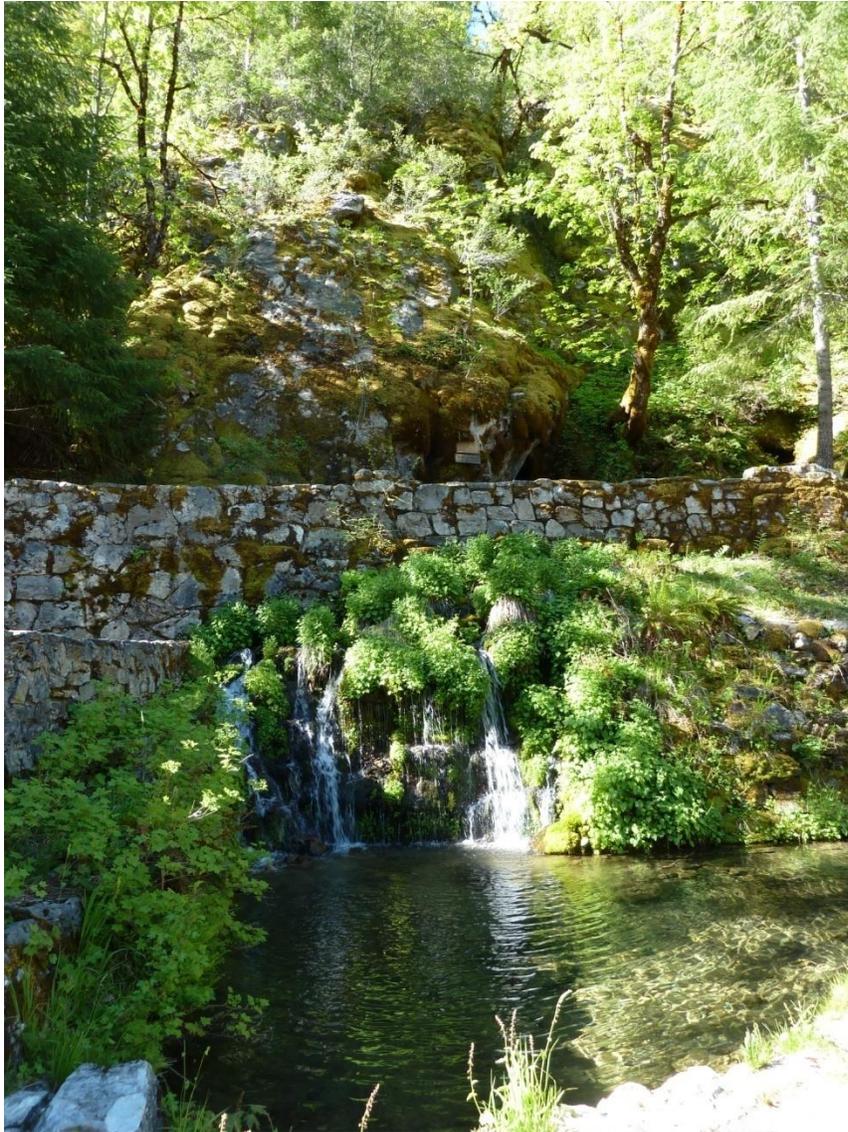

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2014



Oregon Caves Historic District
Oregon Caves National Monument



Oregon Caves Historic District Oregon Caves National Monument

Oregon Caves National Monument 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**

Vicki J. Sniffen

Superintendent, Oregon Caves National Monument

9/29/14

Date

Please return to:

Vida Germano
Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator
National Park Service
Cultural Resources, Pacific West Region
333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104-2828
vida_germano@nps.gov

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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish... a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places... of historic properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)... Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA... No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) *Management Policies 2006.* 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories... about cultural resources in units of the national park system... Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*

2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS;*

3) *Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America’s diverse national identity;*

4) *Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*

5) *Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape'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 and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System.

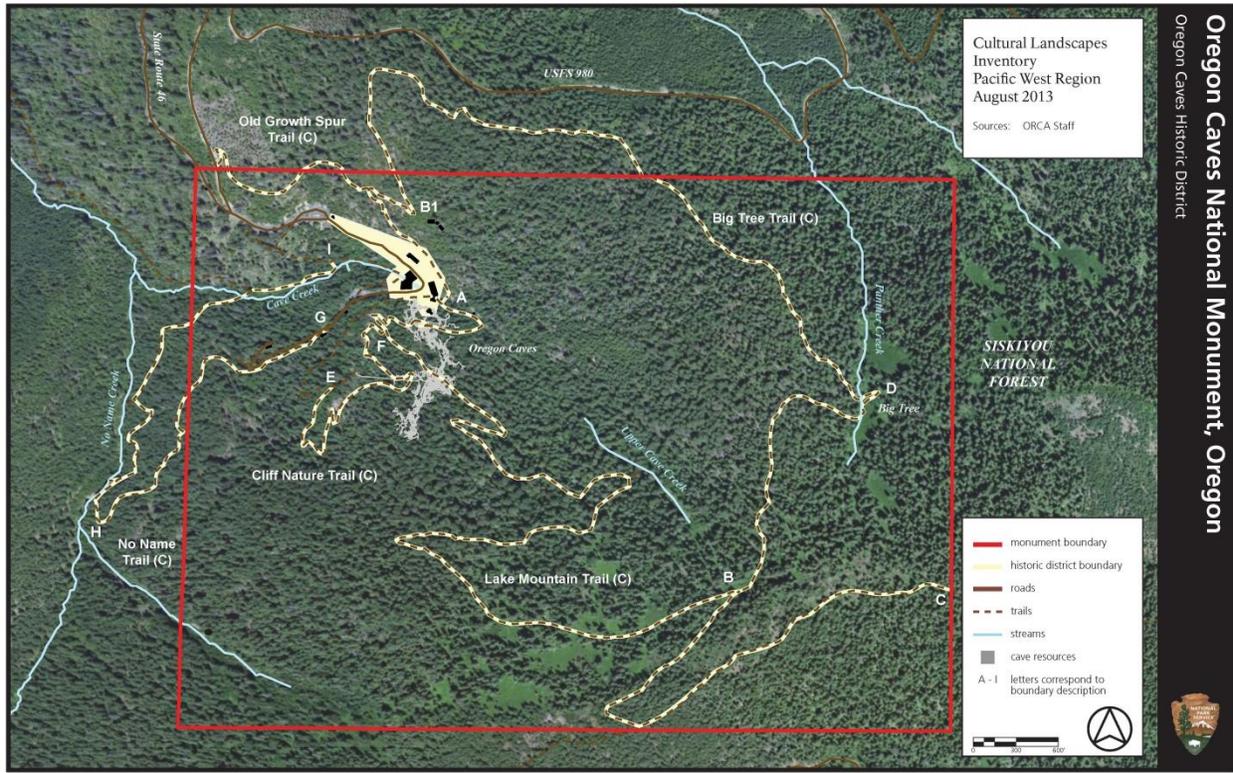
Inventory Unit Description:

The Oregon Caves Historic District is a 14.75-acre district within Oregon Caves National Monument, which is located in southwestern corner of Oregon in the Siskiyou Mountains. The historic district includes a cluster of buildings sited at the upper end of a narrow canyon and a system of trail corridors that extend throughout the entire 480-acre park unit. The historic district was listed in the National Register in 1992 and includes the Chateau, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987. In 2012, the district was expanded with a boundary increase include the historic trail system. The district is nationally significant under Criterion A, for its association with the development of Oregon Caves National Monument, and Criterion C, because it is an excellent example of rustic architecture and landscape architecture, much of which was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The historic district retains integrity to the period of significance, 1922-1942.

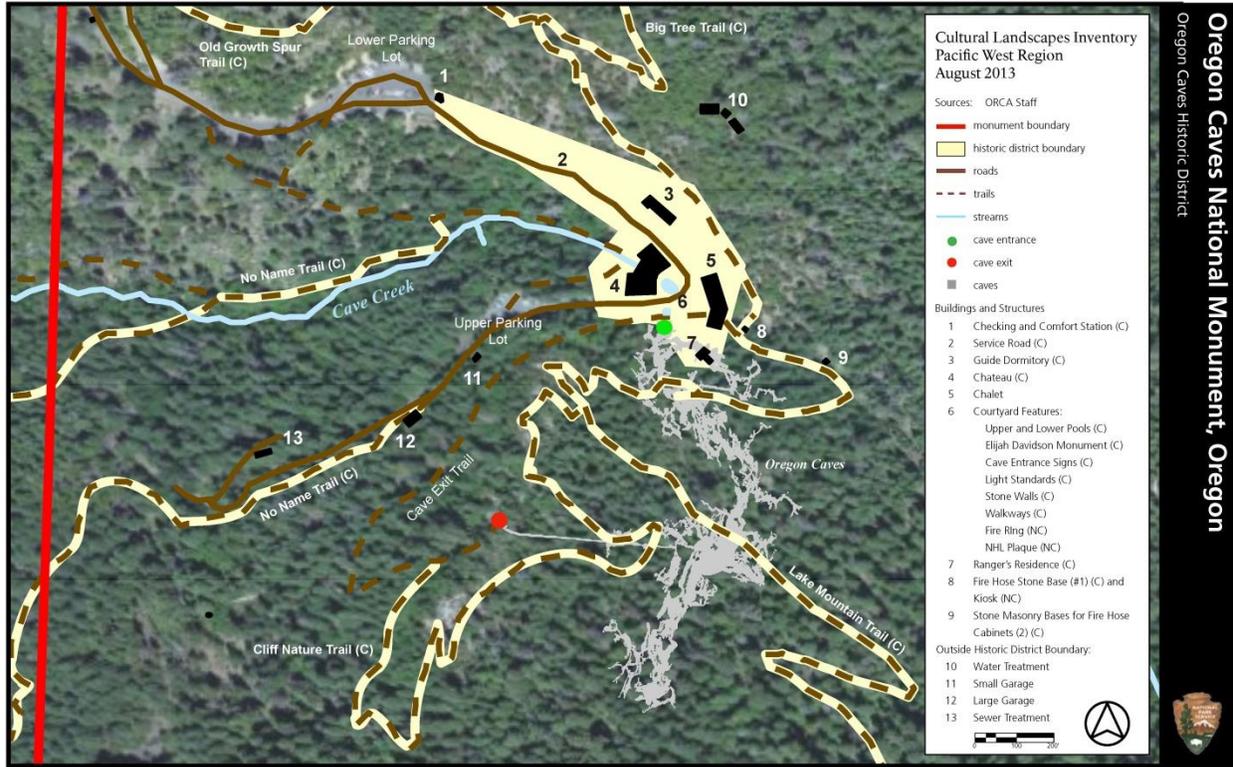
Oregon Caves National Monument is one of the few national monuments that experienced concession development prior to the mid-1930s. The construction of a hotel, rental cottages, employee housing, roads, trails, and other tourist facilities by the concessionaire and the NPS served the growing number of visitors coming to tour the caves. The buildings, rock walls, trails, and native plantings in the central plaza exemplify the tenets of rustic architecture and naturalistic landscape architecture as practiced in national parks and forests before World War II. Most of the rustic features are of high design quality, and the buildings were adapted to the sever topography and natural environment.

The district appears today much as it did during the period of significance and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Features contributing to the cultural landscape include the Chateau, Chalet, Guide Dormitory, Ranger Residence, Upper and Lower Pools, Lake Mountain Trail, Big Tree Trail, No Name Trail, Cliff Nature Trail, which are all listed on the national register, as well as historic rock walls, the service road, the upper and lower pools, historic walkways, and historic benches, lighting, and signs. The historic character of the Oregon Caves Historic District is still evident in the following landscape characteristics: Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Circulation, Buildings and Structures, Small Scale Features, and Vegetation. Based on the evaluation of these characteristics, the cultural landscape at Oregon Caves Historic District was found to exhibit key patterns, relationships, and features that convey the historical significance of the district.

Site Plans



See the Supplemental Information section for a full 11 x 17 inch version of site plan.



See the Supplemental Information section for a full 11 x 17 inch version of site plan.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Oregon Caves National Monument
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	400200
Parent Landscape:	400200

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Oregon Caves National Monument
Alpha Code:	ORCA
Park Organization Code:	9340
Park Administrative Unit:	Oregon Caves National Monument

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Fieldwork for the CLI was completed by Brian Braa and Erica Owens in June 2011. Building from existing documentation (NHL nomination and Cultural Landscape Report), the project team produced the narrative and maps for the CLI. Christy Avery, PWR project historian, updated the statement of significance and history using the same documentation and limited historical research at the following archives: Oregon Caves National Monument Archives, Oregon Caves National Monument, Oregon; and the National Archives and Records Administration-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, Washington (Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service and Record Group 95, Records of the United States Forest Service).

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Concurrence Date:	9/29/2014
National Register Concurrence:	Yes
Date of Concurrence Determination:	1/20/2012

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The historic district boundary includes the main core developed area and the trail system, as delineated in the 1992 National Register Nomination and the 2012 amendment to the nomination.

The boundary for the main core of the historic district is the same as the boundary described in the 1992 National Register Nomination: Beginning near the southwestern corner of the Checking and Comfort Station, proceed northeast 100 feet, head southeast in a straight line approximately 650 feet to a rock bench along the Big Tree Trail, then south/southeast following along the trail for 300 feet to the northeast corner of the Oregon Caves Chalet, then southwest for 250 feet passing along the east side of the building and uphill to the southeast corner of the Ranger Residence, then northwest to pass along the south side of the building for 60 feet, then north/northwest to head downslope 110 feet to the main cave entrance, then west along a retaining wall for 20 feet to where the Cave Exit Trail descends a flight of steps to the service road surface, then along the south edge of the roadway 100 feet to a point 50 feet west of the Oregon Caves Chateau, continuing in a line north 125 feet, then northeast in a line 150 feet to the service road's western edge, heading northwest 700 feet to the terminus of SR 46 at the junction with the monument's lower parking lot and the point of beginning.

The boundary for the historic trails is the same as the boundary described in the 2012 National Register Nomination amendment. The boundary for the historic trails is a 12-foot wide corridor, extending 6-feet in either direction from the centerline of each trail. The nominated portion of the Lake Mountain Trail extends from the trailhead immediately behind the Chalet at point A, past its junction with the Big Tree Trail at point B, to the intersection of the trail with the monument's eastern boundary line at point C. The boundary for the nominated portion of the Big Tree Trail extends from the trailhead immediately behind the Chalet at point A to the intersection of the trail with the Lake Mountain Trail at point B, but also includes a spur to the northwest called the Old Growth Trail. The boundary for the nominated portion of the Cliff Nature Trail extends from the trailhead at the cave exit at point E to the intersection of the trail with the Lake Mountain Trail at point F. The boundary for the nominated portion of the No Name Creek Trail begins at the end of the service road running west of the Chateau at point G to point I on the north side of Cave Creek.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the CLI is the same as the boundary of the Oregon Caves Historic District as amended in 2012. This boundary contains all historic buildings, structures, and circulation features with integrity. The upper and lower parking lots and the Cave Exit Trail were not included in the district due to loss of integrity. The 12-foot corridors along four trails historic trails were delineated in order to include the clearing needed for cuts, fills, drainage features, benches, and retaining walls associated with each trail. Each of the four trails included in the amendment constitutes only those sections of the trails that retain historic integrity.

State and County:

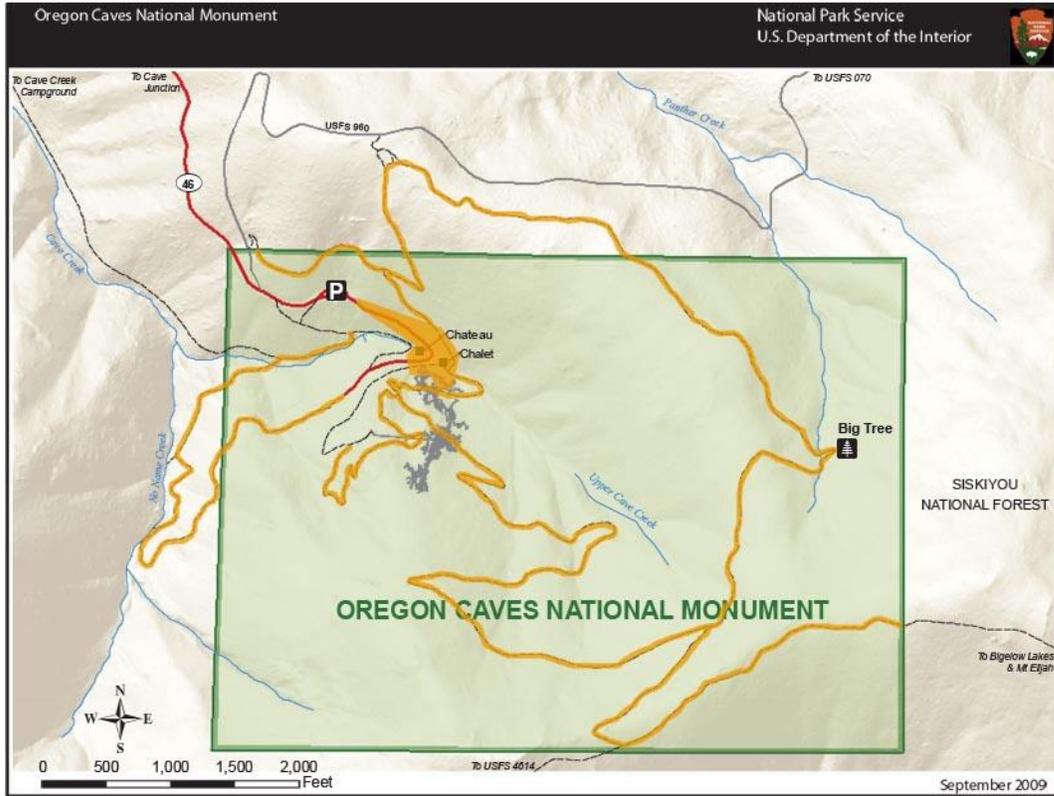
State: Oregon
County: Josephine

Size (Acres): 14.75 acres

Boundary UTMS (Universal Transverse Mercator):

<u>Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466130	4660916
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466129	4660929
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466328	4660855
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466368	4660794
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466347	4660715
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466323	4660716
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466302	4660749
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466255	4660754
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466246	4660792
Other Digital Source	Area	NAD 1983	10N	466270	4660820

Location Map:



The Oregon Caves Historic District (indicated in orange) is predominantly located within the Oregon Caves National Monument; however, segments of two trails extend beyond current monument boundaries into the surrounding Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 1/20/2012

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Oregon Caves Historic District meets all criteria for Management Category A – Must Be Preserved and Maintained because the historic district is nationally significant or serves as the setting for a nationally significant structure. The Oregon Caves Chateau was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Concession Contract/Permit

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The Oregon Caves Chateau is managed by a local nonprofit group, the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization. They use revenues from the operation of the Chateau to write grants and assist with programs that benefit the local community.

There is no formal agreement between the NPS and the USFS to maintain those portions of the trails located outside the park boundary.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Sections of the No Name Trail and the Big Tree Trail are located outside the Oregon Caves National Monument on US Forest Service land, but are maintained by the NPS. These trails, in their entirety, are listed as contributors in the 2012 National Register Nomination amendment. The USFS concurred with the inclusion of trails in the nomination amendment. (See the USFS letter in Supplemental Information.)

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Keeper – Adequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The Oregon Caves Chateau was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987. The Oregon Caves Historic District was listed on the national register in 1992 for its national significance. This nomination adequately describes the historic landscape, including descriptions of circulation features, small scale features, and vegetation. In 2012, the nomination was amended to expand the district boundary to encompass the historic trail system, which is significant at the state level.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Eligibility:	Eligible
Eligibility Concurrence Date:	January 12, 2012
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance-Contributing/Individual:	Individual
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history C – Embodied distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Period of Significance:	1922-1942
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Rustic Architecture
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930s: Era of Public Works
Area of Significance:	
Area of Significance Category	Entertainment/Recreation Landscape Architecture

Statement of Significance

The Oregon Caves Chateau was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987. The Chalet, Ranger Residence, Guide Dormitory, and the Checking Station were listed in 1992 on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the nationally-significant Oregon Caves Historic District. In 2012, the historic district boundary was amended to include four historic trails, significant at the state level.

Oregon Caves Historic District is significant under Criterion A, for its association with the development of Oregon Caves National Monument, and Criterion C, for its excellent examples of rustic architecture and landscape architecture, much of which was constructed or installed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The amendment also refined the period of significance to begin in 1922, when development began in the area with the construction of the first road to the caves, and end in 1942, when construction of the Chalet was finalized and the landscape improvements came to an end with termination of the CCC program.

Criterion A

The historic district is significant under Criterion A at the national level of significance for its association with the development of Oregon Caves National Monument. Oregon Caves National Monument is one of the few national monuments to have experienced any concession development prior to the mid-1930s. The construction of rental cottages, employee housing, roads, trails, a hotel and other tourist facilities enabled the monument to serve the needs of the growing numbers of visitors that sought to tour the caves. After the NPS assumed management of the monument in 1934, the agency supervised CCC efforts to develop the monument for public enjoyment. The trails are significant in the area of recreation and landscape architecture as they represent NPS efforts to provide access to remote areas of the monument for recreational day use and care was taken to blend them with their natural surroundings and at the same time to be cohesive with the rustic architectural design of buildings.

Criterion C

The historic district is also significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of rustic architecture and landscape architecture. The buildings, structures, and trails exemplify the tenets of rustic architecture as practiced in national parks and forests before World War II. Most of the rustic features are of high design quality, and the buildings were adapted to the topography and natural environment. The existing buildings were constructed over a fifteen year period from 1927 to 194 (although some non-extant structures were built in 1923 and 1926), and were built by both the concessioner and the CCC, but they form a cohesive collection of buildings and structures, and exhibit design cohesiveness in materials, scale and workmanship. The buildings and structures are particularly noteworthy for their use of native materials to help the buildings blend in to the natural environment, to define circulation, and to emphasize naturalistic design.

Buildings, structures, and trails built by the CCC reflect the principles and practice of park landscape design developed and used by the NPS between 1933 and 1942. These practices include transplanting native trees, shrubs and other vegetation to erase the scars of construction, the use of naturalistic techniques in planting and rockwork to harmonize manmade development with the natural environment, the use of native materials for construction and planting, the avoidance of right angles and straight lines in the design of roads, trails and structures, and the protection of natural scenery and features.

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: Yes

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function

Primary Historic Function-Major Category: Domestic (Residential)

Primary Historic Function-Category: Hotel (Boarding House)

Primary Historic Function: Lodge (Inn, Cabin)

Primary Current Function-Major Category: Domestic (Residential)

Primary Current Function-Category: Hotel (Boarding House)

Primary Current Historic Function: Lodge (Inn, Cabin)

Other Current and Historic Uses/Functions

Major Category: Domestic (Residential)
Category: Hotel (Boarding House)
Subcategory: Lodge (Inn, Cabin)
Type: Historic and Current

Major Category: Domestic (Residential)
Category: Multiple Dwelling
Subcategory: Dormitory (Bunkhouse)
Type: Historic and Current

Major Category: Transportation
Category: Pedestrian Related
Subcategory: Underground Trail (Cave)
Type: Historic and Current

Major Category: Transportation
Category: Pedestrian Related
Subcategory: Hiking Trail
Type: Historic and Current

Major Category:	Government
Category:	Government Office
Subcategory:	Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)
Type:	Current

Current and Historic Names

Current and Historic Name	Type of Name
Oregon Caves National Monument	Both Current and Historic
Oregon Caves Historic District	Current

Ethnographic Study Conducted: Yes

**Ethnographic Study
Explanatory Narrative:**

Douglas Deur, *Homelands on the Siskiyou Divide: An Ethnohistory of American Indian Communities Traditional Ties to Oregon Caves National Monument and Vicinity* (USDI-NPS, Pacific West Region Social Science Series, 2008).

