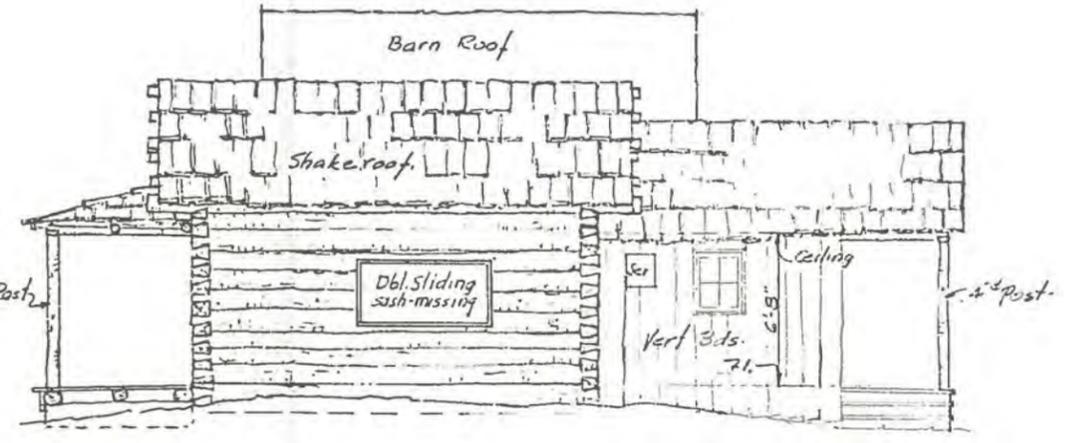
Illustration No. 8: Interior view showing construction of barn roof.



BARN



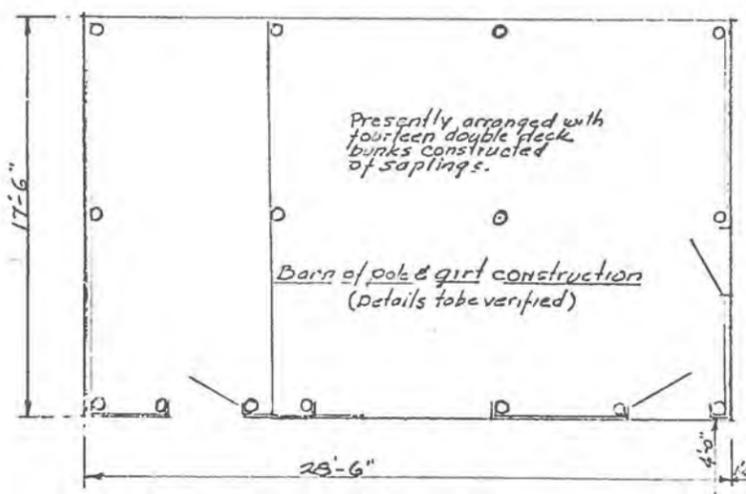
SECTION



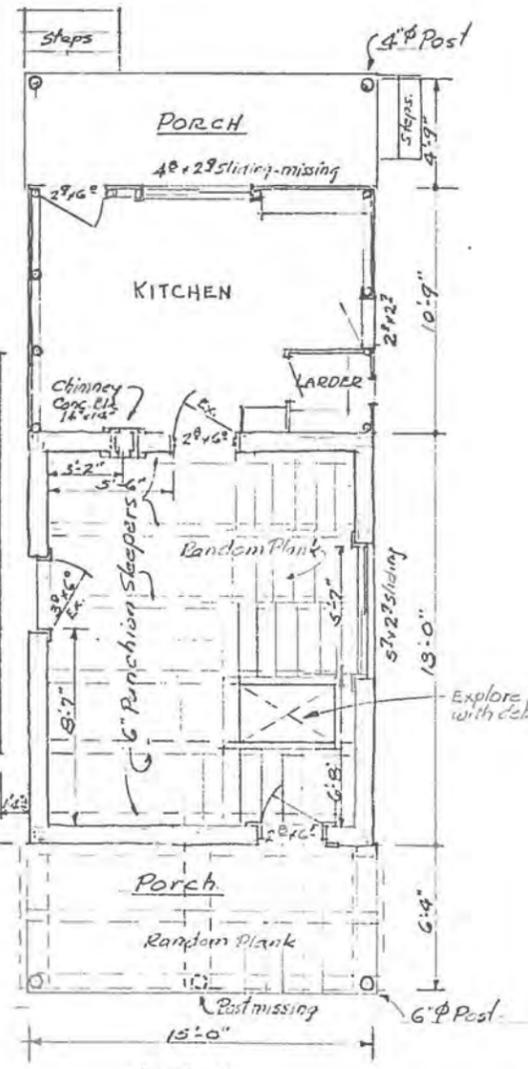
SIDE ELEVATION

NOTE:
Drawn from photo.