Chronology

	Year	Event	Annotation
AD	1874	Explored	Local resident Elijah Davidson explored the cave and publicized his discovery.
AD	1903	Established	President Theodore Roosevelt withdrew the Southern Oregon Forest Reserve (later Siskiyou National Forest); the cave falls within the boundaries of the new reserve.
AD	1906	Established	Roosevelt proclaimed the Siskiyou National Forest.
AD	1908-1939	Built	The Forest Service constructed a number of rudimentary trails during this decade, including a trail up Lake Mountain, and a trail to the Big Tree.
AD	1921	Built	The USFS rebuilt trails inside the cave (and left a lot of rubble behind in anticipation of the arrival of a road at ORCA in 1922).
AD	1922	Built	The first road to Oregon Caves National Monument was completed.
AD	1922-1923	Planned	Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor E.H. MacDaniels drafted the first management plan for the monument; the plan is amended in 1923.
AD	1923	Established	The Forest Service granted the first official concession contract to Oregon Caves Company.
AD	1923	Planned	Circa 1923, Professor of landscape architecture Arthur Peck recommended building sites and an architectural style for the Oregon Caves Company development.
AD	1923	Built	Oregon Caves Company built the original Chalet.
AD	1924	Built	Oregon Caves Company built the Kiddie Kave behind the Chalet.
AD	1926	Built	Oregon Caves Company built seven duplex cottages, designed by local architect Gust Lium

	Year	Event	Annotation
AD	1927	Built	Oregon Caves Company built the guide dormitory; the building was designed by Gust Lium.
AD	1929	Built	The Oregon Caves Company diverted Cave Creek into an eight foot waterfall that fed a concrete pool, below the cave entrance.
AD	1929	Built	Circa 1929, the Forest Service built a diesel plant, which brought electricity to the site.
AD	1931	Built	New cave exit was built, which reduced the amount of backtracking on the cave tour.
AD	1931	Expanded	Circa 1931, the path outside the cave entrance was widened to facilitate circulation.
AD	1931- 1934	Built	The Oregon Caves Company built the Oregon Caves Chateau.
AD	1934	Land Transfer	The National Park Service assumes management of Oregon Caves National Monument.
AD	1934- 1935	Established	The Civilian Conservation Corps established Camp Oregon Caves eight miles from the monument boundary.
AD	1934- 1935	Altered	The CCC rerouted and widened a trail to the Big Tree in order to facilitate equestrian use and materials transport; they also built six dry laid stone benches along the trail.
AD	1935	Reconstructed	The CCC reconstructed the pool below the cave entrance.
AD	1935	Built	The CCC built a plaza with a pool, fir pavers and rock retaining walls, outside of the Chateau.
AD	1935	Reconstructed	The CCC reconstructed the campfire pit and associated walls, benches and railings.
AD	1935- 1936	Altered	The CCC altered the cave trail by increasing headroom, building steps and walls, and installing guardrails. The landing outside the cave exit was

	Year	Event	Annotation
			widened as well.
AD	1936	Built	The CCC built a single car garage.
AD	1936	Built	The NPS built the ranger residence.
AD	1936	Built	The CCC built a 0.65 mile connector between the Big Tree Trail and the Lake Mountain trail, thus creating a 3.3 mile loop trail.
AD	1936- 1937	Reconstructed	The CCC widened, installed drains, and realigned portions of the Lake Mountain Trail.
AD	1937	Built	The CCC built the mile-long Cliff Nature Trail.
AD	1937	Built	The CCC built the No Name Trail, which connected the Chateau service road to No Name Creek.
AD	1937	Built	The CCC built an 80 foot connecting tunnel inside the cave that allowed tours to travel a one-way path inside the cave that is still part of the guided walk today. It is sometimes referred to as the "Passageway of the Whale."
AD	1937	Expanded	The lower (main) parking lot was expanded. A center island was built, and the lot was lined with stone curbs.
AD	1937	Built	Workers strung a power line from the town of Holland to the monument; CCC crews installed recessed lights near the cabins and along the Cave Exit Trail, and built rustic light standards along the road.
AD	1939	Expanded	The Chateau parking lot was expanded.
AD	1939- 1940	Built	CCC workers built two rock-faced concrete vaults for fire hose storage.
AD	1940	Altered	An addition was added to the Guide Dormitory.
AD	1940	Removed	The service station, which had been damaged in a landslide, was removed.

	Year	Event	Annotation
AD	1940	Reconstructed	CCC crews rebuilt the walkway between the cave entrance and the Chalet. They constructed a 100' long stone wall to reinforce the walkway against the hillside.
AD	1941	Built	CCC crews built a checking station with restrooms in the main parking lot, in the same location as the removed service station.
AD	1941	Built	The second part of the No Name Trail was constructed to allow horses to use it, as was part of the Big Tree Trail and the Lake Mountain Trail.
AD	1942- 1949	Damaged	Landslides damage the lower parking lot in 1942, 1948 and 1949. The lot was repaired each time.
AD	1957- 1958	Paved	The cave exit trail was paved and one section was realigned; guardrails and new lighting were also installed.
AD	1958	Altered	The wooden balconies were removed from the Chateau due to cumulative snow loads.
AD	1959	Altered	Gates were installed in the cave to prevent unauthorized access.
AD	1960	Paved	Roadway and parking areas were paved.
AD	1960	Altered	The ranger residence was converted to office space after new ranger housing was built outside the monument.
AD	1962	Altered	The peeled log fire escapes on the Chateau were replaced with steel fire escapes.
AD	1964	Damaged	In December, a 100-year flood damaged the picnic area and service road between the parking lot and Chalet, the Chateau, and the No Name Trail.
AD	1964	Altered	The No Name Trail was realigned after the flood.

	Year	Event	Annotation
AD	1960- 1969	Altered	Sometime in the 1960s, the stone facing on the Checking Station was extended around the comfort station portion of the building.
AD	1971	Altered	New Cave Exit Trail pipe railing was installed.
AD	1972- 1973	Reconstructed	Big Tree Trail was reconstructed.
AD	1972	Altered	A second addition was added to the Guide Dormitory.
AD	1974- 1975	Altered	The stairway and lighting in the cave trail were replaced.
AD	1979	Altered	A wheelchair ramp and a new roof were added to the checking station; the restroom interiors were remodeled as well.
AD	1988	Removed	The seven concession cottages were removed.
AD	1990	Altered	The Chateau courtyard pool was dredged and lined with native rock.
AD	1996-1997	Reconstructed	During the last few days of 1996 and continuing through New Year's Day of 1997, a flood reactivated the slide that the lower (main) parking lot was constructed on. A large portion of the parking lot moved downhill requiring reconstruction of a large portion of the parking lot and removal of a 1960s office building. The parking lot was re-leveled, the pavement was completely replaced, the surrounding slopes were revegetated, and drainage pipes were installed due to continued slide activity.
AD	1994	Rehabilitated	The new cave tour route and lighting was completed.
AD	2003	Removed	All of the metal guardrails in the historic district were removed and replaced with log rails.

Physical History

Early Development, 1874-1922

Oregon Caves National Monument lies high in southern Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains. Americans began traveling to the remote area in the 1850s, in order to take advantage of the mineral resources of the region, and farmers soon followed. However, the rugged topography hampered attempts to build transportation routes, and the relatively poor soils and mountainous topography discouraged large scale agriculture. As a result, few permanent settlements were established, and the Illinois River Valley remained a lightly settled area. In 1874, the marble and limestone cave system was first discovered by a local resident, Elijah Davidson, and entrepreneurs tried to profit from the natural feature as early as 1885. Its remote location hindered attempts to transform the cave into a tourist attraction, but increasing numbers of local tourists journeyed to the cave in the early twentieth century. The cave was only accessible by two horse trails at this time, both built by entrepreneur Walter Burch. One trail came from Williams, Oregon and the other from the where Grayback Creek and Sucker Creek converge.

President Theodore Roosevelt created the Southern Oregon Forest Reserve (later Siskiyou National Forest) in 1903. The Forest Service now managed the cave and the surrounding area, but forest reserve designation was not enough to prevent mining claims and vandalism, and the agency sought additional tools to help protect the cave system. In 1909, at the suggestion of the Forest Service, President Taft set aside 480 acres surrounding the cave as a national monument. The Antiquities Act mandated that monuments include the smallest area of land compatible with the proper care and management of the feature to be protected.

The caves first received a publicity boost in 1909 when poet Joaquin Miller deemed them "the marble halls of Oregon" in *Sunset Magazine*. After the president designated the site as a national monument, newspaper and magazine articles touted the caves as rivaling Mammoth Caves in Kentucky in beauty and size. As a result, tourists began trickling to the site.¹ A number of individuals applied to the Forest Service to lead cave tours, install lighting, and build tent cabins, but the agency was uncertain if it had the authority to negotiate contracts with private parties for activities on public land. As a result, these proposals were denied.²

In 1915, Congress passed legislation allowing the USFS began to lease land for private developments in national forests. With limited means to develop lands under its jurisdiction, leasing land to concessioners represented the most practical way for the Forest Service to develop sites. Despite the new legislation, few improvements followed. The Forest Service was wary of developing the small site, and the agency sought to have a development plan in place before issuing any concession contracts. A small, rustic campground was established in 1917, and by 1919, toilets and piped water had been installed near the cave entrance.³ The USFS

¹ "A Peep at a Few of our Wonderful National Monuments," *Waterloo Evening Reporter*, September 5, 1911, Oregon Caves National Monument (ORCA) Files; "Oregon Caves to Be Opened to Tourists," *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 18, 1921, ORCA Files.

² Alex McMurray, *Historic Structure Report for Oregon Caves Chateau*, University of Oregon, June 1999, 6.

³ Oregon Caves National Monument Timeline, ORCA Files, 3.

appointed a forest guard, and he built several new passages within the cave, as well as retaining walls near the cave entrance.

The Oregon Caves Company and the Forest Service, 1922-1933

The monument remained lightly visited until 1922, when the Bureau of Public Roads completed the first road to the monument. The dirt road extended almost twelve miles from the hamlet of Robinson's Corner to a fifty car parking lot near the cave entrance.⁴ A daily auto stage service between Grants Pass and the cave entrance area began. That year, over 10,000 people visited the cave (compared to only 1,900 the previous year), and the road and the associated increase in visitation spurred private development at the site.⁵ Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor E.H. MacDaniels drafted the first development plan for the monument shortly after the road was completed. MacDaniels envisioned a number of small, rustic cottages, much like those proposed for a resort to be developed on national forest land at Union Creek, near Crater Lake National Park. The next year, Assistant District Forester C.J. Buck amended the plan to reflect the Forest Service's desire to find a concessioner to operate a cave tour, meals, and lodging. These plans, and the subsequent concession development, made Oregon Caves one of the few national monuments developed under U.S. Forest Service management.

With a development plan now in place, the Forest Service granted a permit to a group of Grants Pass businessmen to create Oregon Caves Resorts in 1923. The chief forester noted that the group was composed of "responsible business men...all sound, public spirited citizens." However, the Forest Service stipulated certain conditions. The agency required the company to submit building plans for approval before they were constructed.⁶ According to the contract, the OCC had to provide guides, cave lighting, and coveralls for tourgoers. The Forest Service also stipulated the immediate construction of guide quarters; the building was also to include an office, public restroom and ladies' dressing room. Due to the limited building space available near the cave entrance, the Forest Service planned to split development at Oregon Caves between the cave entrance area and a site near the confluence of Grayback and Sucker creeks, about eight miles away along the Caves Highway.

The Forest Service stipulated that the concessioner construct all buildings and structures using rustic architectural principles. This design was an attempt to build functional buildings and structures that harmonized with their environment and it became the dominant type of architecture in national forests and parks during the 1920s and 1930s. Concessioners built rustic buildings, particularly hotels, in national parks at this time, though this practice was uncommon in national monuments and forests. Through rustic architecture, the architect's primary goal was to subordinate rustic buildings and structures to their surroundings. Buildings and structures were meant to provide access to nature, and to enhance visitors' experiences in the natural world. Architects sought to preserve the natural character of a site by fitting manmade improvements in with the natural setting and topography, and they accomplished this through a number of techniques. Buildings were screened with native vegetation and built with native materials so

⁴ Stephen R. Mark, *Domain of the Caveman: A Historic Resource Study for Oregon Caves National Monument* (Pacific West Regional Office: National Park Service, 1999), 64.

⁵ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 29.

⁶ McMurray, 9.

that they blended into the natural environment. Warm browns, driftwood grays and stone colors were favored for exteriors, and irregular, gabled roofs were common.⁷ Rustic architecture was characterized by use of native materials, such as logs, wood, and stone, and the materials appeared rustic and unfinished. Carpenters left knots and whorls on the logs, in order to retain a natural look. They used hewn boards and avoided straight lines.⁸

In the Siskiyou National Forest during this time, the Forest Service built a number of ranger stations and guard cabins using rustic architectural design principles. The buildings were characterized by wood framing, mid to high pitched gable or hip roofs covered with cedar shingles or rough pine shakes, horizontal wood siding (though sometimes with vertically laid siding on the gable ends) and multiple-light windows with wide wood trim. The buildings often resembled cottages.⁹ The concession buildings at Oregon Caves would, however, prove unique when compared to more standardized rustic buildings in western national forests.

Oregon Caves Company retained Arthur Peck, a professor of landscape architecture at Oregon Agricultural College who had worked on other Forest Service projects, to advise the company on their development plans. Peck had come to the college (which later became Oregon State University) to join the Horticulture Department in 1908; in 1911, the department became the first west of the Mississippi River to offer a four year degree in landscape architecture. By 1932, he became head of the new Department of Landscape Architecture, a post that he held until retirement in 1948. Peck designed many on Corvallis parks and much of the university campus.¹⁰

Peck recommended the company build on a flat area about one hundred feet east of the cave entrance. He advised the company to first construct a large building containing a dining room and office on the site, with a porch or landing that afforded good views and provided an entrance to the cave path. He also envisioned erecting one or more small buildings laid out as if on an irregular street, behind the Chalet. Peck recommended the company create a uniform “alpine” or “Swiss” style for the buildings, since he believed it was suitable for a forested, mountain setting with a snowy winter climate.¹¹ He recommended that the company use Port Orford-cedar bark sheathing on building exteriors, because it quickly weathered to an attractive silver grey color.¹² Port Orford cedar is found only in southwestern Oregon and northwestern California, and so the buildings were clad in a material found few other places within the national forest or park system. To break the general lines of the buildings, Peck recommended that a simple decorative scheme, like brackets in the gables and shakes, could be used to add interest to the roofs. He also suggested transplanting native flora around the buildings and structures; in particular, he recommended planting ferns around the rock walls built on the monument’s new trails

⁷ Albert Good, *Park and Recreation Structures*, (Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990), 2-8; Linda McClelland, *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1998), 394-5.

⁸ Good, 5-7.

⁹ Kay Atwood, *Utility and Service Combined with Beauty: An Architectural History of the Forest Service Region 6, 1905-1960*, (Bend, Or: Ward Tonsfeldt Consulting, 2005), 52-53.

¹⁰ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 79.

¹¹ Stephen R. Mark, *Historic American Buildings Survey for Oregon Caves Chateau*, 1985, HABS/HAER/HALS Collection at the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, 9.

¹² The idea of using Port Orford cedar bark did not originate from Peck, but is attributed to a workman when the old Chalet was being built in 1923. Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 79.

The first structure built by Oregon Caves Company was a multi-purpose building called the Chalet. Located on the level area just east of the cave entrance, it included guide housing, a lunch room, guest lodging, and an office. Completed in 1923, the one-and-a-half story building resembled an alpine chalet. Port Orford cedar bark sheathing was laid vertically on the Chalet's exterior to shed water, and served as the crucial precedent for other structures built at the monument.¹³ Peck's simple architectural scheme of brackets in the gables and shakes added interest to the roofs. An open archway contained a porch that served as a gathering place for tour goers, and it also served as a portal to the nascent trail system, including the path to the cave entrance. The Forest Service was happy with the design, and they described the building as "good looking and serviceable."¹⁴

Landscaping efforts began in 1924. The Oregon Caves Company collected trees, shrubs and plants from the Oregon Caves Highway area outside of the monument, and transplanted the flora around the Chalet and other buildings. Transplanting native species for these purposes was a common practice among landscape architects who worked on these types of resort landscapes. At Oregon Caves, the OCC and the Forest Service used these plants to screen or frame buildings and walls, and to fill in disturbed areas. Since workers gathered vegetation from a lower elevation eight miles away, the site counted a greater number of herbs, shrubs and trees than would otherwise have grown in a typical Douglas fir and oak community.¹⁵ Workers transplanted trees such as Douglas fir, Port Orford cedar, big leaf maple, golden chinquapin and Pacific dogwood were the most common, and shrubs such as oceanspray and gooseberry. Several species of ferns served as groundcover.

In the open space created between the Chateau, Chalet, and cave entrance, the company developed a plaza with level terraces, benches, and a water feature to serve as a naturalistic setting for the resort. In the 1920s, several dry laid retaining walls were constructed around the building to create level terraces. On the terrace, they built benches and a fireplace as a place for visitors to gather. In 1929, the concessioner diverted Cave Creek via a waterfall into a rectangular concrete pool located below the main cave entrance. (This area would later be reconstructed by the CCC under NPS direction in the 1930s to its present form.)

Oregon Caves Resort constructed nine additional buildings between 1924 and 1927. In 1924, the company constructed a building called the "Kiddie Cave" behind the Chalet. The small structure served as a children's day care while parents toured the cave. The completion of the unpaved Redwood Highway connecting Grants Pass, Oregon, to Crescent City, California in 1926 boosted visitation to the monument, and the Forest Service encouraged the concessioner to build seven guest cottages for auto tourists. The Company enlisted Grants Pass architect Gust Lium, who had designed a number of homes and commercial buildings throughout Josephine County. He later designed a number of Forest Service structures in Siskiyou and Six Rivers National

¹³ The USFS currently administers three other structures with Port Orford cedar bark sheathing, at least two of them designed by Gust Lium. These include the guard stations at Grayback and Store Gulch (both on the Wild Rivers District of the Rogue River – Siskiyou National Forest) and a residence with an office at Ferris Ford, in the Port Orford Cedar Experimental Forest on the Powers District of the Rogue River – Siskiyou National Forest.

¹⁴ Forest Supervisor to District Forester, December 22, 1923, ORCA Files.

¹⁵ This mixed conifer zone located at approximately 4,000 feet elevation is perfectly situated to boast great natural diversity, given its slope, aspect, and soil types (all six of the main types of rock can be seen when walking from the lower parking lot to the cave entrance plaza).

Forests. Lium was also the brother-in-law of Sam Baker, one of the founders of Oregon Caves Company.

The cottages, constructed in 1926, were duplexes, with bathrooms but without kitchens; they were built for the visitor that wanted a rustic experience with some conveniences. Lium carefully chose the location of each cabin, since every structure was meant to look as if it belonged in the landscape, and the development was meant to evoke an alpine village.¹⁶ They were nestled together, behind the Chalet on the south side of the ravine, accessed by short, steep paths. Following the style of the Chalet, the cottages were clad with vertically-laid cedar bark sheathing and topped with shake roofs, and they each displayed unique entry or roof details.¹⁷ In 1927, the company built a two-story, rectangular guide dormitory, also designed by Lium, north and upslope of the chalet. Male employees moved into the guide dormitory, while female workers remained in the chalet.

The level of concession development at Oregon Caves was unusual in a national monument. Oregon Caves also represents one of the few national monuments developed under U.S. Forest Service management. By the late 1920s, the resort could accommodate fifty-six guests in tent cabins and cottages, and twenty concession employees in the Chalet and Guide Dormitory. The Forest Service did not maintain a permanent presence at the site, so the cluster of concession buildings gave Oregon Caves appeared more as a private resort than a USFS managed facility. Due to the costs of development at the cave site, the company was not able to fulfill its obligation to create a larger resort development at the Grayback Creek area. The Oregon Caves Company and the Forest Service resigned themselves to the fact that all future development would have to fit into the cave entrance area.¹⁸ Visitation doubled between 1922 and 1927 due to better roads and a huge increase in auto ownership, and Grants Pass boosters convinced the Bureau of Public Roads to widen the Oregon Caves Highway in 1927.¹⁹ The concessioner and local businesses promoted the monument as a logical detour on the way to California, and they advertised the cave area as the “portal to the redwoods.”

While the concessioner built accommodations and other tourist amenities, the Forest Service constructed trails and installed utilities during the 1920s. The Forest Service wanted to make improvements to the cave tour route and the agency convinced Congress that the monument could become self-supporting with investments to infrastructure, since these would draw additional tourists and thus bring in additional revenue. In 1929 Congress appropriated funds to install electric lights, construct a system of pipes to wash mud from the cave interior, and to develop a new cave exit (previously, visitors had to return via the same route by which they came). A new diesel plant, a terracotta tile and concrete building located along Cave Creek in the ravine below the cave entrance, powered the lights. The funds also allowed the Forest Service to construct a new cave exit.²⁰ Prior to this, tourists retraced their steps and exited via the upper

¹⁶ Gretchen Luxenberg, *Historic American Buildings Survey for Concession Cottages*, HABS/HAER/HALS Collection at the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division. 2-4.

¹⁷ National Park Service, *National Register Nomination for Oregon Caves Historic District*, 1992, Pacific West Regional Office-Seattle, 5.

¹⁸ McMurray, 13.

¹⁹ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 66.

²⁰ U.S. Forest Service, *Proposed Improvements, Oregon Caves National Monument*, March 28, 1930, ORCA Files; R.Y. Stuart to Hon. Charles McNary, November 26, 1930, ORCA Files.

cave entrance. On busy days, this meant that tour groups going in opposite directions had to pass each other. Workers completed the exit tunnel in 1931. The path to the cave entrance was widened to facilitate pedestrian circulation as well.²¹

The Forest Service built other trails during the 1920s and early 1930s as well. These included a trail that connected the cave exit with the hotel parking lot, a path that led from a diesel plant to the main parking lot, a trail that led from the Chalet to Lake Mountain, located beyond the monument boundary, and another trail, beginning behind the Chalet, that led to a large Douglas fir (Big Tree) near the monument's eastern boundary. There was also a trail along Cave Creek that predated the road, and had provided access to the monument for some of the earliest tourists.²²

The resort's manager, George Sabin, expected visitation to increase due to the cave improvements, and he redoubled efforts to build a hotel in 1929. The Oregon Caves Company had sought permission to build a hotel with fifty rooms, a large lobby and a dining room beginning in 1927, as visitation increased and pressure on the tent cabins and cottages grew. At this time, the company earned a profit, enjoyed the admiration and cooperation of the Forest Service, and had every reason to hope that their business would continue to improve.²³ However, company stockholders insisted on negotiating a longer special use permit with the Forest Service, in order to provide a measure of assurance for such a large investment. Company officials did not know where to site the hotel until Gust Lium suggested the tight confines of the Cave Creek ravine. The site had not been leased to the concession, and they enlisted Arthur Peck's help to convince the Forest Service to approve their plan. Peck believed that the structure would improve the aesthetics of the site, since a hotel would allow the concession to remove the tent cabins. After two years of negotiations, the Forest Service agreed to the construction of a hotel.

Work on the six-story, ten-sided hotel, called the Oregon Caves Chateau, began in 1931. Most concessioners who had built hotels in national parks employed noted architects from major American cities, but the Oregon Caves Company again hired local architect Gust Lium to design the building. Lium was challenged by the steep topography, and designed the hotel to span the ravine below the cave entrance, through which the cave stream disgorged, and to hug the embankments. While the building contained six stories, only three were visible from the driveway, so the hotel appeared to grow out of the ravine. Landscaping and the use of native stone further masked the building. The structure contained a steep gable roof and both shed and gable roof dormers. One of the most noteworthy features was the basement conduit that diverted part of Cave Creek through the hotel's dining room. The creek, along with the enormous picture windows, made visitors feel as if there were little separation between the building and the outdoors.

Lium made extensive use of local materials, largely harvested from the Grayback Creek watershed, to construct the Chateau. Local Pacific madrone, Oregon white oak, Port Orford cedar, Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir were used throughout the hotel's interior, from the

²¹ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 83.

²² Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 102.

²³ R.Y. Stuart to Senator Charles McNary, November 26, 1930, ORCA Files.

staircase balusters to the support beams.²⁴ Lium clad the hotel exterior in Port Orford cedar bark, to match the monument's existing buildings. In the lobby, a massive double-sided fireplace had been made of locally quarried marble.

The company's difficulty in obtaining sufficient credit to finance the construction project after the onset of the Great Depression delayed completion of the hotel until 1934. The lack of money, however, did not lead them to change their plans. Manager George Sabin reported that, "even under these difficulties, we have steadfastly held to a determination not to cheapen the finished product."²⁵ When completed, the Chateau became the showpiece of the monument, and the hub of activity for both day and overnight guests. It contained utility rooms, storage and an employee dining room on the first two floors; the much larger third floor included the dining room, ballroom, coffee shop and kitchen. The fourth floor, on the same level as the roadway, contained the main guest entrance and lobby, while guest rooms occupied the top two floors. The building garnered the attention of the regional press, and it was praised for its rustic appearance, comfort, and harmony with its surroundings.²⁶ NPS seasonal ranger B.R. Finch admired the unique design of the structure, and he noted that the building conveyed "a perfect feeling of homelike comfort, but still of quiet dignity."²⁷

Few other improvements took place at this time. In the early 1930s, the residents of Williams, Oregon placed a marble monument to Elijah Davidson, the discoverer of the caves, near the cave entrance. The resort constructed a rustic, cedar-clad filling station with a garage and a bunkroom for four employees on south edge of the lower parking lot, near where a public comfort station was placed in 1934.

In 1933, responsibility for management of Oregon Caves National Monument shifted from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS mission expanded broadly around this time, and an executive order transferred management of all national monuments from the Forest Service to the NPS. The NPS had campaigned for the management of additional historic and natural sites, and they garnered forty-four historic and prehistoric sites, and twelve natural areas, including Oregon Caves.²⁸ However, the NPS considered monuments less important than national parks, and little effort was made to promote the cave apart from what the concessionaire already did.

With the transfer to the NPS, an NPS seasonal ranger, B.R. Finch, was sent to evaluate Oregon Caves National Monument. He was highly impressed with the existing development and he suggested a hands-off approach to ongoing projects and plans. Finch was so amazed by how "carefully and successfully operated" the caves were, and how much private money had been invested, that he counseled the NPS to not interfere with concession operations. Finch called the development "one of the most unique situations I have ever imagined. Mr. Sabin, manager of Oregon Caves, has developed a beautiful dream." He described manager Sabin as devoted to

²⁴ Mark, *Historic American Buildings Survey for Oregon Caves Chateau*, 12.

²⁵ McMurray, 15.

²⁶ McMurray, 16.

²⁷ B.R. Finch, *Report on Oregon Caves*, 1934, ORCA Files.

²⁸ Richard West Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997, 137.

serving visitors, rather than earning profits. Finch believed the development was exceptionally well planned, with all management decisions aimed at serving the public. Finch believed that this was an unusual attitude for a concessioner to take. Rather than submit any new plans, Finch decided that NPS employees should simply learn as much as possible about the cave and the surrounding environment, and avoid interfering in ongoing construction or planning activities.²⁹

The Civilian Conservation Corps at Oregon Caves National Monument, 1934-1942

Oregon Caves experienced not only a change in management during the 1930s, but some of the most significant physical development in the park's history.³⁰ Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews installed or upgraded utilities, completed landscape projects, constructed buildings and structures, and improved the trail system at this time. President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) program in 1933 as part of the Federal Unemployment Relief Act, and the CCC was established to carry out the work of the ECW. The program was one of Roosevelt's solutions to the economic calamity of the Great Depression, and one that was based on the president's own interest in the conservation of natural resources. The unemployment rate had reached 25 percent in 1933, and the number was even higher for young men. Legislation establishing the ECW passed at the end of March, only three weeks after Roosevelt's inauguration. The program aimed to employ large numbers of young men in conservation work on public lands. The CCC was jointly administered by the Departments of the Army, Interior, Agriculture and Labor. The Labor Department recruited men, the Army established and maintained CCC camps, and the National Park Service and Forest Service coordinated and supervised CCC work on public lands as did a couple of other bureaus. About one-quarter of all CCC work was park and recreation development, while the rest of the program focused on forestry and soil erosion.³¹

By July of 1933, only three months after Congress passed the ECW legislation, almost 250,000 men had enlisted in the Corps. At its peak in August of 1935, about 506,000 men served in 2,900 camps across the nation. Throughout the depression, the CCC employed about 5 percent of the male population of the United States. Each enlistee was paid thirty dollars per month, and he was required to send twenty-five dollars of each paycheck back to his family. Government officials hoped not only to simply employ young men, but to teach job skills, instill a love of the outdoors, and impart a "wholesome outlook on life" through hard labor.³² In national parks, where much of the work was carried out, CCC workers engaged in projects including maintenance and construction of visitor facilities and infrastructure, forest improvement, erosion control, and landscape work. Some of the most iconic national park buildings and structures were constructed by CCC workers during this time.³³ CCC companies also constructed fire breaks,

²⁹ Finch, *Report on Oregon Caves*, 1934.

³⁰ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 100.

³¹ Joseph Engbeck, *By the People For the People: The Work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in California State Parks*, (Sacramento: California State Parks, 2002), 3-4.

³² McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, 338.

³³ The CCC had a limitation of \$1500 that could be spent on building projects, which limited them to small structures. They could work on projects, however, funded through PWA or WPA, but would not be the primary workforce. They built the Ranger Residence at ORCA in 1935, but this was a wood frame structure that did not involve any masonry work. They were not allowed to do important masonry components of buildings or walls until

fought insect outbreaks, and eradicated unwanted plants.³⁴ The program was one of the most popular of the New Deal. Before the program ended in 1942, 2 million enrollees had worked in 198 CCC camps in 94 national park and monument areas, and 697 camps in 881 state, county, and municipal areas.

Five CCC camps were established in the Siskiyou National Forest in 1933, but Oregon Caves was initially rejected for CCC work, due to the limited terrain available for a camp and the fragile character of the site. Instead, the CCC set up a “spike” camp (a small outpost of a larger camp) in the spring of 1934 near the confluence of Grayback and Sucker Creeks, eight miles from the monument. In the winter of 1934-5, the CCC established Camp Oregon Caves at that location, with 200 enrollees.³⁵

Thomas Vint, the NPS chief landscape architect, guided work at Oregon Caves for the CCC. He ruled out future development in the Cave Creek ravine, below the Chateau, in an effort to keep the site in its natural state. Francis Lange, Crater Lake National Park’s resident landscape architect, and Arnie Doerner, the landscape foremen assigned to Camp Oregon Caves, also produced plans for the site. Doerner wrote the first NPS planning report for the monument, and he included recommendations for roads, trails, utilities and buildings at the monument.³⁶ The NPS liked the architectural design of the established concession buildings, particularly the Port Orford cedar bark sheathing and dry laid walls, and they sought to keep new developments in harmony with these.³⁷

NPS landscape architects designed new structures and landscape features at Oregon Caves using rustic design principles, which had remained popular with the NPS into the 1930s. The principles and practices of rustic architecture and landscape architecture were well established by this time, and these were institutionalized (through the publication of manuals) and carried out by CCC enrollees.³⁸ These principles included the preservation of existing natural features and vegetation, the selection and framing of views, screening obtrusive elements, planting of native species, the use of local materials, and the avoidance of right angles and straight lines. NPS architects’ primary goal was to subordinate structures and landscape features to their surroundings. Buildings and structures were meant to provide access to nature, and to enhance visitors’ experiences in the natural world. While the Forest Service and the Oregon Caves Company had obeyed many of these principles while developing the site, NPS architects adhered to more stringent guidelines.³⁹

1937, when a project at CRLA (the plaza comfort station) went so well that the CCC was given the “green light” for this type of work at Crater Lake NP, Oregon Caves NM, and Lava Beds NM.

³⁴ John C. Paige, *The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933-1942: An Administrative History* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1985), 78.

³⁵ National Park Service, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Boundary Increase, Oregon Caves Historic District*, 2005, PWRO-Seattle, 12.

³⁶ Doerner was the resident LA in 1934, a position that Lange assumed in 1935 (he had a different title in 1934). Although Doerner wrote the report at ORCA in 1934, his mark on the monument is very slight; the design work at ORCA is more the result of Lange and his foremen (Buford, Meola, and Lathrop).

³⁷ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 114.

³⁸ The manuals were produced for the CCC and its employees, including the professionals that were hired under ECW, including the classic work organized by Good in 1935 and 1938 (3 volumes).

³⁹ Albert Good, *Park and Recreation Structures*, (Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990), 2-6; McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, 2-3.

NPS planners admired the concession buildings at the site, but they were not as enthusiastic about quality of the landscape features and plantings. Arnie Doerner noted the tall stumps around the Chateau and parking lot, the “objectionable” culvert ends along the road, and the ragged road and parking lot edges.⁴⁰ Francis Lange considered the landscape features constructed before 1934 inferior. In particular, he disliked the quality of the walls built by the concessioner and the Forest Service. Lange felt that the small stones contained within the walls were out of proportion to their surroundings, and that there were simply too many walls at the small site. He directed crews to plant vegetation into the joints of some of the walls, while other walls were rebuilt entirely with larger rocks. Lange thought the concrete pool, below the cave entrance, marred the surrounding scenery, and he sought to construct a pool with a more “natural” shape and appearance. In 1935, the CCC replaced the rectangular concrete pool with a 3-foot deep, 20 foot-wide triangular pool lined with native rock. Crews also constructed the courtyard at the Chateau that same year. They used fir slabs as paving around a pool, erected a dry laid wall between the hotel courtyard and the road, and transplanted trees, shrubs and ferns to the courtyard.⁴¹

Crews also worked to improve the appearance of existing structures. Workers smoothed out road and parking lot edges, and planted vegetation along bare areas. They covered the diesel plant with Port Orford bark, which was deemed more suitable than the concrete block and brick. Even garbage cans, under Lange’s direction, blended into the landscape; four garbage cans in the main parking lot were contained in hollow cedar logs, with the word “garbage” was carved into the feature.⁴² Lange was careful not to overwhelm the small cave entrance area with landscape work, however, since he did not want to distract visitors from the natural environment of the site.

While Lange and Doerner disapproved of landscape work undertaken by the Forest Service and concessioner, they did direct CCC crews to continue transplanting trees, shrubs and other vegetation from just outside the monument to the plaza in the cave entrance area. The OCC and the Forest Service had transplanted native flora from just outside the monument throughout the 1920s and 1930s. The NPS called this practice “landscape naturalization,” and it was used to cover disturbed areas and to make features such as parking lots, trails and roadways less obtrusive. Thomas Vint described it as “making artificial work harmonize with its surroundings.” NPS director Horace Albright agreed with this approach and landscape architects made widespread use of naturalization in the 1930s. Lange directed CCC crews to plant trees and shrubs near the cabins and the cave entrance and exit between 1935 and 1941. Some of this work was done after the removal of stumps left by the Forest Service during previous construction projects. At the Chateau, crews worked throughout 1936 and 1937 to plant vegetation on the surrounding areas damaged by stump removal. Additional planting around the Chateau, as well as the entrance road, was performed in 1939.⁴³

⁴⁰ Arnie Doerner, *Comments on Development of Oregon Caves National Monument*, 1934, 3, ORCA Files.

⁴¹ Francis Lange, *Final Report to the Chief Architect, EWC Projects, Fourth Period, Camp NM-1*, October 1, 1934 to March 31, 1935, ORCA Archives.

⁴² Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 106.

⁴³ Francis Lange, *Oregon Caves National Monument Field Trip*, March 13, 1936, ORCA Files; Lange, *Monthly Narrative Report*, January 15, 1937, ORCA Files; McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, 261-263.

Lange considered the campfire area in need of work. Crews first removed what Lange considered “excessive stone work” around the fire pit. By June of 1935, workers had reconstructed the feature, installed log seats and log railings, and built new log and stone walls. With the new seating, the area now held thirty-five additional visitors.⁴⁴ Crews built stone steps which led from the cave entrance to the trout pond next to the campfire.

The Forest Service had no administrative presence at Oregon Caves, but the NPS intended to permanently station a ranger at the monument. The agency sought to build housing for the ranger, and they turned to Francis Lange, who designed ranger residences in national parks and monuments throughout Oregon and California during the 1930s. CCC workers constructed the wood-framed, gabled-roof ranger residence, the first NPS building in the monument, on the only building site near the cave entrance not leased by the Oregon Caves Company, near the rental cottages on a steep slope south of the Chalet. The construction required extensive excavation into the hillside above the cave system, but Lange sought to limit the impact on the surrounding landscape through the use of scaffolding and careful grading of the building site. The building was designed using rustic design principles, with vertically-laid cedar bark sheathing, to harmonize with existing concession development.⁴⁵ Lange originally designed the building with horizontal siding, but concession manager George Sabin persuasively argued that the building would clash with the existing concession structures, and shed water less effectively.⁴⁶ The residence was completed in mid-1936. Since the ranger residence occupied the only site not leased by the OCC, its construction precluded the agency from building any more structures in that area. From the time of its construction until the late 1950s, it housed the ranger assigned to the monument by the superintendent of Crater Lake National Park.⁴⁷

Trail projects were a large part of the CCC’s work, and they built or reconstructed four trails, as well as the cave trail, at Oregon Caves between 1934 and 1941. The Forest Service had built five trails before 1934, but the NPS wanted the trails rebuilt to meet the new standards developed by the NPS engineering division in 1934. Chief engineer Frank Kittridge and his staff developed the guidelines. Kittridge was an advocate of encouraging park visitors to forego their vehicles and see national parks on foot, and he believed that improving trails (and thus encouraging foot travel) would help national parks remain quiet and inspiring destinations.⁴⁸ The new guidelines provided standards for width, gradient, drainage and signage. According to the guidelines, trails should have no more than a 15% gradient (with variation, at intervals, for resting). Heavily used foot trails were to be four feet wide, with ten feet of overhead clearance, for equestrians. Lightly

⁴⁴ Lange, *Final Report to the Chief Architect, EWC Projects, Fourth Period, Camp NM-1*, July 1, 1935, ORCA Archives.

⁴⁵ Several ranger residences that Lange designed are on the National Register of Historic Places at Crater Lake and Sequoia national parks, while others at Oregon Caves and Lava Beds national monuments are eligible for National Register listing as part of national historic districts.

⁴⁶ Stephen R. Mark, *Historic American Buildings Survey for Oregon Caves Ranger Residence*, HABS/HAER/HALS Collection at the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, 3.

⁴⁷ Often another NPS employee would occupy the other bedroom, so that the residents shared the bathroom and kitchen. This arrangement was a frequent source of friction and was one of the reasons that the agency found it necessary to obtain a special use permit to build a residence on land about two miles away from the monument in 1958.

⁴⁸ National Park Service, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Boundary Increase, Oregon Caves Historic District (draft)*, 2005, 12.

used trails could be two feet wide. NPS engineers encouraged parks to build loop trails in an attempt to lure visitors into “short backcountry jaunts.”⁴⁹

At Oregon Caves, trails were meant to provide the visitor, who planned primarily on joining a cave tour, with a short walk through the surrounding forest. Since they were short and easily accessible, these trails had to withstand heavy use. Trails at Oregon Caves, as at other parks, were staked out by an engineer, and a landscape architect reviewed the location. A landscape architect (in this case, Francis Lange) was responsible for the trail surfaces and embankments. By creating carefully engineered and planned trails at the monument, the NPS was able to meet its responsibilities for both landscape stewardship and accessibility.⁵⁰

CCC crews first turned their attention to the Big Tree Trail. The Forest Service had constructed part of this trail before 1916, which had originally served as a link between the monument and the town of Williams. However, the trail did not reach Big Tree, the widest Douglas fir in Oregon, until 1931. In 1934 and 1935, crews rerouted and widened the trail to four feet, in order to allow crews constructing a water tank to transport materials, and to allow for equestrian use. Workers constructed six dry laid, native stone benches, recessed into the trail’s uphill side, that same year. In 1936, crews built a 0.65 mile-long trail between the Big Tree Trail and the existing Lake Mountain Trail. The connector was set south of the big tree, and the link enabled visitors to hike a 3.3 mile loop. Workers built an additional bench along a pack route that ran from the monument boundary to the Big Tree Trail.⁵¹

Improvements to the Lake Mountain Trail followed in 1936 and 1937 as part of readying the monument for access by a road. The Forest Service had built the trail in 1922, and the NPS considered it dangerous and difficult. Workers removed debris and installed drains, and they realigned some portions of the old trail. The trail was widened to four feet, and graded to between 4 and 16 percent. Crews used dry laid retaining walls to create switchbacks on the steepest part of the trail, above the Chalet. Visitors accessed the 2.7 mile long trail from the Chalet. The trail provided access to areas outside the monument boundary, such as Bigelow Lakes, Mount Elijah, and Sand Mountain.⁵² Beyond Mt. Elijah, the trail reverts back to 2 feet in width or less.

The mile-long Cliff Nature Trail was constructed in 1937.⁵³ It was set over a portion of the Lake Mountain Trail, and it provided walkers with views of the cave entrance area and of the distant Illinois Valley. The 2-foot wide trail (narrower than the other trails, to limit the impact on the landscape) began at the cave exit and led visitors south, and then north and east over rocky, exposed slopes to meet up with the Lake Mountain Trail. It provided tourists with another route, besides the exit trail, to return to the parking lot after they finished the cave tour. Crews graded the trail to between 7 and 8 percent and built stone steps to traverse steeper sections of the trail.

⁴⁹ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 102.

⁵⁰ McClelland, 3.

⁵¹ Francis Lange, Monthly Progress Report, May-June 1935, ORCA Files; Francis Lange, Field Trip, December 17, 1935, ORCA Files; National Park Service, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Oregon Caves National Monument Boundary Increase* (draft), 41-8.

⁵² National Park Service, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Oregon Caves National Monument Boundary Increase* (draft), 1-8.

⁵³ This trail was originally called the Cliff Trail. The name Cliff Nature Trail was not used until the 1960s.

Crews also constructed dry-laid retaining walls as they constructed switchbacks on the steeper sections of the trail. Crews scattered pine needles over the Cliff Nature Trail to improve its appearance.⁵⁴

The last trail built by the CCC was the No Name Trail, started in 1937 with the second half started in 1941. John Doerr, chief naturalist at Crater Lake National Park, proposed the trail. The trail connected the end of the service road west of the Chateau to No Name Creek. Workers built another section, from the creek to a picnic area between Cave Creek and the main day use parking lot, in 1941, to form a 1.3 mile loop. The trail crossed No Name Creek four times and offered views of waterfalls as well as three dry laid stone benches, identical to those found on Big Tree Trail, for pausing. The park superintendent called No Name Trail “scenic and delightful,” and he noted that it was often used by older visitors who decided to forego the cave trail.⁵⁵

CCC enrollees also altered the trail inside of the cave in 1934, under the auspices of the ECW engineer George Whitworth, to improve circulation and safety. Visitors had long suggested improvements. Francis Lange had noted that “the general public does not like to exert themselves to any marked degree” when touring the cave, and visitors objected to low head clearance, tight corners, and narrow passageways. Many considered the cave floor to be dangerous due to the excess water that caused a slippery surface. Hoping to avoid injury or “excess fright” to visitors, and to make the cave accessible to the “most timid tourist” while also protecting the resource, Lange ordered improvements in 1935. Under Whitworth’s direction, CCC workers increased the headroom in the cave, constructed drainage systems, installed guardrails and 110’ of ladders, built a masonry wall and seats in the Ghost Room, and fashioned 300 marble steps. By 1936, Lange was satisfied that crews had improved the trail without impacting the cave formations.⁵⁶ Workers also used fill to widen the landing outside the cave exit, so that tour goers had a spot to gather after leaving the cave. The landing also provided good views of the surrounding area. Crews built a rock wall at the cave exit at this time, and placed logs that served as both railings and seats.⁵⁷

More improvements to the cave trail followed in the late 1930s. In 1937, CCC crews built an eighty-foot tunnel that eliminated the need for tourists to retrace their steps along 600 feet of the route. This also made all but twenty-four feet of ladder climbing unnecessary. The new trail traveled through three new chambers, and the cave trail became a one-way trail throughout its length. Additional lighting was installed in the cave at this time, so that guides no longer needed to carry carbide lights to compensate for inadequate illumination.⁵⁸

In 1936, the NPS developed a new master plan for the monument. While master plans were often not implemented, they helped the NPS defend its budget requests to Congress. Master plans were

⁵⁴ Francis Lange, *Oregon Caves National Monument Field Trip*, February 15-16, 1934; Lange, Monthly Narrative Report, January 1937, ORCA Files.

⁵⁵ Superintendent to Regional Director, Memo, August 11, 1945; National Park Service, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Oregon Caves National Monument Boundary Increase (draft)*, 14.

⁵⁶ Francis Lange, *Oregon Caves National Monument Field Trip*, March 13, 1936, ORCA Files.

⁵⁷ Francis Lange, Report to the Deputy Chief Architect, National Park Service, May 1935, ORCA Files.

⁵⁸ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 94; Earnest W. Peterson, “Major Improvement at Oregon Caves,” *Oregon Journal*, April 24, 1936, ORCA Files.

intended ensure well-planned development. Each feature of the master plan could be studied by the various technical branches of the agency before any actions were taken. The 1936 plan included an expanded lower parking lot, extensive trail work, and removal of the guide dormitory, but these plans were not implemented. The master plan was revised two years later, and this version emphasized improvement of the monument's lighting system. The proposal helped secure a special appropriation for a power line extending from the town of Holland, fifteen miles away. After the power line was completed, CCC crews installed recessed lights along the Cave Exit Trail and near the cabins, and added rustic light posts to the main roads of the monument. Two light posts, similar to those used along the road, were placed opposite of each other under the eaves of the chateau's south facade, not far from the hotel's main entry.⁵⁹

The steep topography of the small developed area left little room for parking lots, and visitors filled all available spaces on busy weekends. NPS planners expressed frustration at the situation, and new parking areas became a priority during the mid-1930s. In the fall of 1937, CCC workers began expanding the lower parking lot, a task that required 2,050 square yards of fill. They placed stone curbs around the boundary of the lot, and built a new island in the center of the lot that was lined with partially submerged logs. The lot was surfaced with bitumen, and workers planted 350 small trees and shrubs around the lot. When completed, the lot held 110 cars, but Lange almost immediately started discussing the possibility of enlarging the lot to contain 185 vehicles.⁶⁰ Crews also built a walkway, lined with curbs, alongside the lot and the service road leading to the cave entrance area. The Chateau also had inadequate parking for guests, and between 1937 and 1939, workers imported about 450 square yards of fill in order to expand the hotel parking lot. A stone retaining wall impounded the slope above the lot.⁶¹

The last building constructed by the CCC at Oregon Caves was the Checking Station. While there were seasonal rangers at the monument, there was no administrative office. Furthermore, the concessioner complained about the lack of parking monitoring, since cave visitors often attempted to park in the small lot near the Chateau, which was reserved for hotel guests. The monument's filling station and restroom were damaged by a landslide in 1940, and the NPS took the opportunity to build a combination administrative and restroom facility in the same general area, but away from the edge of the slide. Like the existing structures, the checking station was a wood framed building with cedar bark sheathing. NPS architects designed the building to serve the needs of both the ranger who monitored parking and traffic and the increased numbers of visitors at the monument, and the dual functions made the structure unique within the park system. The structure was built under the supervision of Lester Anderson, the landscape architect who replaced Lange at Crater Lake in 1940.

Also in 1940, CCC crews rebuilt the walkway between the cave and the Chalet. Workers replaced the logs that lined the walk, and built a battered stone retaining wall and guardrail to reinforce the walkway against the hillside. The 18" thick wall extended for 100 feet, and rose to

⁵⁹ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 113. In 1939-1940, CCC workers also built two concrete vaults faced with rock that contained fire hydrants and hose storage.

⁶⁰ Francis Lange, Monthly Narrative Report, May-June 1938, ORCA Files.

⁶¹ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 108.

ten feet in height in some places. By 1941, the superintendent considered the monument fully developed. The limited terrain, in his opinion, would allow no more development.⁶²

The CCC program proved so successful that some tried to make the CCC a permanent government organization. However, the federal government began reducing the number of recruits as well as the number of camps in 1936, and the program continued to shrink in size throughout the late 1930s. The CCC lost its status as an autonomous agency in 1939, when it was incorporated into the Federal Security Agency. By 1940, war mobilization reduced the numbers of available men, and increased defense spending meant that more, higher wage jobs were available. Despite the continued support of President Roosevelt, Congress discontinued the CCC in 1942.

Park Superintendent E.P. Leavitt considered the loss of the CCC “a heavy blow,” and a threat to the ongoing maintenance and development of the park. Leavitt advised concession manager Richard Sabin that the Oregon Caves Company would have to arrange for the clearing of snow on the road within the monument during the winter, at least while concessioner completed its own construction activities. He also expressed embarrassment that the NPS would have to abandon its work on unfinished walks, walls and landscaping around the Chalet and Chateau.⁶³ Leavitt appealed to the Washington D.C. NPS office, but with no success.

The loss of the CCC did not affect concessioner construction projects, and in 1941, Oregon Caves Company began construction of a new Chalet. Three years earlier, the Company drew up plans to enlarge the guide dormitory, erect a female employee dormitory across from the cabins, and build a new chalet that would include fifty rooms for overnight guests. Two years of negotiations with the NPS followed; in particular, the agency expressed concern over the loss of housing for female employees, if Chalet rooms were converted into guest accommodations. The NPS approved the enlargement of guide dormitory in 1940, and the most noticeable change was the addition of peaks above the second floor windows. By 1941, however, day use visitation had increased at the expense of overnight visits, making additional hotel accommodations unnecessary. The agency approved a new Chalet, with the requirement that the company provide sleeping quarters for female employees in the building.

Gust Lium, the architect responsible for the cottages and the Chateau, designed a new Chalet that harmonized with the existing development, overcame the limited topography of the site, and served the needs of the park concessioner and visitors. The three-story, gable roof building was erected in the same spot as the previous Chalet (which, along with the Kiddie Cave, was removed), though it was set ten feet further back to facilitate better pedestrian circulation.⁶⁴ NPS architect Cecil Doty designed the two-story breezeway, which Lium incorporated into his plans. Lium’s design complimented his previous buildings by the use of vertically laid Port Orford cedar bark sheathing. The architect utilized locally obtained Douglas fir and redwood shakes on the roof, and he may have reused windows from the previous chalet. The new Chalet included a nursery, an employee dormitory, a cave tour office, and a gift shop.⁶⁵ Visitation dropped during

⁶² Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 124

⁶³ E.P. Leavitt to Richard Sabin, September 25, 1941, ORCA Files.

⁶⁴ Childcare was incorporated into the new building.

⁶⁵ Stephen R. Mark, *Historic American Buildings Survey Report for Oregon Caves Chalet*, 1, 1989,

World War II, but the concessioner wanted the structure completed quickly, since war time inflation was causing the rise in price of building materials. The new building was completed in mid-1942, though NPS landscaping efforts at the site were left unfinished when the CCC was dismantled.

By the end of World War II, Oregon Caves resembled a rustic, alpine village nestled in the Siskiyou Mountains. Through careful site planning, the use of native plants, rough stone masonry, wood-shingled gable roofs with peaked dormers, and cedar bark sheathing, Peck's aesthetic vision had been realized. After World War II, with no room left to build in the cave entrance area, the NPS focused on improving the cave trail, the monument's utilities, and the road system. Minor landscape features, built during this time, retained the rustic design. Workers used native stone when constructing new benches, retaining walls, and curbing at the Chateau and Chalet, and they used cedar bark sheathing on the exterior of the fire hose cabinets along the Big Tree trail.