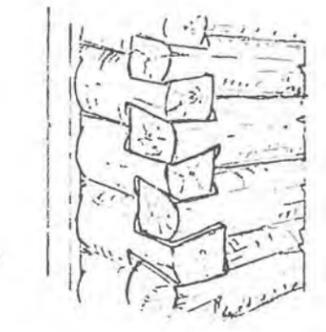
FRONT ELEVATIONS.



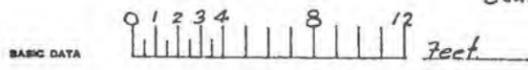
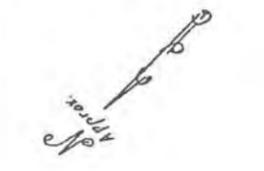
BARN
BLOG. # ?



CABIN
BLOG #699



TYP. CORNER JOINT. N.S.



PLAN
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION



ORIENTATION	
PREPARED	DESIGNED
DRAWN	A. L. K. C. U. E.
CHECKED	
ARCH.	
ELEC.	
MECH.	
STRUCT.	
REVISED	
DATE	INITIALS

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT, PART 1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
BR. OF RESTORATION, SPPOSC
HUMES' RANCH
ELWA RIVER TRAIL
OLYMPIC N.P. CLALLAM CO. WASH.

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PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

1. STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT'S REQUIREMENTS, PROPOSED WORK, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FACETS OF THE PARK PROGRAM. (Provide detail data for "Management Information" on Form 10-411a, Supplemental Sheet and attach.)

The Humes Ranch is listed in the inventory of Historic Structures qualifying it for rehabilitation. The log cabin with split shake roof is run down from neglect and exposure to the elements. Some vandalism has also occurred. The foundation and floor sags due to deterioration of wood in contact with the ground. The building is a fine example of a pioneer cabin built around 1897.

The architectural and historical research and other data of the report to be undertaken by the Division of Historic Studies, WASO.

2. ADVANCE REQUIREMENTS DATA

LAND STATUS Government-owned	MASTER PLAN NO. NP-OLY-2209-D	APPROVAL DATE 5/31/54
PCP NUMBERS OF PREVIOUSLY COMPLETE PORTIONS	INTERRELATED & DEPENDENT PROJECT PCP NUMBERS	

INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS APPROVAL DATA	DATE
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WATER RIGHT NEEDS & STATUS

RESEARCH NEEDS & STATUS
RSP sent to WASO 11/8/66 for review and approval

OTHER

3. RECOMMENDED BY SUPERINTENDENT (Signature & Date) (SSD) DELMER M. ARMSTRONG FEB 24 1967	4. APPROVED BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR (Signature & Date) By: /s/ John W. Henneberger 3/21/67 Acting Regional Programs Officer
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5. LOCATION WITHIN AREA OR TERMINI
Elwha Valley

7. REGION **Western** 8. PARK **Olympic National Park**

9. PROJECT **Restore and Rehabilitate Humes Ranch Cabin**
Clallam (County)
Washington (State)

6. BLDG. OR RT.# AND SEC.
Bldg. No. 699

10. PCP INDEX NO.
M-122-1

CLASS (A) - Estimate based on working Drawings
 CLASS (B) - Estimate based on preliminary plans
 CLASS (C) - Estimate based on similar facilities in other parks **Day Labor**

P. S. & S. by -
 BPR NPS

ESTIMATE

ITEM	QUANTITY	COST
Construction to restore and rehabilitate Humes Cabin, including Conting. & PS & S.		8,000
<u>Historical and Architectural Research</u>		
Professional services of historian and historical architect	\$1,000	
Travel	300	
Photostats, Photographs, supplies, etc.	370	
Report preparation	200	
Total Research costs	<u>\$1,870</u>	
Contingencies	250	
PS&S	380	
<u>\$2,500</u>		
ESTIMATE TOTALS		
RESEARCH.....		<u>\$ 2,500</u>
Construction.....		
Plans, Surveys, and Supervision.....		
Contingencies		
CONSTRUCTION SUB TOTAL		<u>8,000</u>
INTERPRETIVE SUB TOTAL (100%)		
GRAND TOTAL		<u>\$ 10,500</u>

RESEARCH ESTIMATE APPROVED:

(Asst. Director, Resource Studies) (Date)

CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE APPROVED:

(SGD.) ROBERT H. COOMBS JUN 12 1967 (Date)
 (Design Office Chief)

INTERPRETIVE ESTIMATE APPROVED:

(Asst. Regional Director, Operations) (Date)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

PARK Olympic	FACILITY Humes Ranch Cabin	P.C.P. NO. M-122-1
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1. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

2. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

1. Level building. Replace deteriorated foundation posts. Set on stone or concrete block. Apply preservative treatment against insects and rot.
2. Replace windows, doors, shelves and floors as required.
3. Replace roof.
4. Replace fences.
5. Clean up grounds and raze old sheds.

Day labor project.

The building is located 2-1/2 miles by trail from the Whiskey Bend trailhead in the Elwha Valley.