Post-war Development at Oregon Caves National Monument

Despite the extensive work done by the CCC and the Oregon Caves Company by World War II, park managers were unhappy with development at the monument. Parking remained a problem. The unpaved roads and parking lots were dusty (although an attempt to control the dust was made with an application of oil to the roads at least once a year), and guests tracked dirt into the Chateau lobby and coffee shop. The stone walls around the Chalet and the Chateau, which CCC crews had started, remained unfinished, and park planners sought to rebuild them entirely. The park lacked interpretive exhibits. There remained a shortage of employee housing, and park management sought tent cottages to house rangers. Parking lots sizes remained inadequate as well, and the park superintendent envisioned a time when strict limits would have to be set on daily visitation. Superintendent E.P. Leavitt appealed to the regional director for assistance with these projects. "Oregon Caves is a little gem in our family of national parks and monuments," he contended, "and the Oregon Caves Company has been one of the finer companies operating on our national parks and monuments... We want to continue to doing an even better job in the future."⁶⁶

Adding to the park's troubles, natural phenomena damaged or destroyed parking lots, roads and utilities. Landslides damaged the main parking lot three times in the 1940s alone. A landslide in 1942 resulted in the loss of tree cover and of some of the original features, such as a picnic area, designed by Francis Lange. The NPS repaired the lot in 1942 and again after a slide in 1948. Three months after the completion of work in 1948, a storm caused a landslide that partially buried the site yet again. In 1956, another slide partially covered the lower parking area, exposing water and sewer lines, breaking an electric line, and dumping trees and debris over the area.⁶⁷ The lot at the end of the service road, past the Chateau, was damaged twice in the early 1940s. In the early 1950s, a landslide obliterated part of the retaining wall and parking area again. The picnic area, near the main parking lot, was damaged at least twice by landslide.

HABS/HAER/HALS Collection at the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division.

⁶⁶ E.P. Leavitt to Niel Allen, June 16, 1944, Post War Plans file, Box 4, NARA-Pacific Alaska Region.

⁶⁷ E.P. Leavitt to Niel Allen, June 16, 1944, Post War Plans file, Box 4, NARA-Pacific Alaska Region; Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 153-154.

Other alterations occurred due to routine maintenance. The log slabs in the Chateau courtyard were removed in 1952 due to rot, and replaced with asphalt. The path from the roadway to the courtyard was paved at this time as well.

In the mid-1950s, the NPS began an ambitious development program called Mission 66. The program was meant to relieve overcrowding at national park facilities, which had experienced unprecedented popularity after World War II due to increased leisure time, rising automobile ownership, and a rapidly growing population. To meet the growing demand, the agency planned to construct new roads, trails, parking lots, campgrounds, visitor centers, comfort stations, and employee housing in national parks across the nation. Visitation had grown rapidly at Oregon Caves after the end of World War II. By 1956, almost 80,000 visitors per year came to Oregon Caves, and the NPS expected 100,000 annually by 1966. NPS planners at this time characterized the park's development as "severely deficient." They identified a need for a new visitor center near the cave entrance, as well as interpretive exhibits, a network of nature trails, and a new campfire circle. The plan also called for new parking areas and an enlarged picnic area.⁶⁸

Most of these plans were never realized, though the park made alterations to the existing buildings and structures during the 1950s and 1960s. The NPS widened the main parking lot in 1960. Also that year, the roadway and parking areas were paved. At the Chalet, the wooden steps below the French doors on the west elevation were replaced by a long bench that served as a sitting area for visitors. The most noteworthy exterior alteration to the Chateau occurred in 1958, when the wood balconies that ran the length of the building on the west side of the structure were removed due to cumulative snow loads. Four years later, the peeled log fire escapes were replaced with steel stairs.⁶⁹

The cave trail was paved, and guardrails and new lighting was added in the 1950s with Mission 66 funds. One section of the trail was realigned, and three gates were installed, to prevent unauthorized access. These alterations had significant impacts on the natural environment of the cave. The asphalt leached and changed the water chemistry in the cave, and the realignment destroyed cave features. The Cave Exit Trail was paved, and metal pipe guardrails were installed, at this time as well.⁷⁰

Mission 66 funds also allowed the NPS to alter the ranger residence. In 1958, workers installed a new porch, handrail, gutters, and downspouts on the building, and two years later, the residence was converted to office space. The NPS had first proposed building employee housing outside the monument in 1942, but no funds were available during World War II. The park was finally able to build the home, under a special use permit from the Forest Service, in 1960. The ranger residence interior was remodeled for use as office space.⁷¹

Natural phenomena continued to damage or destroy resources in the steep confines of the cave entrance area. In 1964, a 100-year flood caused a landslide that obliterated the picnic area south

⁶⁸ National Park Service, *Mission 66 for Oregon Caves National Monument*, RG 79, Records of Lake Mead National Recreation Area, NARA-Riverside, California, 1-6.

⁶⁹ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 132 and 153-154.

⁷⁰ Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 134.

⁷¹ Mark, *Historic American Buildings Survey Report for Oregon Caves Ranger Residence*, 1989.

of the main parking lot and damaged sections of the service road between the cave entrance and the developed area. Several sections of the road required reconstruction and resurfacing. The No Name trail, built by the CCC in 1937 and 1941, was partially realigned after this flood event as well. The trail had crossed and recrossed No Name Creek four times, but after the flood, crews realigned the trail so that it followed the east bank of the creek.

In 1964, a debris flow composed of a 17-foot wall of mud, silt, water, and logs, severely damaged the plaza and courtyard and the Chateau. The gulch above the Chalet, which was typically dry, became clogged with debris after heavy rains. About 3,500 cubic yards of material poured through the Chalet archway and crashed into the Chateau with such velocity that the building moved off of its foundation. Debris filled the first three floors of the six-story structure; part of the dining room floor caved in. The courtyard pool was destroyed. While the building's manager was sure the structure would have to be demolished, the Oregon Caves Company was determined to make repairs to the iconic building. Architect Gust Lium, who was 81 years old, was able to supervise repairs. Workers shored up the posts in the archway with steel to give the building more support, and moved the building back onto its foundation. The entire courtyard, which had filled with mud and debris, was rebuilt after the flooding. While some alterations to the interior were necessary (such as the replacement of the floor in the dining room) the building was largely repaired to its pre-flood condition.⁷²

Other buildings and structures in the plaza area were damaged as well. The walkway, stairway and pond below the cave entrance were destroyed, and the flood left three feet of silt and debris between the Chalet and the Chateau. The flood ripped support beams from the Chalet archway and destroyed the men's restroom. The flow wiped out the Chalet's upper stair, broke the gift shop door, ripped out sewer and water lines, and covered the floor of the overalls room and the women's restroom with silt and debris. All of the damaged buildings and structures were repaired in subsequent years.

No significant buildings or structures were constructed during the late twentieth century, but some alterations to the historic buildings and structures occurred. There have been a number of alterations to the checking station. In the 1960s, the stone facing around the comfort station portion of the building was extended. The cedar shake roof was replaced with redwood shakes in 1979, and replaced with cedar shakes again in 2011, but the shakes are of non-historic thickness. Concrete wheelchair ramps were added at this time as well, and the restroom interiors were remodeled to be ADA compliant. In 1972, an addition was made to the guide dormitory; the building was later vacated, and in 2011, remains unused. Visitors continued to rent the concession cottages until the summer of 1982. By 1988, because of deterioration and the potential impact to the cave system below, all seven cottages were removed. A portion of the lower parking lot was reinforced in the 1990s due to continued slide activity. In 1990, the Chateau courtyard pool was dredged and lined with native rock. In 2003, all of the galvanized pipe railing in the historic district was replaced with log railings.⁷³

⁷² Mark, *Domain of the Caveman*, 137-138.

⁷³ Superintendent's Report, Oregon Caves National Monument, 2003, 15, National Park Service, Technical Information Center (eTIC); *National Register Nomination, Oregon Caves Historic District*, 14.

Trails, too, underwent some alterations. A portion of the Big Tree Trail was reconstructed in 1972 and 1973.⁷⁴ The stairways and lights along the cave trail were replaced in 1974 and 1975; rehabilitation of the lighting and cave tour route was completed in 1994 as well. In 1998-9 the rockier portions of the Cliff Nature Trail were rehabilitated with more steps added and retaining walls constructed and down wood barriers installed to reduce social trails and erosion.

The Oregon Caves Chateau was designated a National Historical Landmark in 1987, and four other buildings—the Chalet, the Guide Dormitory, the Checking Station and the Ranger Residence—were included in an historic district that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. In 2012, the nomination was amended to expand the boundary to include the historic trails.

A number of administrative changes occurred in the late twentieth century. The Oregon Caves Company was at ORCA from 1923 to 1977, when the Estey Corporation took over and stayed until 1999. Delaware North Corporation had a one year trial lease in 2000, but since that time the Community Response Team/CDO has been the operator since 2001. The NPS began leading the cave tour in 2001, thus removing that operation from concession operations. In 2011, the Oregon Caves Chateau is operated by the non-profit Illinois Valley Community Development Organization.

⁷⁴ Oregon Caves Timeline, ORCA Files.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Oregon Caves Historic District is a rustic development that was designed to provide visitors access to the unique, natural features of the caves. The development supports visitor services such as lodging, dining, gift shops, restrooms; recreation such as picnicking and hiking trails; interpretation through cave tours and an NPS visitor contact station; government services including employee housing, and office space in support of concessionaire and NPS operations.

The period of significance for the Oregon Caves Historic District is 1922 to 1942. Collectively, the features of the cultural landscape embody the essential philosophies, themes, materials, and character of rustic architecture as practiced during that period in western national parks and monuments. Landscape characteristics that continue to convey the historic setting of the district include Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Circulation, Buildings and Structures, Small Scale Features, and Vegetation.

Important natural systems and features that have historically influenced the development and continue to define the character of the Oregon Caves Historic District include cave resources, topography, hydrology, native vegetation, and geology. As the primary resource at the park, the entrance to the Oregon Caves played a large role in determining the location of the hotel and development. Cave Creek and the steep valley slopes influenced the organization and layout of the resort and trail systems. The native plant communities influenced the plant palette used for historic landscaping near the cave entrance and around the buildings. The steep terrain, rock types, and likely increasing amplitude of climate events create potential threats to the historic district, through landslides, flood events, and drought-induced tree mortality that leads to more intense wildfires.

Spatial organization of the development is still intact and is prominently characterized by development occurring on V-shaped terrace at the head of a steep narrow valley. A complex series of rock walls and terraces were constructed to define areas, such as the plaza at the development's center and to create level areas on the steep slopes of the valley to support buildings, roads, walkways and trails. Cave Creek is a prominent natural feature that flows through the site, connecting the plaza and the courtyard, as well as the interior spaces of the cave and Chateau. The service road is a prominent linear feature that provides the only vehicular route through the district and is the terminus of SR 46.

Circulation within the Oregon Caves Historic District includes a service road, a plaza with several walkways, and a system of hiking trails that extend far beyond the developed area of the monument and the monument's boundary. Due to the steep topography of the site, many of the roads and plaza walkways are defined by substantial rock walls and guardrails. Walkways in the plaza and around the cave entrance are wide enough to accommodate limited accessibility and are paved with asphalt. Trails outside of the developed areas are less formal, and are comprised of compacted soil and forest duff as they leave the cave entrance area. Many individual hiking trails outside of the developed area were historically developed along steep slopes that required construction of rock walls which remain character-defining structures of these trails.

Buildings, structures, and small scale features were constructed using rustic and naturalistic design principles. Some of these principles applied to the design at Oregon Caves include the sensitive placement and siting of built features in a natural setting, and the use of local building materials such as stone and wood. Contributing buildings and structures include the Chateau, Chalet, Guide Dormitory, Ranger Residence, Upper and Lower Pools, and historic rock walls. In an effort to use native materials that blend in with the natural setting, the buildings are sheathed in bark from the native Port Orford cedar trees and the stone walls and pools are constructed of local marble and limestone. Even the historic signs, stone benches, stone bases for fire hose cabinets, and exterior lighting were constructed using rustic and naturalistic design.

Vegetation, including vegetation planted for design purposes within the historic district, is limited primarily to plant species native to the surrounding area, and blend with the surrounding natural forested hillsides. Native trees, shrubs, and ferns around the foundations of buildings, along rock walls, and the constructed pools, soften the edges of built features and help to blend them into the surrounding environment.

Although some modifications have been made since the period of significance, the designed landscape remains with a high level of integrity. Postwar development largely focused on improvements in the cave and to the parking lots. Subsequent additions and/or alterations to structures and landscape features have generally been limited to rehabilitations or preservation maintenance, with most of this work occurring in the aftermath of a devastating December 1964 flood. Some contemporary rock work along the trails and near the Guide Dormitory is not compatible with the character of historic rock work the district. However, overall, the historic district retains a high degree of integrity and design cohesiveness.

Integrity

The Oregon Caves Historic District possesses all seven aspects of integrity. The setting for the monument remains virtually intact and appears much as it did during the period of significance. Comprised of a cluster of rustic buildings and a trail system, the district is situated in the narrow end of a steep and forested valley. The original design of the development is reflected in the spatial organization of buildings clustered around an open plaza at the cave entrance, as well the rock walls built to create terraces for buildings, roads, walkways, and interpretive and scenic viewpoints along the trails. The primary landscape characteristics and features defining the Oregon Caves Historic District remain in their original location. Materials and workmanship are evident in the prevalent use of native rocks and wood used to construct the buildings and structures, and through the use of native plants in the landscape design implemented in the developed area. The district continues to function as it did historically, as a resort and destination for touring the caves, and reflects an association with the CCC and rustic design through the character of the built environment. Together, these aspects convey the feeling of a 1930s-era, rustic development that blends with the larger natural setting.

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of a landscape. Important natural systems and features that have influenced the development and character of the Oregon Caves Historic District include the caves resources, hydrology, native vegetation, topography, and geology.

The 480-acre monument is located on Mt. Elijah in the Siskiyou Mountains and comprises the upper portion of the Cave Creek watershed, ranging in elevation from approximately 3,680 feet to 5,480 feet. The terrain is very steep. The Oregon Caves are the primary natural resources of the monument, which ultimately led to the development around the cave that support tourist activities.

The caves contain a series of passageways and rooms dissolved out of both limestone and marble. A ranger-guided tour covers 0.6 miles of the 3-miles of known passageways and rooms. There are approximately 25 rooms, with the largest, called the Ghost Room, approximately the size of a football field. The cave contains many different formations including speleothems (i.e. cave pearls, stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, etc.) and speleogens (i.e. arches, bevels, cave “ghosts,” domes, pendants, etc.). The caves are also home to many unique animals and plant species that have adapted to living in the dark caves. Also, at least eight bat species have been found in Oregon Caves.

Cave Creek, the primary drainage of the valley, enters the cave as the “River Styx,” and emerges from the cave entrance as “Cave Creek,” where it has been diverted into a series of waterfalls and pools that serve as a focal point for the plaza. A portion of the water is also diverted from the lower pool to flow through a channel cut into the Chateau’s restaurant floor. After flowing through the Chateau, the water continues westward through the steep canyon and out of the monument.

The native plant communities influenced the plant palette used for landscaping near the cave entrance and around the buildings. Primarily native plants species were incorporated into the plant beds near buildings and along rock walls. Many of the plants were harvested from the surrounding forests. Although some non-native plants were introduced, such as wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), swamp currant (*Ribes montanum*), and mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*). The forest ecosystem associated with the Monument is highly diverse due to extreme variations in topography, geology, and microclimate.⁷⁵ Over 400 native plant species exist within the 480-acre park unit (as compared to nearby Crater Lake National Park where only 640 plant species occur in 183,224 acres). The diverse flora includes several regionally endemic species characteristic of the monument and adjacent national forest.

The majority of vegetation within the monument, including the historic district, is located in the Mixed Evergreen Zone with the south facing slopes at lower elevations predominantly comprised of tan oak (*Lithocarpus densiflora*); while higher elevations are predominantly covered by Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). At higher elevations, vegetation is characterized by the white fir/herb type (which is a transitional type to the Red Fir Zone) and contains the oldest trees

⁷⁵ National Park Service, Oregon Caves National Monument, General Management Plan 1998, p 97

at the monument, including the “Big Tree” which has the largest diameter of any Douglas fir tree known in Oregon. This tree is a focal point of the Big Tree Trail.

As a result of the limited availability of flat land near the cave entrance, the buildings within the historic district were built into the slopes of the steep canyon on a series of constructed terraces and the trail system is supported by rock walls and switchbacks. The Chateau and Chalet were sited at the head of the narrow canyon, which presented both a unique, but dangerous situation. On the one hand, the placement of the Chateau into the steep slope allowed the architect to conceal the true size of the six-story building. On the other hand, the locations of both buildings are directly in the path of flood events down the canyon as made evident from the Chateau’s near destruction during a major flood event in 1964. Steep topography combined with heavy rainfall creates a flooding hazard for the developed area. Although the climate is typically mild with approximately 40-80 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and 20-40 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter, the average annual rainfall measures 50 inches and the average annual snowfall is over 100 inches. Higher yearly and decadal fluctuations can create great flood hazards for the development due to the location of the Chateau near the bottom of the narrow canyon. The steep topography also presents a landslide hazard. Repeated landslides have occurred in the area of the historic district. The lower parking, (which is located just outside the historic district boundary) was likely constructed on a previous landslide. The ground on which the parking lot sits has continued to slowly shift downhill leading to major reconstruction of the lot in 1942 and 1954. Installation of nine sixty foot long buried pylons on the southern edge of the parking lot across from the contact station has significantly slowed movement in that area but movement continues. Existing cracks in the pavement are evidence of continued land movement in the area. Resealing of cracks before fall/winter rains comes has become an increased priority after the second federal Highways repaving in 2012.

Another major concern with the location of the buildings is wildfire. With the build-up of fuel loads at the base of the canyon, fire has the potential to quickly spread up into the narrow canyon.

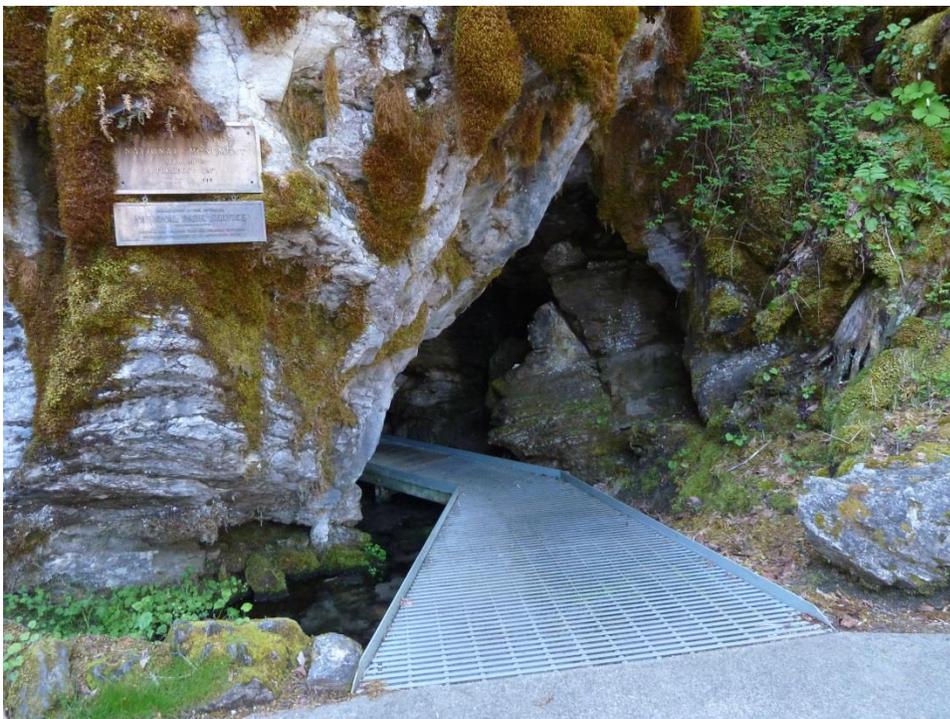
The large-scale natural systems that influenced the site’s development are largely intact. Significant aspects of Natural Systems that are character defining include:

- The cave resources themselves that inspired the development of the area and determined the location of the resort.
- Cave Creek, of which a portion was diverted into a series of waterfalls and pools that serve as a focal point of the plaza between the Chateau, Chalet, and cave entrance.
- The native plant community that serves as the forested backdrop for the historic district, including the developed core and the trail system, and the use of this plant palette to visually integrate buildings and rock walls with their natural setting.
- The “Big Tree,” which has the largest diameter of any Douglas fir known in Oregon, serves as a focal point of the Big Tree Trail.
- Steep topography necessitated the construction of level terraces for buildings and roads. It also necessitated the construction of rock walls to support trails and switchbacks to ascend the steep terrain.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Steep topography, native vegetation, and the pools fed by Cave Creek are important characteristics of the historic district setting. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Entrance to the cave. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



The Big Tree Trail leads hikers approximately 1.6 miles to the “Big Tree,” which has the largest diameter of any Douglas fir known in Oregon. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization within a historic property refers to the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape.

The Oregon Caves Historic District is located within narrow and steep canyons, which necessitated development along narrow benches. Most of its features are within a V-shaped area formed by these benches, which were improved for development. Parking and automobile circulation are located along the long sides of the V, with visitor concession and administration development placed near the cave entrance and surrounding a plaza at the apex of the V. The development supports visitor services such as lodging, dining, gift shops, trails, restrooms, and an visitor contact station; and NPS administration including employee housing and office space that supports concessionaire and NPS employee activities.

The Chateau and Chalet, respectively, form the west and east boundaries of the plaza with the cave on the south side. The triangular space between the Chateau, the Chalet, and the cave entrance create the plaza that allows pedestrian access to amenities surrounding the space. The center of this area, referred to as the plaza is located on a relatively flat bench at grade with the main entrance to the Chateau, but roughly 15 feet below the Chalet and cave entrance. The courtyard is approximately 15 feet lower than the plaza, adjacent to the coffee shop on the lower level of the Chateau. Sloping paths and stairways allow pedestrians to traverse these different levels. Native-stone rock retaining walls both support these paths and preserve the natural character of the site. The plaza also has several small-scale features: benches adjacent to walls and buildings, an oak tree with adjacent seating, two pools fed by Cave Creek, and a fire ring. These provide a basic level of comfort for plaza users, as well as intermediate stops between the main destinations. The thoughtful placement and design of these site elements enhances the rustic feeling within the plaza.

The plaza feels relatively expansive and open, which in part comes from the defining structure of the service road that curves around the Chateau and leads to the upper parking lot. Since this road receives little traffic, the entire area feels firmly within the pedestrian realm. Most visitors use one of two main walkways in the central plaza area: the Chalet to the cave entrance path, the courtyard path, and a path along the front of the Chalet. Two main stairways also lead from the plaza: one to the Chalet entrance, and the other to the end of the Cave Exit Trail near the cave entrance.

The Chateau spans the valley's creek bed in a location where the topography drops sharply. As a result, the six-story building only rises three stories above the main plaza level, providing a strong vertical boundary. The Chalet is built up the hillside from the plaza, with a series of rock walls providing a transition to the building. The cave entrance, likewise, is located above the plaza with its access trail atop rock retaining walls. A portion of the creek flowing out of the cave tumbles down one of these walls into a pool, is then piped beneath the plaza, and emerges in a lower courtyard next to the Chateau. The walls along with the steep canyon sides form a strong boundary to the open plaza and provide its occupants with a feeling of being sheltered from the broader environment.

As time progressed, additional provisions were made for administration and maintenance needs. Administration was given added importance with the construction of the Ranger Residence in 1935, located uphill and south of the Chalet. The Checking and Comfort Station was built in 1941. Located at the east end of the lower parking lot, it formed a gateway to the service road that connects lower parking lot with the plaza and cave entrance. The building also provided the NPS with administrative offices.

A system of historic trails leads from the central developed area to outlying areas of the monument. They effectively create three loops, 5.6 miles in length, plus another 1.1 miles of spur trails. The intent was to respond to increasing visitation at Oregon Caves by providing trail access for recreational day use, while maintaining sensitivity to the natural environment through the use of specified construction materials and techniques.

The tree canopy surrounding the central developed area is dense and tall creating strong boundaries to the open parking areas and plaza. The surrounding forest mostly consists of Douglas-fir/oak type forest stands. The Big Tree Trail climbs through this ancient forest, leading hikers to the largest-diameter Douglas fir known to exist in Oregon. This location within a dense forest enhances the cultural landscape's rustic sense of place, giving visitors a feeling of being in harmony with their peaceful and remote surroundings.

Alterations to Spatial Organization

Guest Cottages (Outside Historic District Boundary): The greatest change to spatial organization was the removal of the guest cottages in 1988. In 1926, the concessioner built seven guest cottages above and to the southeast of the Chalet. The one-story, rectangular cottages nestled into the forest mountain slope resembled a rustic, alpine village. Sited to appear as though they fitted naturally into the surrounding landscape, glimpses of the wood frame cottages among the trees could be seen through the Chalet's arching breezeway. Narrow footpaths linked the cottages to each other and the Chalet. Despite slight differentiation of roof detail, wood-shingled gable roofs and cedar bark sheathing matched design features found on the nearby Chateau and Chalet. They were demolished in 1988 because their location directly above the cave system was thought to pose a potentially negative impact upon the cave, the monument's primary resource. A portion of the guest cottage area is included within the boundary the historic district with the inclusion of Lake Mountain Trail that traverses around it.

Upper and Lower Parking Lots (Outside Historic District Boundary): The upper and lower parking lots are large areas that were excluded from the historic district boundary due to loss of integrity. Although these are outside the district boundaries, they are briefly described here because they are important to the spatial organization and visitor experience of the monument.

Lower Parking Lot: The lower parking lot is the first developed area visitors encounter when they arrive at the monument. Most visitors park in the lower parking lot, which has been widened twice since 1922 but has also been the victim of two landslides that necessitated extensive repairs. More recently, the southern edge of the parking lot was expanded to accommodate a

contemporary picnic area with picnic tables and a kiosk. As a result of these modifications to the lower parking lot, it is excluded from the historic district boundary.

Upper Parking Lot: The upper parking lot is located southeast of the Chateau. It was originally constructed to allow overnight guests to park near the lodging by extending the service road in 1929 and again in 1934. The upper parking lot was extended further westward again, widened, and paved in the 1960s for additional employee parking. Because of alterations to the upper parking lot, it was not included within the boundary of the historic district. At the westernmost end of the upper parking lot are two non-historic maintenance garages, built in the 1970s and an unpaved service road to the non-historic septic leach field.

Summary

Spatial organization of the development at Oregon Caves is characterized by the following patterns and forms:

- Roads and buildings are located on V-shaped terrace at the head of a steep narrow valley.
- The Chateau and Chalet span the narrow end of the valley.
- The Chateau and Chalet define the edges of an open plaza between the two buildings.
- All developments throughout the historic district, including the buildings, roads, trails, and plaza required a complex series of rock walls and terraces to create level areas on the steep slopes of the valley.
- Cave Creek is a prominent natural feature that flows through the site, connecting the plaza and the courtyard, as well as the interior spaces of the cave and Chateau.
- The service road is a prominent linear feature that provides the only vehicular route through the district.
- Although excluded from the historic district boundary due to loss of integrity, the lower and upper parking lots define the beginning and ending points of the service road, and are important to the organization of the development and to the visitor experience.
- The tall, dense tree canopy surrounding the developed area of the historic district creates strong visual boundaries around the open parking areas and plaza.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Roads and buildings are located on V-shaped terrace at the head of a steep narrow valley, looking northwest. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



The plaza as viewed from the cave entrance. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



The plaza as viewed from the Guide Dormitory trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



The courtyard as viewed from the service road. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)

Circulation

Circulation comprises the spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape. Circulation within the Oregon Caves Historic District includes a service road, a plaza with several walkways, and a system of hiking trails.

Visitors reach the historic district from the west following the 19.5-mile Oregon Caves Highway (SR46), constructed by contract through the Oregon State Highway Department with partial funding from both the state the Department of Agriculture (USFS) in 1921-22. Most day-use visitors park vehicles in the lower parking lot northwest of the Chateau, and then walk east on the service road to the central plaza. Once in the plaza, visitors have access to several pedestrian routes. Ramps and stairs lead to the visitor contact station in the Chalet, the cave entrance, and the coffee shop. There are additional trails from the Chalet that provide employee access to the Guide Dormitory and Rangers Residence. Guests with overnight accommodations at the Chateau are allowed to drive along the service road, proceed through the plaza, and then park in the upper parking lot southwest of the Chateau.

In addition, an outlying system of CCC-constructed hiking trails originates from the Chalet, the cave entrance, and the west end of the upper parking lot. These trails include the Lake Mountain Trail, Big Tree Trail, Cliff Nature Trail, and No Name Trail. They were intended to provide trail access for recreational day use in response to increasing visitation at Oregon Caves, while at the same time maintaining sensitivity to the natural environment through the use of specified construction materials and techniques.

Overall, the service road, plaza walkways, and hiking trails retain integrity, maintaining historic alignments, widths, and associated features such as rock retaining walls. However, some elements of circulation have changed over time. Log guard rails that historically lined the service road and cave entrance area were removed in the 1950s. Some were replaced with stone curbing that is compatible in style with historic rockwork throughout the area. New compatible log rails have recently been added in their historic locations in front of the Chalet and along the upper parking lot. Also in the 1950s, the macadam road surface was replaced with asphalt, a compatible material. The 1964 flood caused significant damage to the plaza and to the trails below the Chateau, and through the course of repairs some physical changes to the area occurred including the reconstruction of damaged walls and steps. This work within the plaza is compatible with the original walls making use of similar, if not the same, stones, but the trails were completely rebuilt and realigned. Both the upper and the lower parking lots have been heavily modified since the period of significance and as a result, they have been excluded from the historic district boundary. In some locations, contemporary steps, riprap, and boardwalks have been added that do not reflect the historic character of the historic district in material or workmanship.

Even with these changes, circulation within the historic district retains integrity to the period of significance. The service road, plaza walkways, and hiking trails reflect those present during the period of significance, retaining many of the original rustic design principles. Contributing and non-contributing circulation features are described in detail below.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS

Service Road (LCSID 744421, 1923-1935) (Contributing)

The service road, which is the main road into Oregon Caves Monument, was built in 1923 to connect the terminus of SR 46 with the cave entrance area. The section of the road that is located within the historic district is approximately 600 feet long, beginning just east of the lower parking lot, curving past the entrance to the Chateau, and ending at the eastern end of the upper parking lot. The section of road at the upper parking lot was extended west in 1929 and again in 1934 to allow guests to park overnight near their lodging. The original road surface was macadam with edges defined with logs until 1952, when the road was surfaced with asphalt. Stone curbing replaced the logs by 1960. The road bed is supported by a dry-stacked rock retaining wall which is still intact.

System of Walkways and Paths (Contributing)

The majority of walkways and paths are found in the plaza, a terraced area between the Chateau, Chalet, and cave entrance. The plaza integrates the service road, walkways, stairs, ramps, level gathering areas and serves as a hub to access the amenities provided in these buildings. The plaza can be further divided into two areas referred to here as the “plaza” and the “courtyard.” The plaza includes the circulation features adjacent to the service road and above, providing access to the main entrance of the Chateau, the Chalet, and the Cave entrance. The courtyard is about 15 feet lower than the plaza, adjacent to the coffee shop located on a lower level of the Chateau. Sloping paths and stairways allow pedestrians to traverse these different levels. The plaza feels relatively expansive and open, which in part comes from its incorporation of the service road that curves around the Chateau and leads to the upper parking lot. Since this road receives little traffic, the plaza feels like a pedestrian safe area.

The 1964 flood damaged the plaza, and when it was repaired a number of changes occurred to circulation features. The steps in front of the Chalet were reconstructed using concrete rather than the original stone. An open, gathering area at the base of the Chalet steps was historically defined from the service road with a roughly 2-foot high stone wall. This wall was heavily damaged during the flood and only a small portion was reconstructed leaving less distinction between the service road and the gathering area. Despite these changes, the circulation patterns through the plaza remain highly intact.

Below are descriptions of individual walkways and stairs listed in the LCS:

Chalet Path from Plaza: A 75-foot long, sloped walkway or ramp leads from the central gathering area to the Chalet’s entry, allowing pedestrians to climb a gentle slope to the building and bypass the steep entry stairs. The path was paved with asphalt, likely in the 1950s. Some repair was necessary in early 1965 due to damage from the 1964 flood, but retains integrity from the historic period.

Chalet to Cave Entrance Path (IDLCS 030320, 1886-1940): A path leading from the Chalet to the main cave entrance has been in use since 1886 when the first rough trails to Oregon Caves were blazed. After the Oregon Caves Company was formed in 1923, this walkway was graded and widened. In 1940, the CCC built a stone masonry retaining wall, which allowed visitors to sit during their wait for a cave tour. The path was paved with asphalt, likely in the 1950s. This path is highly intact and retains its historic integrity.

Chateau Courtyard Path and Retaining Walls (LCSID 030321, 1929-1942): A 50-foot long, steeply sloped walkway leads from the plaza down to the courtyard adjacent to the Chateau, providing access to a patio area outside the coffee shop. This was constructed in 1935 as a CCC project and paved with asphalt in 1952. A handrail was added at a later date. Some repair was necessary in early 1965 due to damage from the 1964 flood, but it still retains its historic character and integrity.

Two additional paths in the historic district lead to the Guide Dormitory and Ranger Residence. These are narrow, dirt and gravel trails that lead from the vicinity of the Chalet to their respective buildings.

Guide Dormitory: This path roughly runs between the north end of the Chalet to the dormitory, and is upslope from the service road. It is a narrow foot path, cut into the steep hillside, surfaced with rocky soil. It appears to follow its historic alignment, but has clearly suffered from erosion over time and requires stabilization.

Altered Walkways (Non-contributing)

Concrete Stairs to Chalet Entry: These steps are at the apex of the plaza's triangle, and are heavily used by visitors. The CCC originally installed stone steps at this location, but they were heavily damaged in the 1964 flood and subsequently replaced with concrete. Due to this modification, the stairs do not have integrity.

Stone Stairs, End of Exit Trail From Cave: The 1935 stone stairway adjacent to the cave entrance was intended to lessen pedestrian congestion by leading visitors descending the Cave Exit Trail away from others waiting for a cave tour (Buford 1934). The large block marble stairs are gently curved, approximately five feet wide with 15 risers, and have irregularly stepped side walls. Comparison of historic photos reveals that the stairs were narrowed in width since the period of significance. A metal handrail and supports are a recent addition. Due to these modifications, the stairs no longer have integrity.

Ranger Residence: The path to the Ranger Residence branches off from the paved trail immediately behind (east of) the Chalet. It is a narrow, dirt foot-path that slopes up the steep hillside. Sections are supported by stone edging. The majority of this trail has been realigned since the period of significance and it no longer has integrity.

HIKING TRAILS

(Trails information is adapted from the 2012 National Register Nomination that expanded the boundary of the original historic district to include the trail system at Oregon Caves).

Four trails begin from the developed area of the monument, and effectively create three loops: the Big Tree Loop, the Cliff Nature Trail Loop, and the No Name Creek Loop. They range in elevation from 3,680 feet to 5,280 feet. In addition, there are two sections of trail not on a loop, the Old Growth Trail Spur and the upper portion of the Mountain Lake Trail. Together, these trails measure 6.7 miles.

These trails were either built or reconstructed by the CCC from 1936 to 1941, and feature rustic design principles consistent with CCC standards. The intent was to create a pedestrian circulation system that provided trail access for recreational day use in response to increasing visitation at Oregon Caves, while at the same time maintaining sensitivity to the natural environment through the use of specified construction materials and techniques. They include earthen tread ranging in width from 2 to 4 feet, average vertical clearance of 10 feet, gradient ranging from 2 to 16 percent, and sweeping curves, as well as several original stone features including steps, benches, and retaining walls.

The day use trails in and around the monument (to Mt. Elijah) differ considerably in character to the other trails on the national forest that were originally constructed for fire control purposes. The latter had less engineering and fewer aesthetic features, while also being narrow, rocky, and more subject to drainage problems.

Since the period of significance, periodic maintenance has been necessary to perpetuate these trails for safe public use. Only minor modifications have been made to these four trails since 1941 and include changes to drainage through the installation of new culverts and water bars.

Trail Character

With the exception of culverts, maintenance crews have stayed true to the rustic design of the trails by using natural materials that blend with the surrounding landscape. Overall, the trails retain many of their essential character defining features that convey National Park Service trail design standards of the 1930s. The following components are consistent on all four trails and represent trail design and construction standards of the historic period: curvature, gradient, width, height, drainage, and overlooks or vista points. Design components unique to individual trails are outlined in the paragraphs that follow the general discussion.

To the extent possible, each trail was designed using elongated curves rather than tight switchbacks because the former helped soften the trail's appearance while lowering maintenance costs, and was also more conducive to equestrian use. Most of the trail mileage has a tread surface constructed of earth with an average width of 4 feet, and 10 feet of vertical clearance. Sections of trail that had to be cut into the sides of slopes were built using a method of construction called benching which represented an important means for stabilizing trails. It

involved cutting into the backslope, but also filling beneath the tread (particularly at the shoulder) to make it level for a stipulated width, especially in sections requiring excavation. Benching usually included the need for dry laid stonework on the out slope of a trail, but such work on a backslope was done only at switchbacks and was avoided altogether if the trail's alignment allowed for an elongated curve instead (NPS, Office of the Chief Engineer, 1934 and 1939). Where slope cutting was necessary, bank sloping and slope rounding at fixed ratios were used to eliminate scars and ultimately minimize erosion. The preferred method for maintaining proper drainage on trails was to use variation in grade as well as creating an outward slope to the tread surface so that water would sheet uniformly off the trail.

Materials used along these and other park trails consist of earth, stone, and wood. Of these, native marble and limestone has been used in the greatest quantity for structures such as steps, benches, and retaining walls. These stone structures were originally built using dry-laid techniques where friction rather than mortar is relied on to hold them together. They demonstrate traditional NPS emphasis on blending structures with the surrounding landscape through conventions such as variation in stone size and color, and gradation of stone size from bottom to top. Masonry structures found on these trails are not historic, or represent original dry-laid structures that were later stabilized using mortar, therefore reflecting continuing efforts by maintenance crews to make them accessible and enjoyable for visitors. Earth was used for trail surfacing as well as fill, and much like roads, it is ideal for cuts and fills to equate during the grading phase of construction. Wood plays a minor role in comparison to stone and earth on trails generally, with use largely limited to non-historic signs, benches, fences, water bars, and occasionally cribbing.

Lake Mountain Trail (Contributing)

Construction date: Circa 1910; 1922 (improved by USFS); 1936-37 (improved by CCC)

Length of contributing segment of trail: 2.7 miles

Type of trail: Connector trail that is part of the Big Tree Loop and the Cliff Nature Loop.

The Lake Mountain Trail begins just east of the Chalet, and extends southeast to intersect with the Big Tree Trail, before looping back to the Chalet. From its intersection with Big Tree trail, it continues beyond the monument boundaries, but only the portion contained within the boundaries is included in the historic district. Originally constructed in 1910, the trail was improved in 1922 by the U.S. Forest Service, the trail was one of the first five trails constructed on the monument to provide access to the back country. In 1936 and 1937 most of this trail within the monument underwent additional improvements by the CCC that included widening, benching, and construction of a trail (0.65 miles in length) that connected it with the Big Tree Trail (forming the present-day Big Tree Loop). The Lake Mountain Trail also became part of the Cliff Nature Loop after the Cliff Nature Trail was completed that same year.

Today, 2.7 miles of the trail are within the monument, most of which retains characteristics that are representative of 1930s NPS design for "standard" front country trails. The upper portion of the trail (0.7 miles above the connection trail to Big Tree) is closer in character to the narrower back country hiking trails designed by the Forest Service. Tread is constructed of earth and maintains a width of 4 feet and a vertical clearance of 10 feet within the monument. Gradient

ranges from approximately 4 percent to 16 percent on this trail, with four switchbacks on the steepest portion of the trail just above and south of the Chalet. Dry-laid retaining walls found on the switchbacks are the most conspicuous rock features located along the trail. There are several recent accretions to the original work, including construction of new retaining features and several short spur trails.

Big Tree Trail (and Old Growth Trail Spur) (Contributing)

Construction date: 1916-1931 (USFS); 1934-37 (improved by CCC)

Length of contributing segment of trail: 3.3 miles

Type of trail: Connects with the Lake Mountain trail to create the Big Tree Loop.

The Big Tree Trail, when combined with the Lake Mountain Trail, forms a loop that begins at its trailhead just east of the Chalet. The trail is paved with asphalt near the Chalet, but as it leaves the core developed area, it becomes an unpaved trail. It climbs steeply through ancient forest and meadows eventually leading hikers to the largest-diameter Douglas fir known to exist in Oregon. Part of the Big Tree Trail was constructed prior to 1916 as a link between the monument and Williams, Oregon, but a trail did not reach Big Tree until 1931. CCC enrollees began reconstructing portions of the trail in 1934 once the NPS assumed administration of the monument and completed a full loop by 1937.

The trail is approximately 3.3 miles long, portions of which are located north of the monument boundary in the neighboring Rogue River/Siskiyou National Forest. Over its distance it gains 1,100 feet in elevation. The trail extends another 0.4 miles if the Old Growth Trail portion, originally a connecting trail built for equestrian use, is included in the hike.

The northern portions of the trail provide a steady and gradual ascent in proportion to the length of the trail, which likely eliminated the need for switchbacks and retaining features in that area. Tread is comprised of dirt and averages 4 feet in width with 10 feet of vertical clearance. Gradient ranges from approximately 4 percent to 16 percent, with the average being 8 to 9 percent over most of its length. Seasonal drainage on the connection trail beyond Big Tree subsequently dictated the need for installation of water bars and five culverts. Only one of the culverts is believed to be historic.

The Big Tree Trail has only one designed overlook which is located at the site of the 12 ½ foot in diameter Douglas fir. There are also six original dry-laid benches built by the CCC positioned along the trail, and one along the Old Growth Trail spur, at resting places with filtered views of forest and meadows. This trail also provides excellent examples of engineered trail features such as rounded slopes, benching, and drainage that utilizes sheeting. Accretions to the trail since 1941 include the installation of recycled plastic boardwalk and decking around the Big Tree, culverts, as well as a few stone steps and several benches with stone masonry supports and wooden seating.

Cliff Nature Trail (Contributing)

Construction date: 1930s (CCC)

Length of contributing segment of trail: 1.0 mile

Type of trail: Connects with the Lake Mountain trail to create the Cliff Nature Loop.

The Cliff Nature Trail extends from the cave exit to the intersection of this trail with the Lake Mountain Trail. It is part of a 1.0 mile loop that starts behind the Chalet on the Lake Mountain Trail, and ends on the Cave Exit Trail. The Cliff Nature Trail has a predominate western aspect providing spectacular views of the distant Illinois Valley, and has several examples of stone steps incorporated into the trail by the CCC. The trail largely consists of sweeping curves with seven switchbacks. Each switchback was finished with a dry-laid retaining wall constructed with a tight radial curve. Wood retaining features not original to the trail design support fills on three separate stretches of the trail.

Trail width averages 4 feet with approximately 10 feet of vertical clearance. The gradient of the trail ranges between 7 and 8 percent with thirteen short flights of marble steps to account for steeper changes in grade. It appears that varied gradient and sheeting initially provided adequate trail drainage; however one wooden water bar and two culverts have been added to address drainage issues. The historic trail surface was dirt except for the portion just outside of the cave exit. This portion is identified as the Cave Exit Trail and leads visitors back to the cave entrance.

The Cliff Nature Trail has two major overlooks, one with a view to the developed area of the monument below, and the other with a panoramic view to the west of the surrounding forest. Accretions to the 1930s design have been minor and include the installation of a stone masonry monument for an interpretive panel at the first overlook, two stretches of wood fencing/hand rails, and four benches with stone masonry bases and wood seating.

No Name Trail (Contributing)

Construction date: 1937/1941 (CCC)

Length of contributing segment of trail: 1.3 miles

Type of trail: Loop

The No Name Trail is a loop trail that begins southwest of the Chateau, continues southwest to No Name Creek, and then turns north/northeast back to the Chateau. The initial section of this trail was constructed in 1937 to link the cave entrance with No Name Creek. It was then extended to the north and east in 1941 to form a 1.3 mile trail loop. The trailhead is accessed at the end of the service road that runs west of the Chateau.

The predominate northern aspect of the trail takes hikers through dense mixed conifer forests and runs along mossy cliffs on the east side of No Name Creek and beyond the western boundary of the monument in the adjacent Siskiyou National Forest. The trail runs north and eventually re-enters the monument boundary just prior to crossing Cave Creek. From there, hikers have the option of following the trail through the canyon back to the Chateau, or following a second route up to the lower day-use parking lot, which provides access to the service road back to the Chateau.

The No Name Trail is classified as moderately strenuous with a total change in elevation of approximately 250 feet. Although considerably longer in total length, the No Name Trail had

only nine switchbacks and only one dry-laid retaining wall six feet in height. Wood cribbing to retain the slope was also used on one section of the trail. The trail surface is comprised of dirt with an average width of 4 feet, and approximately 10 feet of vertical clearance.

Gradient frequently changes and ranges from 2 percent to 15 percent. Only one culvert was identified on the trail and appears to date from the period of significance. The trail also has three historic dry-laid stone benches recessed into the uphill slope. Repairs to these benches since they were built are not compatible. While this trail has no designed overlooks, several spurs lead to the creek and may be remnants of the original 1941 trail before a short realignment of this section took place after the 1964 flood. Other accretions to the original design include the installation of several wooden benches with masonry supports, and a short covered wood frame bridge with masonry supports crossing Cave Creek.

Cave Exit Trail (Outside the boundary)

Construction date: 1931 (USFS); 1935-37 (improved by CCC)

Length of contributing segment of trail: X miles

Type of trail: Connects with the Cliff Nature Trail to create the Cliff Nature Loop.

Although this trail has been excluded from the historic district due to loss of integrity, a brief description is included here because it is a prominent trail that closes the loop for visitors on the cave tour and the Cliff Nature Trail (a contributing trail). Constructed in 1931 by the USFS, the trail begins at the upper cave exit and terminates within ten yards of the cave entrance. It was widened and improved by the CCC in 1935-37. Since then it has undergone various alterations which have badly compromised its historic integrity; it has been furthered widened, guardrails added, and the original trail lighting replaced.

Contributing Features:

Service Road

Walkways

Lake Mountain Trail

Big Tree Trail (and Old Growth Trail Spur)

No Name Trail

Cliff Nature Trail

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Service road north of Chateau, looking northwest. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Path to cave entrance from Chalet, looking west. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Sloped walkway to Chalet, looking north. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Concrete steps to the Chalet, looking west. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Stairs near cave entrance, looking southwest. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Path to courtyard, looking north. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



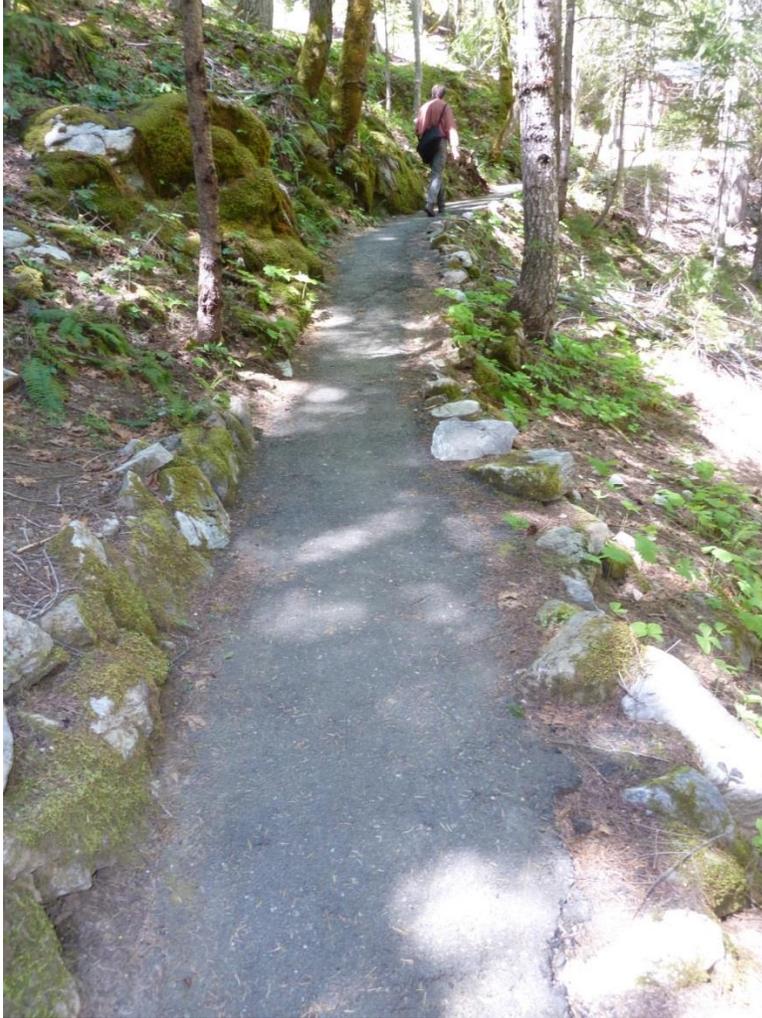
Front-country section of Lake Mountain Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Back-country section of Lake Mountain Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Contemporary riprap along Lake Mountain Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



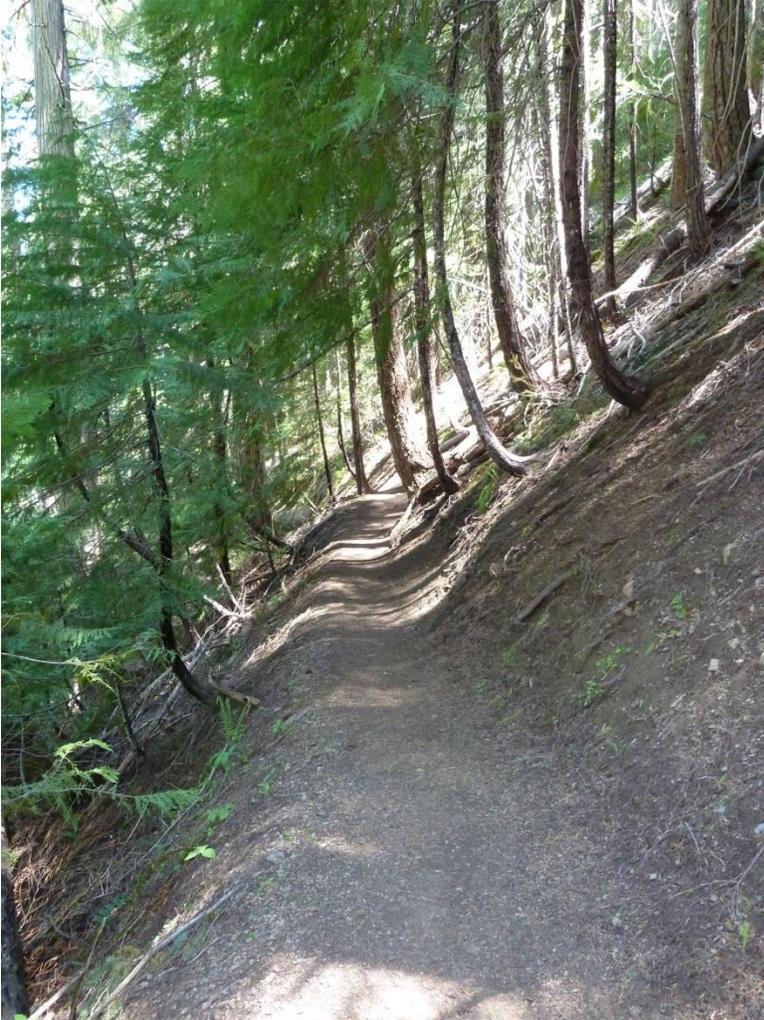
Front-country section of Big Tree Trail. A short section of this trail near the Chalet has been paved with asphalt. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Back-country section of Big Tree Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



A segment of the Old Growth Trail Spur showing historic rockwork. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



A segment of the No Name Trail that was cut into a steep slope. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Example of a switchback on No Name Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



A segment of the Cliff Nature Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are features constructed for sheltering any form of human activity. Structures are features constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activity, and may include mechanical and structural engineering systems.

Buildings and structures within the Oregon Caves Historic District primarily consist of two types: buildings and rock walls. These features illustrate rustic design details, incorporating locally available building materials such as timber and stone. The buildings are log post structures, sheathed in bark from native Port Orford cedar trees. This gives them a shaggy appearance similar to the trees that surround them. Generally, the exteriors of the remaining buildings have not been altered since the period of significance, and as a result retain integrity. Significantly, the Chateau was designated a National Historic Landmark for its rustic design qualities in 1987.

In addition to the buildings, a system of rock walls was constructed within the historic district. The monument's early landscape architects selected stone due to its durability in high-use areas. Furthermore, they believed that stone conveyed a sense of permanency.⁷⁶ During the period of significance, many of the walls were constructed by the CCC. Although the 1964 flood damaged some of the existing walls in the plaza, they were rebuilt using original materials and high-quality craftsmanship. Today, the walls serve as a unifying design element within the cultural landscape and retain integrity as an overall system.

BUILDINGS

There are five contributing buildings within the boundaries of the Oregon Caves Historic District, they include the: Chateau, Chalet, Guide Dormitory, Ranger Residence, and the Checking and Comfort Station. Constructed of predominately native materials, they were built between 1926 and 1942. Rough-cut limestone or marble and Port Orford cedar bark sheathing are their most distinctive detail features. Most of the district's buildings incorporated local marble or limestone, generally as a veneer to hide poured concrete foundations. The cedar bark sheathing was laid vertically to shed water, giving the buildings a brown, shaggy appearance. These features, together with wood-shingled gable roofs with round or hewn purlins, and sheathing weathered from brown to silver-gray, created the appearance of a rustic, sylvan resort. Due to function and siting considerations, the district's buildings have widely differing plans.

Chateau (IDLCS 30300, built 1929) (Contributing)

Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1987 for its architectural design, the Oregon Caves Chateau is a rustic hotel built of heavy log posts and timber beams that are exposed in its interior public spaces. It was designed by architect Gust Lium. The exterior is covered with bark from Port Orford cedar trees, giving the building a shaggy appearance. It consists of a two-story reinforced concrete foundation set into the hillside, and a four-story wood frame superstructure.

⁷⁶ Mark 1991

The building is a modified rectangular plan consisting of a rectangular center flanked by splayed rectangular ends. This gives the Chateau an asymmetrical footprint with ten sides.

Although the building is six stories tall, it spans the head of a narrow gorge. As a result, the first three stories and much of the building's mass are hidden below the adjacent plaza. The hotel's appearance belies its size, which is further downplayed by landscaping that provides a proportional appearance. Roofs are steeply pitched and wood-shingled. The central area has a gable roof with a centered gable dormer and lower level shed roof; the end sections' have a gable roof with shed-roofed dormers pierced by symmetrically placed steeply-pitched gable-roofed dormers. The extended eaves are supported by unpeeled log brackets, exposed rafter tails, and plain fascia boards. A variety of window types and patterns are featured in the Chateau. The most common lobby-level windows consist of a single sash with two rows of small divided lights over a large single light. Upper level guest floor windows typically have a double-hung sash with eight divided lights over one light.

In 1958, cumulative snow damage, and possibly fire codes, caused the replacement of wooden verandas on the northwest side of the fourth and fifth floors with steel catwalks and fire escape ladders. A variety of window types are featured in the Chateau: eight-over-one double-hung sash, six-pane fixed sash, multi-paned casement, twenty-over-one fixed sash, and round-topped fixed sash. Several doors have transom windows with various patterns. One main chimney emanates from the main lobby's freestanding marble fireplace. Part of Cave Creek passes through a conduit of the third floor appearing as a water feature in the dining room.

Aside from the verandas and restorative repairs made to the Chateau foundation after 1964 flood damage, change in the exterior form and appearance to date is not evident. More recently work has been completed to make updates to meet ADA accessibility standards.

Chalet (IDLCS 302300, built 1942) (Contributing)

The architect for the Chateau, Gust Lium, was also responsible for the asymmetrical rustic Oregon Caves Chalet. This three-story building is built with heavy log posts and timber beams exposed in interior public spaces. It has a two-story breezeway near the building's south end, which separates the structure's north side and south sides. In common with the other buildings at Oregon Caves, the exterior is sheathed with Port Orford cedar bark. The Chalet's steep wood-shake gable roof has shed dormers on each of its stories, which are broken by a large gable dormer over the breezeway. This dormer is balanced by a smaller gable dormer at the opposite end of the Chalet. Among the few decorative features of the Chalet are "arts and crafts" style light fixtures along the first floor's exterior west facade. Window sizes and configurations vary, but the most prevalent are six- and nine-light casements. Other types are fixed and range from nine to twelve lights.

Most of the Chalet's present functions were inherited from a prior building that stood on the same site. The first floor of the extant structure houses a gift shop, cave tour registration, storage, and public restrooms. The second and third floors contain residential quarters for concession employees, and much of this area retains its original configuration.

The breezeway provides an opening across the valley drainage that the building straddles. This feature allowed the building to survive the 1964 flood relatively unscathed, because the floodwaters could pass straight through the opening. Repairs in response to the 1964 flood consisted of placing cables within the breezeway to augment its wooden supports.

Guide Dormitory (IDLCS 30301, built 1927) (Contributing)

Originally constructed in 1927, the Port-Orford cedar bark sheathed wood frame Guide Dormitory is the oldest extant structure at Oregon Caves. The building has a two-story rectangular plan with a steep gable roof and peaked dormers. The dormers were added in 1940 when a north side addition doubled the building's floor space, and remain the structure's most distinct feature. Another addition made to the north side in 1972 added an equal amount of space, thus tripling the building's original floor space. Previous to the 1972 addition, the concrete foundation was hidden by dry-laid stone whose appearance matched many of the monument's rock walls. The exposed concrete foundation is now painted brown and partly screened by several trees and shrubs.

Wooden stairs to the building's entrance from its access trail have been removed since 2008. They were replaced with irregular rock steps with adjacent rock retaining walls and a rock bench. This stonework does not match the character of the building or that of CCC-era work, resulting in non-compatible features within the building's setting.

Ranger's Residence (IDLCS 30302, built 1935) (Contributing)

The T-shaped Ranger's Residence has a simple, rustic character. This 38-foot by 28-foot building is a wood-frame structure with a porch on its north side, a gable roof, and unpeeled log brackets that appear to form three purlins for the gables. Brackets also decorate the gable-roofed overhang above the main entry to the residence. Like the other buildings within the cultural landscape, it is sheathed in Port Orford cedar bark. Windows generally consist of eight-light casements.

The building was completed in 1936 after extensive excavation into a hillside above the cave system, and incorporates deep excavations above cave for partial basement. Today, a location above the cave is considered to potentially cause impacts to the cave itself. However, the NPS originally selected the site because it was the only building site near the plaza not already leased to the Oregon Caves Company.

In 1974, the structure was converted to office space and its plain panel doors underwent some remodeling. At that time, the brick chimney was covered in the kitchen. It is still visible, however, above the roofline where the chimney's two flues are faced with stone. The building was further rehabilitated in 1993 and now provides office space for natural resource staff. Restrooms are not provided at the building because of potential drainage issues with the cave below.

Checking and Comfort Station (IDLCS 030303, built 1941) (Contributing)

Wood frame construction and Port Orford cedar bark sheathing unify the Checking and Comfort Station with other structures on site. This building was built in 1941 to fill the need for NPS office space and visitor restrooms in the lower parking lot, as well as to regulate traffic between that lot and the Chateau. In plan, the office portion of the building consists of a portion of a full octagon, meaning five of the octagon's eight sides, which is attached to a rectangular restroom facility. The office portion has a roof shaped by intersecting gables with exposed hewn rafter tails, and the restrooms have a gable roof with hewn purlins and rafter tails. The windows, original to the structure, are double-hung in the comfort station section and three-light fixed in the office portion, except where the latter open outward like casement windows to allow visitor contact. One of the original windows was replaced in 1994 to allow visitors to view a computer screen. The computer is no longer used, but the window has not been restored to its original three-light fixed pattern.

The restroom sits 18 inches higher than the office, so each side of the building is flanked by concrete stairs. The structure is set into the adjacent hillside, with the back/east side of the building incorporating a stone retaining wall approximately half the height of the building. The restroom portion of the building originally had stone facing at its base, two feet in height. In the 1960s, this was extended around the office portion of the building and a drinking fountain on the north side. At that time the NPS also added concrete paving over the original flagstone in front of the building, which had formerly radiated outward from the building some six feet. In 1979, a concrete handicapped accessible ramp with a stone veneer on its side walls was added to each side of the restroom. The building was also reroofed at that time.

STRUCTURES

Upper and Lower Pools (Contributing)

The plaza area contains two pools filled by Cave Creek. The upper pool is located directly below the main cave entrance, between the fire pit and stairs to the cave entry. It is fed by an eight foot waterfall. The lower pool is located in the courtyard adjacent to the Chateau.

Upper Pool (IDLCS 030316, built 1929): The upper pool originally consisted of a rectangular concrete pool built by the concessioner in 1929; however, the CCC replaced it in 1935 with a triangular pool that was softened by a curvilinear side. Measuring three feet deep and approximately 20 feet wide, the pool is lined by native stone that was placed under the direction of Howard Buford during the period of significance. Having suffered no damage from the 1964 flood, the pool retains its 1935 configuration.

Lower Pool (IDLCS 030317, built 1935): Linked to the upper pool via a culvert and fed by a roughly 15 foot waterfall, the lower pool retains its original location and oval shape as built by the CCC in 1935. The pool is six feet deep, 40 feet long and 30 feet wide. Historically, the CCC used log slabs treated with preservative as paving material in the courtyard area surrounding the lower pool. The slabs were removed in 1952 after rot had affected their appearance. Logs and

debris choked the courtyard following the 1964 flood, and the pool was dredged and lined with native rock in 1990. Today, the courtyard surrounding the pool is paved with asphalt.

Historic Rock Walls (Contributing)

A system of rock walls was used within the Oregon Caves Historic District to stabilize steep hillsides and provide flat areas for building platforms, trails, roads, gathering spaces in the plaza, and parking lots. Limestone and marble for these structures was collected from above ground sites as well as from the cave. Generally, the stone has a rough texture and weathered appearance. Both dry-laid walls and mortared walls are found throughout the historic district. Dry-laid walls are the most prevalent due to monument's moderate climate and their ability to withstand the elements. This type of wall also costs less to build than a masonry wall and the surrounding earth requires only a small amount of preparation by comparison. In some instances, however, mortared walls were necessary where nearly vertical walls were required, such as between the Chalet and the cave entrance.

Some walls were constructed by concession employees in the 1920s and, according to a 1934 report, were poorly built (Doerner 1934). As a result, CCC crews rebuilt most of them and added several new walls as part of their trail building projects. The CCC made use of a "homemade tractor hoist" to place greater quantities of rock in the dry-laid rock walls around the Chateau and other sites. This allowed movement of larger and better textured rock in comparison to what the concession employees had used previously. A great deal of attention was paid to the size, color, and form of individual stones to ensure that they were well-matched. This is particularly evident in the masonry wall constructed in 1940 that reinforces the walkway from the Chalet to the main cave entrance. Much the work undertaken by the CCC crew has the NPS "Type 2" crenulated pattern that that was established by the NPS and Bureau of Public Roads in 1929. The 1964 flood damaged some of these walls, particularly those below the Chalet and in the courtyard adjacent to the Chateau. These were rebuilt in-kind.

Below are descriptions of prominent rock walls listed within the historic district:

Masonry Walls along Service Road (LCSID 030310, built 1923-1934): Masonry retaining walls located along the lower edge of the road measure between two and eight feet high, and extend the length of the road from the lower parking lot to the Chateau. Log guard rails were originally placed along the top of the wall, but were removed in 1952.

Stone Retaining Walls in Plaza Area (LCSID 030311, built 1923-1940): A mortared wall, constructed in 1940, lines the walkway connecting the Chalet and cave entrance. Historic construction drawings indicate that the wall was originally mortared, similar to its appearance today. Measuring roughly 100 feet long, 18 inches wide, and up to ten feet tall, the wall is constructed of battered stone with crenellations. Its texture and pattern resembles other CCC projects at Crater Lake (Lange 1940).

Chateau Courtyard Path and Retaining Walls (LCSID 030321, 1929-1942): This feature includes the path (which is described in the Circulation section) and retaining walls used to

support it. The walls consist of two dry-laid stone retaining walls that measure approximately 130 and 70 linear feet respectively. The longer wall lies below the path and connects to the courtyard, while the shorter wall lies above the path. The walls were rebuilt in 1940 and repaired following extensive damage from the 1964 flood; however, the walls are still in their historic locations and retain their historic character and integrity.

Rock Walls Enclosing Gathering Area (built 1920s, rebuilt circa 1964, and modified 1983): A masonry wall was constructed in the 1920s around a gathering area with a firepit and benches below the Chalet. The wall suffered severe damage as a result of the 1964 flood. Some NPS documents state the wall was completely lost and reconstructed; however, field observations reveal that several of the lower courses of stone appear exactly as they did in historic photos. In 1983, modifications were made to the wall to make it slightly higher. Today, the new portion of wall is clearly visible with different stonework. While it is clear that the wall has undergone modification over time, it appears to be in its original location and retains portions of its original material.

Non-Historic Rock Walls (Non-contributing)

Rock Retaining Walls and Steps at Guide Dormitory (built 2008-2011): Dry-laid rock retaining walls and steps with an inset bench have been added to the entrance to the Guide Dormitory since 2008. Although these mimic some of the qualities of the CCC-built walls and steps, they replaced wooden steps that historically offered access to the entrance and as a result do not represent what would have been present during the period of significance. Furthermore, their construction is not as refined as similar elements built by the CCC, with the steps having varying depths and heights.

Contributing Features:

Chateau
Chalet
Guide Dormitory
Ranger Residence
Checking and Comfort Station
Upper and Lower Pools
Historic Rock Walls

Non-Contributing Features:

Non-Historic Rock Walls

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



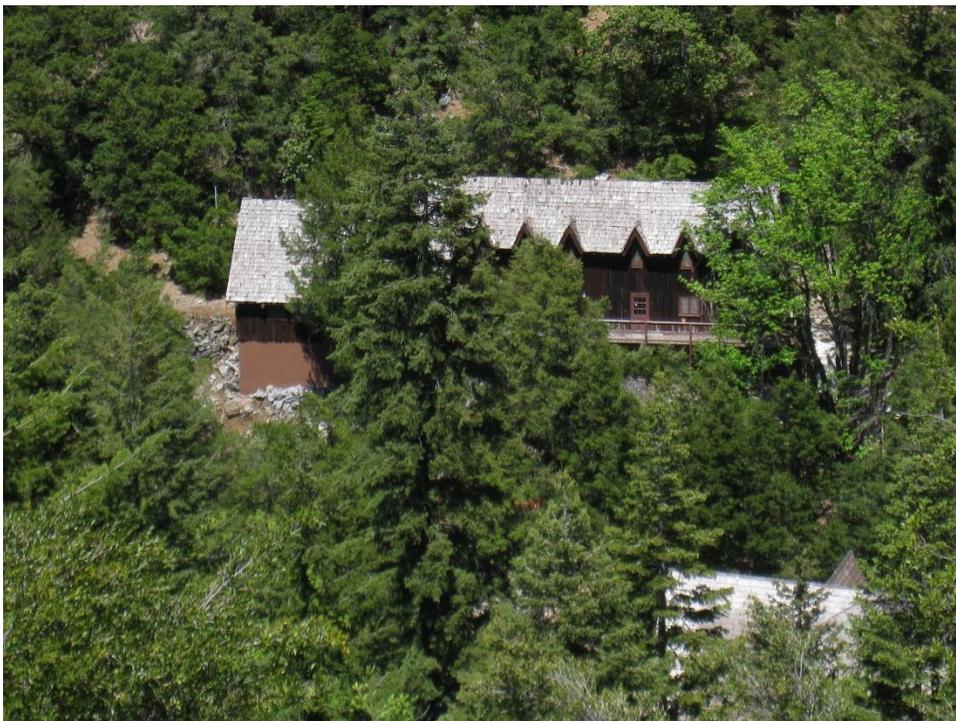
Front of Chateau, looking northwest. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Back of Chateau, looking southeast. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Chalet, looking northeast. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



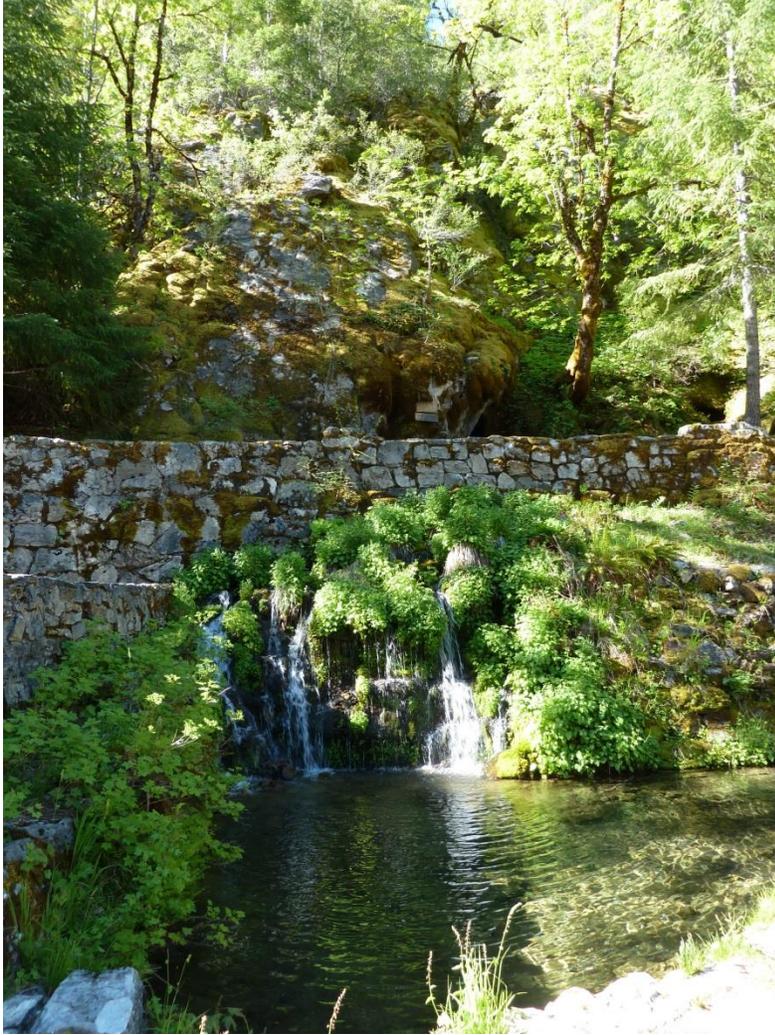
Guide Dormitory, looking northeast from the Cliff Nature Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Ranger Residence, looking southwest. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Checking and Comfort Station, looking west. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Upper pool, looking southwest. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Lower pool, looking east. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Historic rock walls in plaza, looking south. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



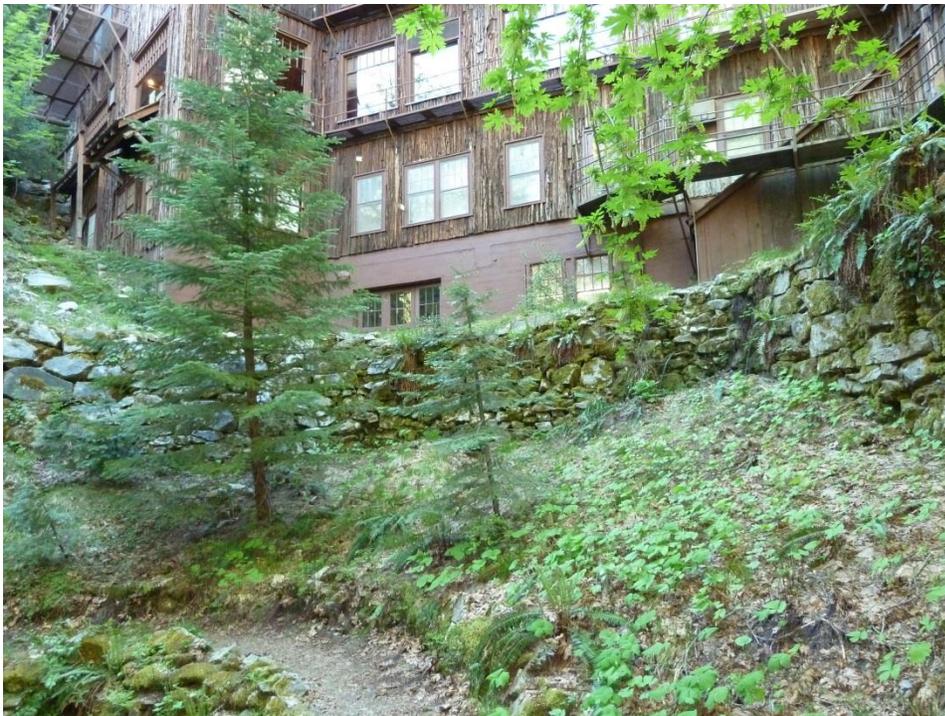
Rock walls behind Chateau and below historic section of the upper parking lot, looking southeast. Originally log cribbing, this section of the retaining wall system may have been constructed by the CCC during the period of significance, but no documentation has been found to confirm. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Historic rock walls in plaza below the Chalet, looking southeast. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Historic rock seating wall south of the Chalet, looking southeast. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Rock walls below Chateau, looking northeast. These walls were likely damaged from the 1964 flood and reconstructed. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Contemporary rock work along Big Tree Trail that does not reflect the historic character of the historic district. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)

Small Scale Features

Small scale features are the elements which provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

Small scale features within the Oregon Caves Historic District include signs, stone benches, stone bases for fire hose cabinets, and exterior lighting. These features were constructed using naturalistic design philosophies and support the district's association with rustic architecture. In essence, these features, which extend design "far beyond the bare necessities of facility [is where] the ingenuity of the CCC found its greatest expression" (Mark 1991). While it is clear that site details were often based on established designs, many of the features at Oregon Caves as well as in other parks and monuments were the innovation of the assigned CCC construction crew.

Since the period of significance several non-historic small scale features have been built within the boundaries of the historic district. Despite these changes, many of these features were built using compatible materials and styles that help blend them into the historic setting.

Stone Benches (10) (IDLCS 030318, built 1936) (Contributing)

In 1936, the CCC constructed numerous stone benches along hiking trails in the monument. The benches were originally constructed of dry-laid stones set into the hillside and were characterized by a raised seat with a vertical back. Generally, they ranged from two to four feet wide. Six benches are located along the Big Tree Trail, one along the Old Growth trail, and three along the No Name Trail. Circa 1993, poorly applied mortar was added to the benches, with the exception of a bench along the Old Growth Trail, for unknown reasons.

Elijah Davidson Monument (IDLCS 030312, placed 1935) (Contributing)

Erected in the early 1930s, this monument consists of a roughly two foot high rough marble block that rests on a mortared stone base at the east side of the main cave entrance. The block is beveled on one side, where the following words are engraved: "ELIJAH DAVIDSON DISCOVERED THE OREGON CAVES NOV 23 1874."

Signs at Cave Entrance (IDLCS 030315, placed 1941) (Contributing)

Adjacent to the cave entrance is a 1941 bronze plaque with two panels. The upper panel is bolted to the stone, while the lower panel hangs from the upper. The sign is approximately one-foot wide. The upper panel is roughly eight inches tall, inscribed with the following words:

OREGON CAVES
NATIONAL MONUMENT
SET ASIDE BY
PRESIDENT TAFT
JULY 12 1909

The lower panel is approximately six inches high, inscribed with the following words:

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT ALL PERSONS ENTERING
CAVES BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN AUTHORIZED GUIDE

Stone Masonry Bases for Fire Hose Cabinets (2) (IDLCS SHADOW 030307, built 1941)
(Contributing)

Masonry was used at the base of many of the cultural landscape's structures. The two 1941-built fire hose cabinets along the trail east of the Chalet provide an excellent example of this. They are approximately four feet square, and the walls are two to three feet high. The small gable-roofed wooden structures that sit atop the walls were replaced after the 1964 flood, but mimic the original structures. These have doorways at their front that were originally used to access to hydrants and fire hoses. The structures are now used for transformer vaults, and new louvered metal doors have replaced the wood. One has an access hatch for the fire hose above.

Light Standards (8) (IDLCS 030305, built 1938) (Contributing)

Light standards were installed in the plaza and parking area west of the Chateau in 1937 and 1938. These alleviated the "exceptional darkness" caused by the tall trees of the canyon (Zobel et. al. 1985; Mark 1991). The standards are characterized by a 17-foot beveled peeled Douglas fir pole with a 13-inch octagonal copper and glass fixture at the top. The fixture is suspended from a metal bracket attached to a 7-inch diameter cross piece that has been split in two and attached to the pole by brackets on either side of the pole. This design gives the cross piece the appearance of being continuous and inserted through the pole. This light standard configuration was commonly used by many parks, both urban and rural, during the 1930s. Eight of these light standards are still extant, and although most of the standards at the monument are original, the LCS notes that some were reconstructed and moved to the uphill side of the road circa 1986.

Stone Bases for Recessed Lights (IDLCS 030306, built 1936) (Undetermined)

Many areas within the central plaza as well as along the service road and the Cave Exit Trail are lit by masonry light standards consisting of a mortared block wall approximately 18 inches tall with recessed louvered light fixtures. A 1938 as-built drawing suggests that lights were established in eleven locations between the Chateau and the lower parking lot, but they do not appear in any photographs prior to the 1950s. Today, a significant number of these lights with stone bases exist and it is unknown when many of them were constructed. Although some of the light bases may be historic, it is likely that some were added after the period of significance. Due to lack of information, their contributing status is undetermined.

NHL Plaque at Chateau (IDLCS SHADOW 030314, placed 1990) (Non-contributing)

A standard bronze plaque, which identifies the Chateau as a National Historic Landmark was mounted on a boulder outside of the building's main lobby entrance. The rockwork around the plaque was added in 1997.

Kiosk, East of Chalet (Non-contributing)

A kiosk with a shingle roof was built at the Big Tree/Lake Mountain trailheads east of the Chalet in 2007. It includes panels covered with plexiglass that contain information about the trails. Although this is a compatible small scale feature, it is generally larger and more elaborate than signs that were constructed at the site during the historic period.

Miscellaneous Signs (Non-contributing)

Oregon Caves Historic District contains a variety of signs, including directional, identification, and interpretive. The original signs were produced by the Crater Lake sign shop and the Yosemite sign shop. During Mission 66, these signs were replaced with brown-painted wood signs with routing. Today, there are a few extant Mission 66 signs, as well as a few stencil signs produced by the concessioner in the 1970s.

Non-historic Trail Benches (Non-contributing)

Many non-historic benches have been added along the hiking trails since the period of significance. The majority of them are constructed with two mortared stone bases that support wood plank seats. Generally, the benches are well-built and blend with the rustic character of the historic district; however, a poorly constructed stone bench has been built at the intersection of Big Tree Trail and Mountain Lake Trail, which detracts from the historic character of the trails.

Fire Ring (Non-contributing)

The original fire ring was located at the base of the steps that lead up to the Chalet. It was destroyed by the 1964 flood. The current fire pit was constructed at an unknown date following the flood closer to the Upper Pool. It is constructed of stone and measures approximately 5 feet in diameter. The character of the new fire ring is compatible with the original.

Contributing Features:

Elijah Davidson Monument

Signs at Cave Entrance (2)

Stone Benches

Stone Masonry Bases for Fire Hose Cabinets (2)

Light Standards (8)

Non-contributing Features:

NHL Plaque, Oregon Caves Chateau
Kiosk
Miscellaneous Signs
Non-historic Trail Benches
Fire Ring

Undetermined

Stone Bases for Recessed Lights

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Elijah Davidson Monument. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Cave entrance signs (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Example of a historic stone bench located along Big Tree Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Example of a historic stone bench located along No Name Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Example of a historic stone bench located along Big Tree Trail that has received improper maintenance, which impacts its historic integrity. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Stone Masonry Bases for Fire Hose Cabinets (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Street Light Standards. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Example of a non-historic trail benches located along Big Tree Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Contemporary wood bench and stone steps along the Lake Mountain Trail that do not reflect the historic character of the historic district. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Example of recessed lighting along the service road. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Example of stone base for recessed light along the Cave Exit Trail. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Kiosk behind the Chalet. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Fire ring located above the Upper Pool. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)

Vegetation

Vegetation refers to deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants, and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

Vegetation within the historic district is limited to plant species native to the area that blend in with the surrounding natural forested hillsides. As a result, it is often difficult to determine which plants were intentionally placed and which ones were established naturally. In addition, detailed records of landscape work completed during the period of significance do not exist, making differentiation between historic and more recent plantings difficult. However, historic documentation provides some information about the historic design intent, such as massing, location, and plant choice. Overall, the general character of vegetation within the historic district continues to reflect the historic design intent.

Limited information about landscape design is recorded in the 1936 and 1938 master plans, Superintendent's monthly reports of CCC work, and historic photographs. These documents show that efforts were focused around the Chateau and plaza, although some planting occurred along the Cave Exit Trail and cave entrance. Naturalistic design practices were implemented at Oregon Caves. Plant materials native to the Siskiyou Mountains were used as a feasible solution for plaza plantings and were gathered outside monument boundaries near the Oregon Caves Highway. Records show that considerable effort was made to transplant trees and shrubs to the area around the Chateau and courtyard adjacent to it. Transplanted trees were typically large specimen trees, including Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Port Orford cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), golden chinquapin (*Castanopsis chrysophylla*), and Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*). Ferns were also transplanted and massed below shrubs near the base of buildings and stone walls.

Major landscape work was undertaken in 1962 by the Western Region after some diseased Douglas-fir trees were removed from the east hillside behind the Chalet. Eleven species of native plants were specified to "...maintain [and restore] a natural appearance for the developed area around the cave and parking facilities, [and to manage] plant and animal life...for visitor safety and enjoyment." These included: white fir (*Abies concolor*), vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), service berry (*Amelanchier pallida*), Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos carensis*), Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttalli*), rock spirea (*Holodiscus discolor*), Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), Cascades mahonia (*Mahonia nervosa*), coast rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*). Additional landscaping was completed after flood damage in 1964, but no details regarding this work has been found. More recently, several young vine maples were planted on the eastern side of Chateau near the lower pond.

Summary

The most important aspect of vegetation is the overall character and feeling the vegetation creates within the historic district instead of individual plant specimens. The historic and continuing use of native trees, shrubs, and ferns around the foundations of buildings, along rock walls, and the constructed pools, help to retain the historic character and intent of the early

plantings and naturalistic landscape design. The continued use of native plants in new landscape projects is compatible with and a continuation of this tradition.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Vine maples growing in plant beds along the Chateau. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Large shade tree in the plaza. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)



Native vegetation growing on the rock wall below the Chalet. (PWR Cultural Landscapes Program, 2011)

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: August 2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The cultural landscape has been assessed as being in fair condition. The cultural landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition. This assessment is primarily due to the condition of the rockwork along the hiking trails.

Stabilization Measures:

- Repair and preserve historic rock retaining walls and historic stone benches along the trails. Repairs to historic stone features should be done by a trained stone mason following preservation standards in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Historic Preservation*.
 - Restack loose or fallen rocks using in kind techniques. Carefully document removal and repair using same rocks. Repair CCC-constructed benches in-kind to stop further deterioration and stabilize loose rocks.
- Stabilize trail treads that are showing signs of erosion.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Trail treads show signs of erosion in steep and wet locations.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Historic rock walls show signs of disrepair, with missing or loose rocks. Some walls are covered with soil.

Type of Impact: Operations on site
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: The addition of new rock work along trails detracts from

the historic character of the trails. Repairs to CCC-constructed stone benches do not match the original level of craftsmanship, impacting the historic integrity of the benches.

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation and Rehabilitation

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The General Management Plan (November 1998) specifies preservation and rehabilitation as the approved treatment for historic buildings and cultural landscapes listed on the National Register (39-40).

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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Supplemental Information

Title: Site Plans

Description: 11x17 versions of the Oregon Caves Historic District Site Plans are available from the park's cultural resources manager or the Pacific West Region's CLI program.

Title: Historic Drawing and Maps

Description: A selection of historic maps and drawing for the Oregon Caves developed area.

Title: Native Plant List

Description: Over 400 species of plants are found within the Oregon Caves National Monument boundary. Below is a list of some of the most common native plants within the monument.

Trees:

white fir (*Abies concolor*)
grand fir (*Abies grandis*)
noble fir (*Abies procera*)
bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)
white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*)
Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)
incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)
golden chinkapin (*Castanopsis chrysophylla*)
Port Orford cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)
Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)
California hazel (*Corylus comuta*)
incense cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*)
tan oak (*Notholithocarpus densiflora*)
sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*)
ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
canyon live oak (*Quereus chryolepis*)
California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*)

Shrubs:

Pacific serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
Greenleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*)
Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium* or *Mahonia aquifolium*)
Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*)

ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*)
Lewis mockorange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)
wild rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*)
cut leaf blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*)
common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Ground Covers:

yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)
maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)
red columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)
spike bentgrass (*Argostis exarata*)
Sierra wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*)
lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)
mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*)
giant red Indian paint brush (*Castilleja miniata*)
prince's pine (*Chimaphila umbellata*)
blue lips (*Collinsia torreyi*)
larkspur (*Delphinium menziesii*)
blue wild-rye (*Elymus glaucus*)
Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*)
crevice alumroot (*Heuchera micrantha*)
twin flower (*Linnaea borealis*)
pullup muhly (*Muhlenbergia filiformis*)
Calypso orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*)
big bluegrass (*Pea ampla*)
alpine timothy (*Phleum alpinum*)
sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)
bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*)
snow plant (*Sarcodes sanguinea*)
star flower (*Trientalis latifolia*)
trillium sp. (*Trillium ovatum*)
spike trisetum (*Trisetum spicatum*)
California false-hellebore (*Veratrum californicum*)
mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)
verbena (*Verena lasiostachys*)
streamside violet (*Viola glabella*)
modest whipplea (*Whipplea modesta*)

Title: Concurrence Letter from the USFS

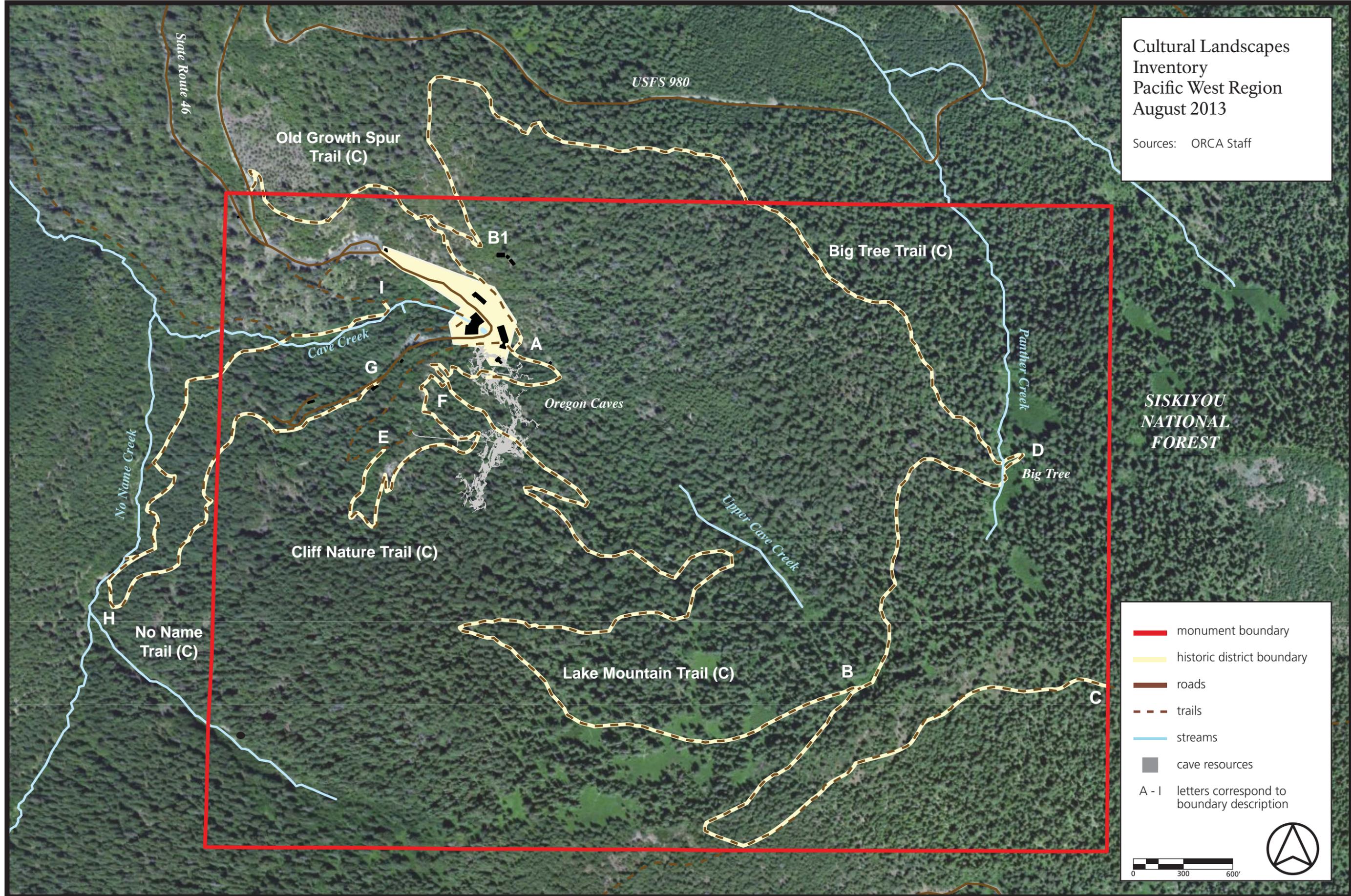
Description: A letter from the USFS to the NPS concurring with the inclusion of some trail sections that are outside the monument boundary.

Title: Letter from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer

Description: Letter from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer notifying the NPS of the listing of the amendment to the National Register nomination.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Pacific West Region
August 2013

Sources: ORCA Staff



-  monument boundary
-  historic district boundary
-  roads
-  trails
-  streams
-  cave resources
- A - I letters correspond to boundary description

0 300 600'




**SISKIYOU
NATIONAL
FOREST**

USFS 980

State Route 40

Old Growth Spur Trail (C)

Big Tree Trail (C)

Cliff Nature Trail (C)

No Name Trail (C)

Lake Mountain Trail (C)

Oregon Caves

Big Tree

Cave Creek

Upper Cave Creek

Panther Creek

B1

A

G

F

E

H

B

C

0 300 600'

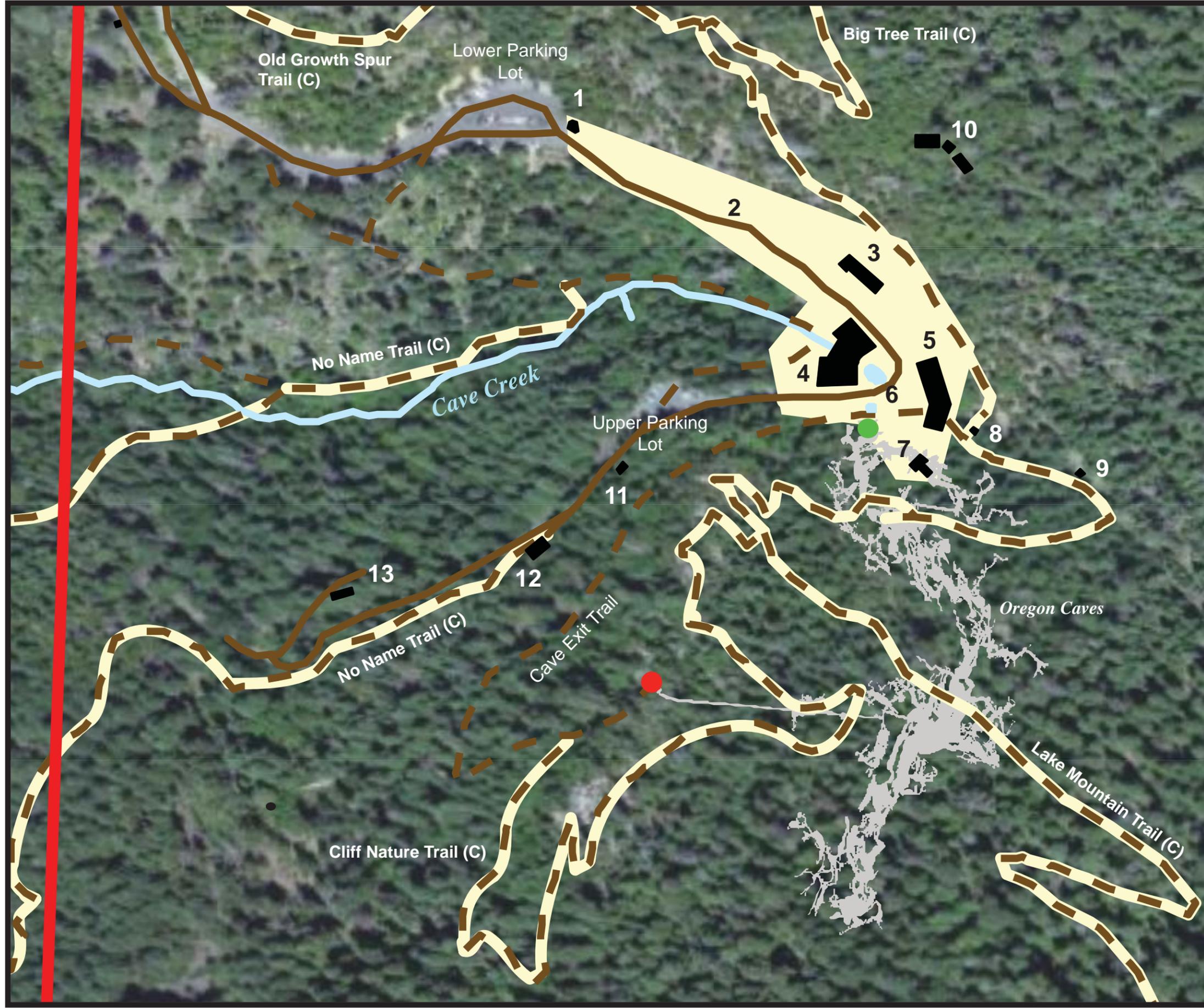
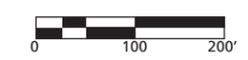
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Pacific West Region
August 2013

Sources: ORCA Staff

-  monument boundary
-  historic district boundary
-  roads
-  trails
-  streams
-  cave entrance
-  cave exit
-  caves

Buildings and Structures

- 1 Checking and Comfort Station (C)
 - 2 Service Road (C)
 - 3 Guide Dormitory (C)
 - 4 Chateau (C)
 - 5 Chalet
 - 6 Courtyard Features:
 - Upper and Lower Pools (C)
 - Elijah Davidson Monument (C)
 - Cave Entrance Signs (C)
 - Light Standards (C)
 - Stone Walls (C)
 - Walkways (C)
 - Fire Ring (NC)
 - NHL Plaque (NC)
 - 7 Ranger's Residence (C)
 - 8 Fire Hose Stone Base (#1) (C) and Kiosk (NC)
 - 9 Stone Masonry Bases for Fire Hose Cabinets (2) (C)
- Outside Historic District Boundary:
- 10 Water Treatment
 - 11 Small Garage
 - 12 Large Garage
 - 13 Sewer Treatment





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Rogue River-Siskiyou
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504-4119

File Code: 2360

Date: December 14, 2010

Vicki Snitzler, Superintendent
Oregon Caves National Monument
19000 Caves Highway
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Dear Ms. Snitzler:

This is in response to your request for a review by my staff of a draft nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is intended to expand the existing Oregon Caves Historic District in order to embrace most of the monument's trail system, which in two instances includes National Forest land. After review of the draft by Forest Archaeologist Janet Joyer, we have no objection to including those portions of the Big Tree Trail and the No Name Loop in the nomination.

Thank you for allowing us a chance to read and comment on the draft nomination. It is very well done, and we are glad to help expedite progress toward listing by the Keeper.

Sincerely,

SCOTT D. CONROY
Forest Supervisor





Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer St NE, Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

(503) 986-0671

Fax (503) 986-0793

www.oregonheritage.org

January 20, 2012

Mr. Stephen Mark
National Park Service
PO Box 7
Crater Lake OR 97604



Dear Mr. Mark:

It is my distinct pleasure to inform you that the property listed below, nominated by the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer, was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 1/12/2012.

OREGON CAVES HISTORIC DISTRICT (BOUNDARY INCREASE)

19000 CAVES HWY

CAVE JUNCTION VCTY

NRIS # 11001028

Listing in the National Register is intended to provide recognition of a property's significance as well as encourage its preservation. Please see the enclosure which explains in greater detail the results of listing in the National Register.

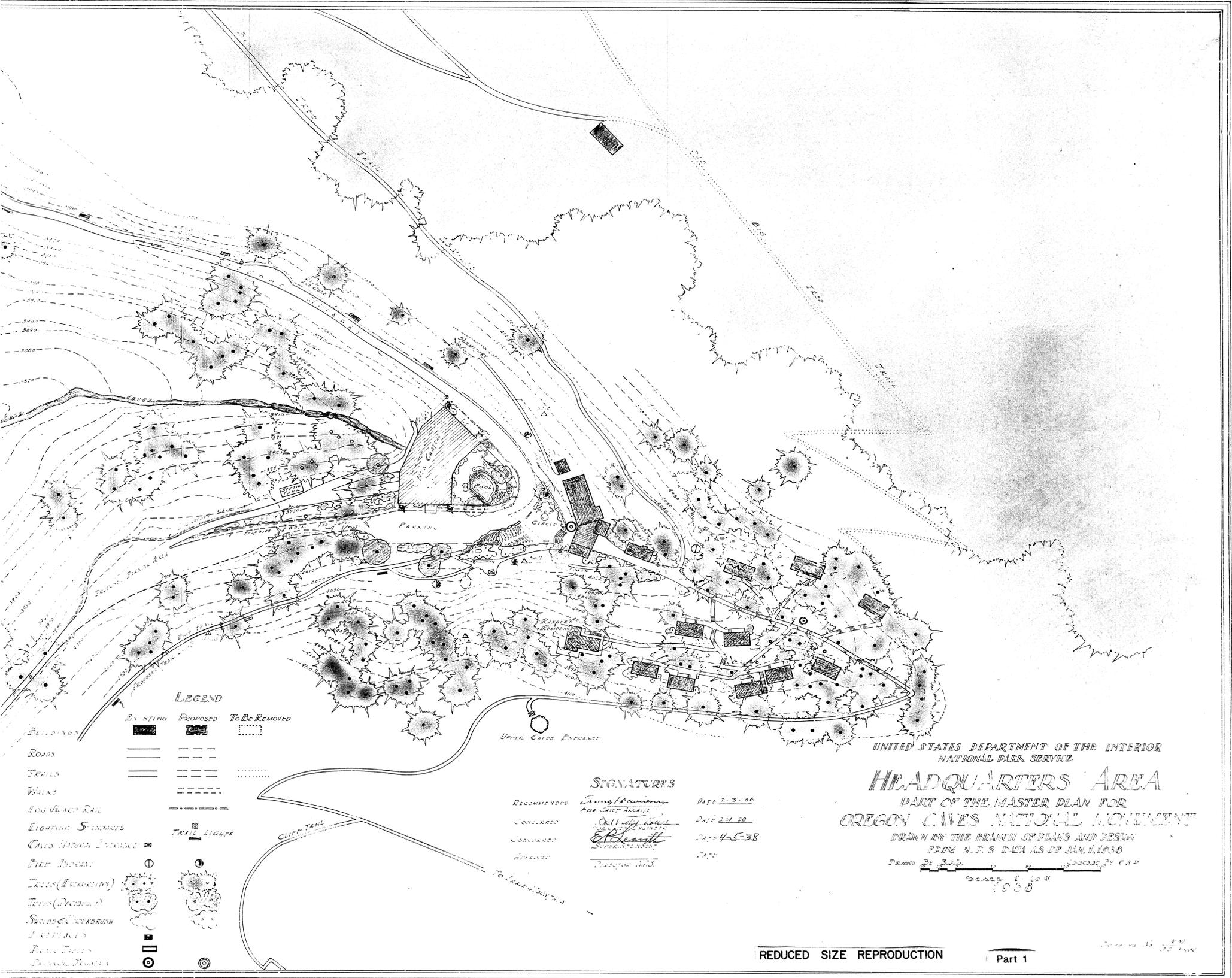
If you have further questions about the National Register designation of your property, please contact Ian Johnson, National Register & Survey Coordinator, at (503) 986-0678.

Sincerely,

Roger Roper
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Commissioner





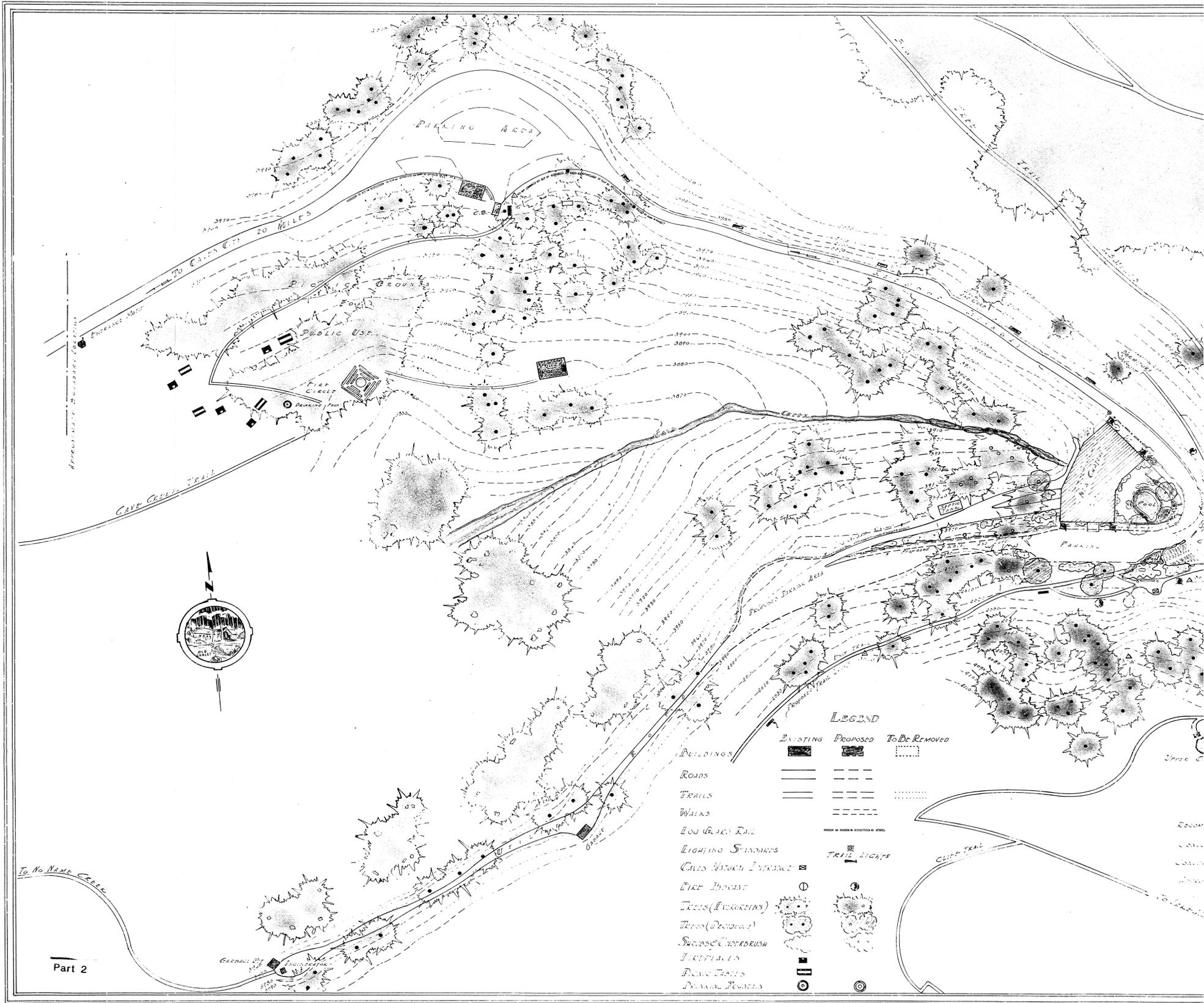
LEGEND

- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | EXISTING | PROPOSED | TO BE REMOVED |
| Buildings | | | |
| Roads | | | |
| Trails | | | |
| Walks | | | |
| Log Check Rail | | | |
| Lighting Standards | | | |
| Cave Entrance Entrance | | | |
| Fire Hydrant | | | |
| Trees (Existing) | | | |
| Trees (Proposed) | | | |
| Shrub & Coniferous | | | |
| Leafy Shrubs | | | |
| Rock Piles | | | |
| Service Towers | | | |

SIGNATURES

RECOMMENDED *Smith & Swainson* DATE 2-3-38
 FOR CHIEF ARCHITECT
 CONCURRED *William H. ...* DATE 2-4-38
 CONCURRED *E. Bennett* DATE 4-6-38
 APPROVED *...* DATE

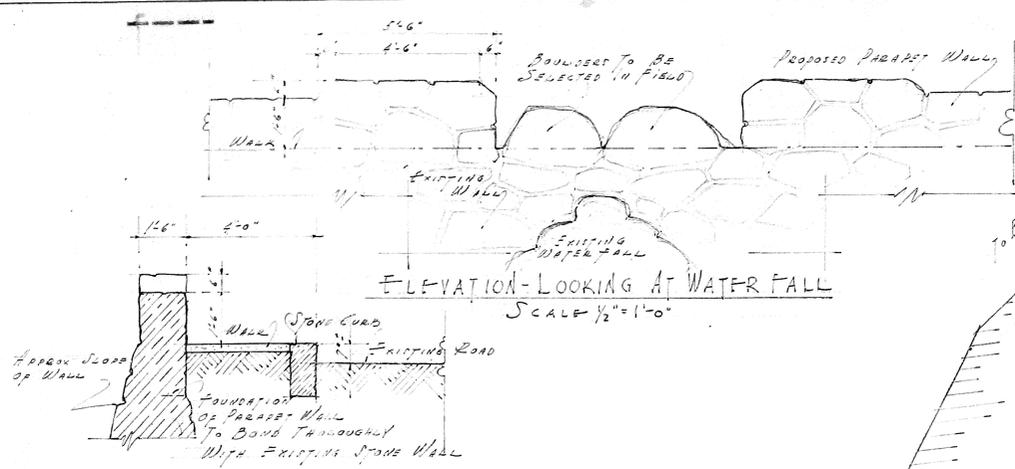
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
HEADQUARTERS AREA
 PART OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR
 OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT
 DRAWN BY THE BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN
 FROM U. S. S. DATA AS OF JAN. 1, 1938
 DRAWN BY *...* CHECKED BY *...*
 SCALE 1" = 50' 1938



LEGEND

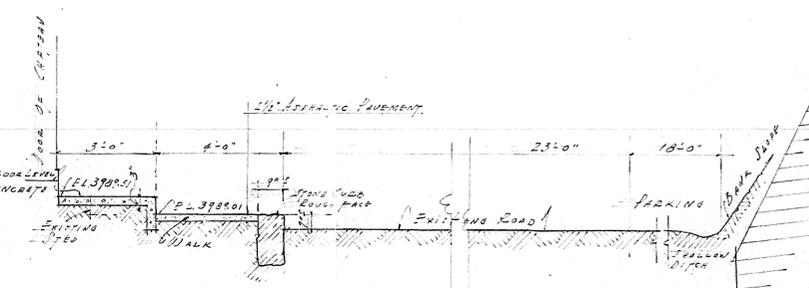
	EXISTING	PROPOSED	TO BE REMOVED
BUILDINGS			
ROADS			
TRAILS			
WALLS			
LOG CAMP			
LIGHTING STRUCTURES			
CAVE NICHES			
FIRE TOWER			
TREES (EVERGREENS)			
TREES (DECIDUOUS)			
SUCCUMBERS			
FIREPLACES			
PICNIC TABLES			
PICNIC BENCHES			

Part 2



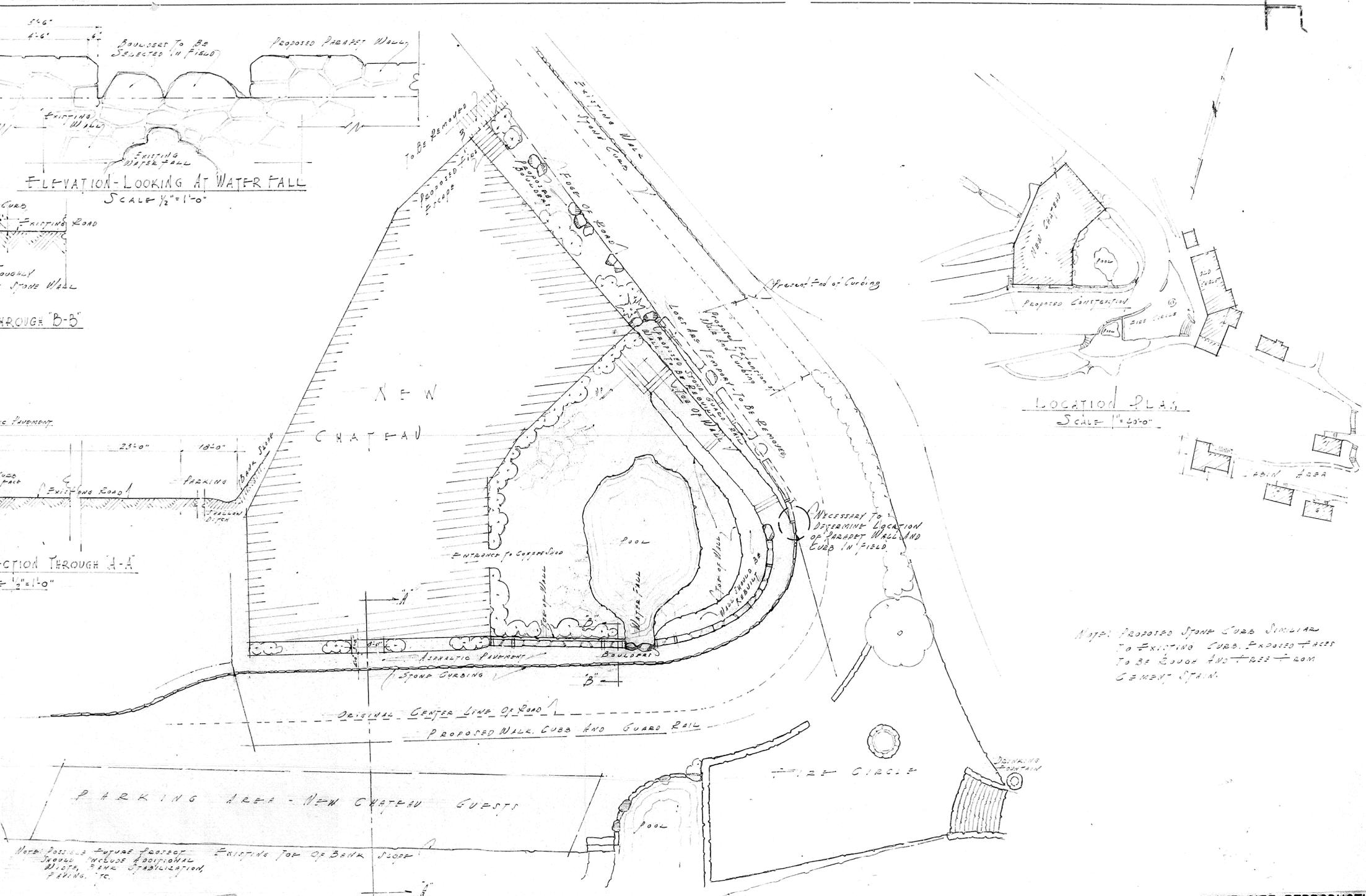
ELEVATION-LOOKING AT WATER FALL
SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"

DETAIL OF SECTION THROUGH "B-B"
SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"

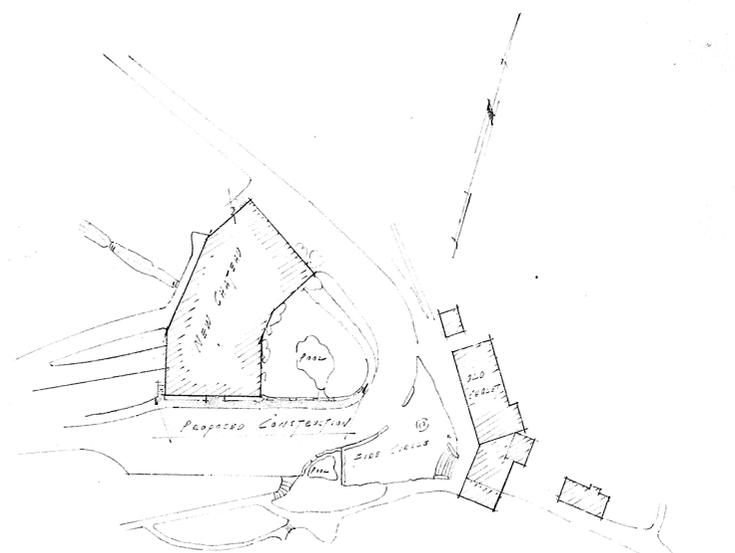


DETAIL OF SECTION THROUGH "A-A"
SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"

NOTE: ENGINEERING DATA OBTAINED FROM 1925 ENGINEERS.



SCALE 1"=10'-0"



LOCATION PLAN
SCALE 1"=40'-0"

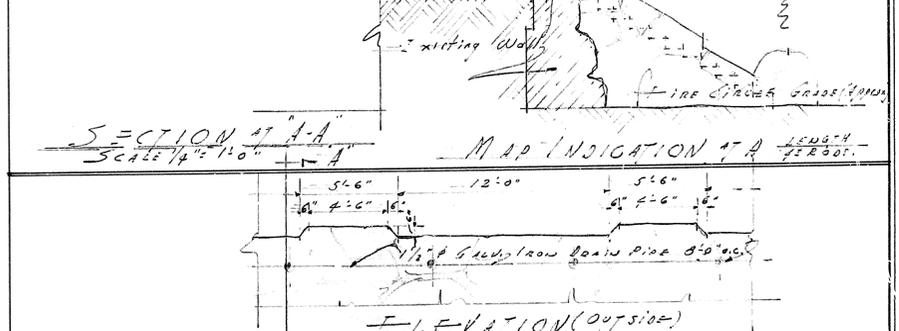
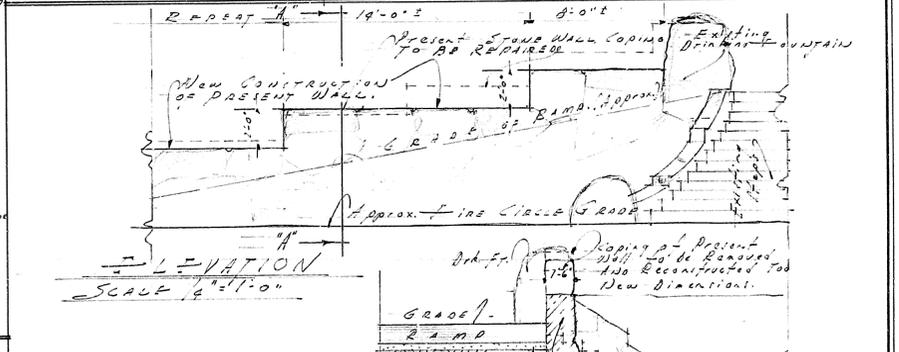
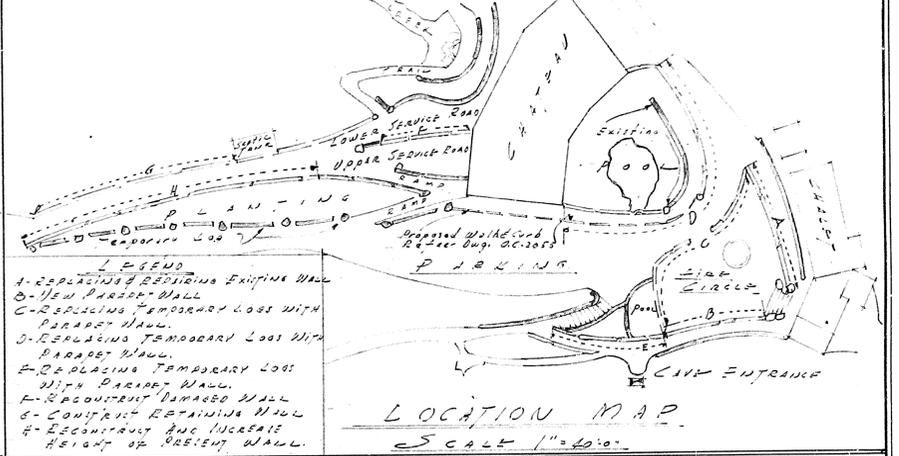
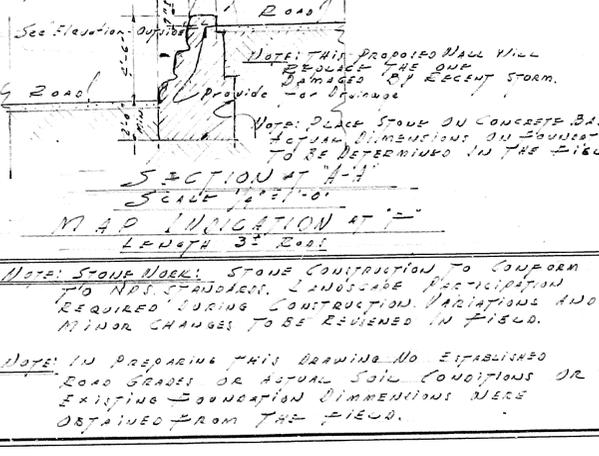
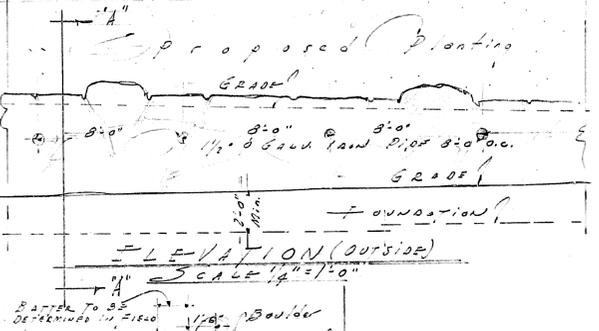
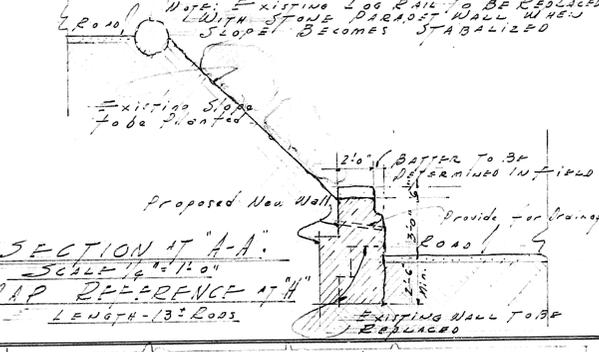
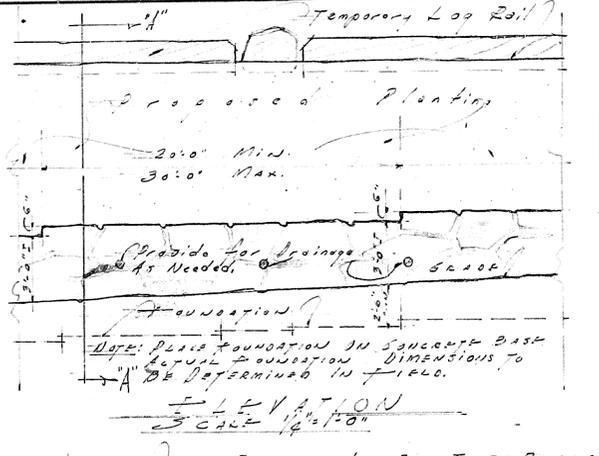
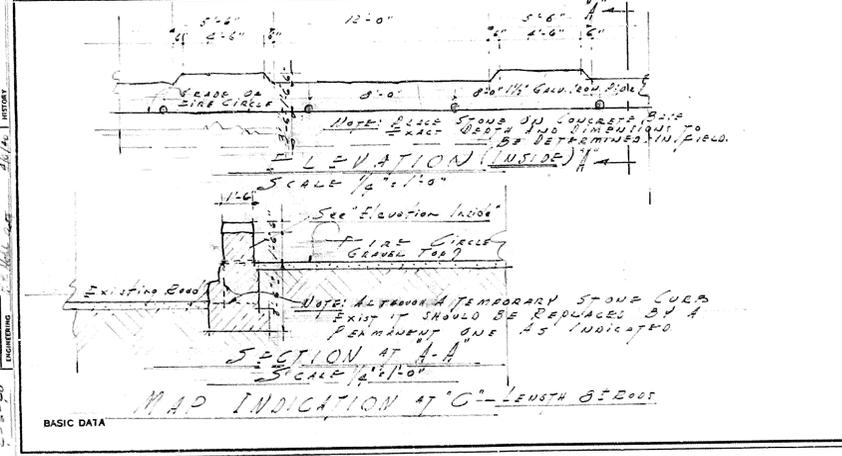
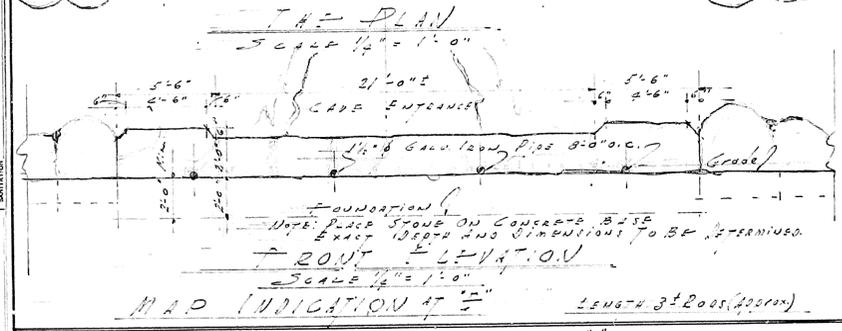
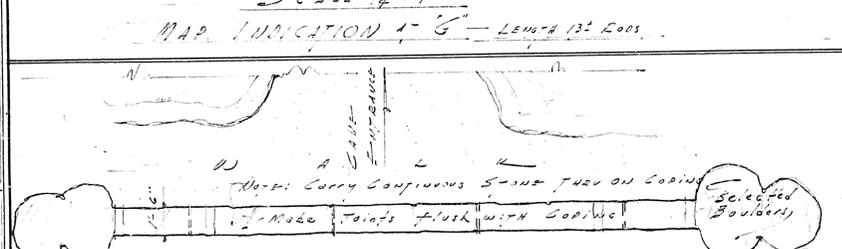
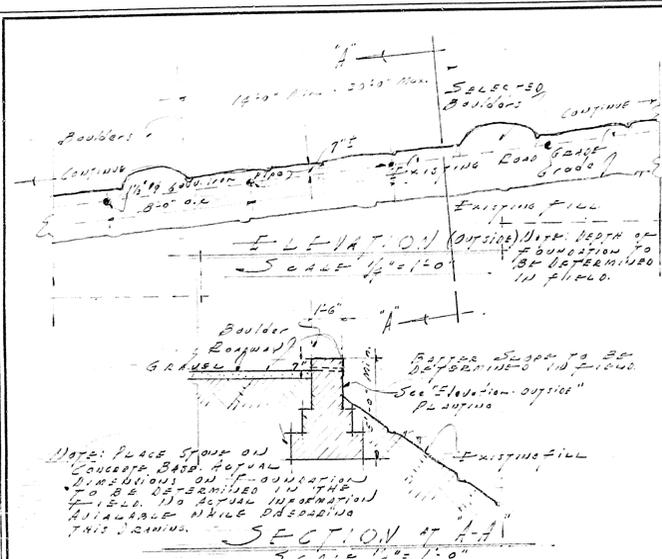
NOTE: PROPOSED STONE CURB SIMILAR TO EXISTING CURB. EXPOSED PARTS TO BE LEUGH AND TIES - CONCRETE STAIN.

REVIEWED: []
 APPROVED: []
 DATE: []

HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION

Job 10-106-78 -- 1074 P22100

RECOMMENDED Emory Davidson REGIONAL LANDS ARCH. DATE 1/27/78	CONCURRED S. B. [] DATE 1/27/78	APPROVED P. [] DATE 2/15/78	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BRANCH OF PLANS & DESIGN REGIONAL OFFICE PORTLAND, OREGON	REGION IV SHEET NO. DRAWING NO. NP.OC. 2053 A
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HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION

15TH PERIOD CCC JOB #161, CLASS #154

RECOMMENDED A.B. STEPHENSON REGIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	DATE 4/15/49	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	REGION IV
CONCURRED SUPERVISOR	DATE 4/15/49	BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN REGIONAL OFFICE	SHEET 1 OF 1
APPROVED REGIONAL DIRECTOR	DATE 4-6-49	STONE WALLS C.A. HULL & CO.	DRAWING NO. 119
		DESIGNER C.A. HULL & CO.	DATE 4-6-49

CLEARED

REVIEWED

DESIGNED BY

BASIC DATA