

PH0503169

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 29 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 22 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  AND/OR COMMON  
 Giant Forest Village/Camp Kaweah Historic District  
 Giant Forest Village, Camp Kaweah, Kaweah Village, Kaweah Area  
 Sequoia National Park Post Office  
 Giant Forest Village, Camp Kaweah

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER: *W of the River in Sequoia*  
 Not Applicable  
 CITY, TOWN: Not Applicable  
 (Sequoia National Park)  
 STATE: California  
 COUNTY: Tulare  
 CODE: 06  
 CODE: 107  
 VICINITY OF: Three Rivers  
 SEVENTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*  
 National Park Service, Western Regional Office  
 STREET & NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063  
 CITY, TOWN: San Francisco  
 STATE: California  
 VICINITY OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CODE: 94102

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Tulare County Courthouse  
 STREET & NUMBER: Mineral King & Mooney Blvds.  
 CITY, TOWN: Visalia  
 STATE: California  
 CODE: 93277

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE: None  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Camp Kaweah portion of the Giant Forest Village/Camp Kaweah Historic District stands on a forested slope about 100 yards north of Giant Forest Village. Included within this portion of the district are an office/warehouse and 41 wooden cabins. The office/warehouse is located near the northern edge of the camp, surrounded by a circular drive and parking areas. The cabins stand on a hillside to the rear of the office. The cabin area is forested with pines, firs, and one giant sequoia tree.

The office/warehouse is an exposed frame structure with an "L"-shaped floor plan. The structure was erected in 1926 and enlarged in 1938. The warehouse portion of the structure, which measures 16 by 52 feet, is a gable-roofed hall with well-executed exposed frame design patterns, eave brackets, and extended rafter ends or outlookers. The 10 by 12 feet office wing is attached to the front of the warehouse near the southeast corner. This wing, which faces the Camp Kaweah entrance road, is also exposed frame construction. A sitting porch extends the front length of the warehouse while a small covered porch supported by bark-covered incense cedar log pillars shelters the office entrance. This handsome entrance is framed by steps with rustic pole rails and a gable with decorative bracing. The vertical log supports of the office porch roof visually connect the facade of the office with two nearby pines. The rear (warehouse) door sill is almost at grade, but the slope of the site places the front floor level three to six feet above grade. Vertical plank skirting encloses the crawl space. Large, multipaned windows open through the sides of the office wing and into the east end of the warehouse. The warehouse also has hopper windows tucked beneath the eave line. A freight deck is attached to the west end of the warehouse, and a temporary snow shed shelters the rear entrance. The office wing is currently vacant, while the remainder of the building is used as a linen room.

The (Upper) Camp Kaweah housekeeping cabin area currently contains forty one-room guest units. These were erected between 1926 and 1940. Although the cabins vary in size (from 12 by 14 feet to 14 by 16 feet) and in exterior texture (those built after 1933 have v-rustic shiplap siding) the unitary nature of the camp is immediately evident. The cabins are all interior framed with shingle, gable roofs. Several features were specifically incorporated into the cabins to produce a relatively low profile. The siding pattern emphasis is horizontal, especially in those cabins which include v-rustic shiplap siding. The roof pitch of the individual cabins is considerable lower than the heavy snow loads of the Sierran winter might suggest. Unity of character is also given to the cabins by the use of styled brackets and vertical end boards. The cabins are carefully spaced across the hillside site in a random, natural pattern. Contour lines were often followed in cabin siting. Where the slope levels near the top of the hill, the cabins are placed in small clusters giving a village feeling. This impression is further enhanced by the presence in nearly all the cabins of outdoor cooking porches. These wood framed porches with canvas flaps are the living room/kitchens of these cabins. Here in the best California tradition, campers enjoy the mild summer weather of the Sierra Nevada. The forty housekeeping cabins are numbered 501 through 540, with 534 missing from the series and 521A added.

In addition to the housekeeping cabins, one small employee residence stands within the complex. This cabin, which does not have a number, was originally a housekeeping cabin, but at an unknown date the structure was converted into a maintenance residence.

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and a small bathroom was added. The exterior of the cabin remains otherwise unaltered. The residence stands at the southeast corner of the housekeeping cabin area.

Giant Forest Village, a commercial center which currently includes a cafeteria, a market, a curio shop, a dormitory, several maintenance buildings and sheds, a comfort station, and a ranger residence and garage, occupies the southern side of a gentle saddle a short distance south of Camp Kaweah. Most of the major structures at the site are located in an informal line along the southern edge of the highway and parking area. Three structures on the site, the market, the comfort station, and the ranger residence, have been identified as having historical and/or architectural significance.

The Giant Forest Market stands near the center of the village area. The 120 by 40 feet, exposed frame structure has a highly symmetrical facade, a rare feature in rustic buildings. Two gable-roofed wings anchor the end of its long, low hall, and suggest an "I" floor plan. The rear includes complexities, however, which spoil the plan. The dominant stylistic features are the massive exposed timbers which form the building's frame. Especially visible in the two end wings, these timbers emphasize the solid, heavy nature of the structure and match the scale of the surrounding forest. The center of the facade is filled with a band of multipaned windows. Four sets of double doors open through the central facade between the windows. Each of the doors is a specially crafted herringbone pattern. The west wing includes a large stone fireplace and chimney. The interior is paneled in knotty pine. The foundation is concrete. During July, 1976, the shake roof was covered with aluminium.

The National Park Service Comfort Station (#179), located twenty yards west of the store behind a screen of seedling trees, is another handsome example of rustic, exposed frame architecture. The structure, which measures 13 by 23 feet, matches the market building in general appearance although the finishing details are distinctive. Like the store, the comfort station is visually dominated by its massive exposed frame. Some of the timbers approach 12 inches square in size. Unlike the market building, which has no fill between the exposed timbers except the interior wall boards, the comfort station has a shake fill between the timbers. Five wooden brackets support the eaves on each end of the gable roof. The use of natural textures is further emphasized by the presence of a random coursed granite rubble foundation. The essentially horizontal nature of the design is highlighted by the doubling of every sixth row of roof shingles. The structure is still in use as a comfort station. The exterior is unaltered except for the addition of an unsightly electric utility box. The interior has been modernized.

The third structure of significance within the village area proper is the old district ranger's residence (#55). This National Park Service house does not stand in the main row of buildings at the village site; instead it is almost hidden on the forested slope at the

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southwestern edge of the area. Although rustic in appearance, the house contains several unmistakably modern design features, especially the multiple roof lines of the northern elevation. Like the two buildings described in the preceding paragraphs, this is an exposed frame structure. The panels between the members are filled with rustic lap siding. The gable ends are enclosed with well-finished board and batten. The features of the house are carefully defined. Each corner is anchored by a massive vertical post which supports a large wall plate. The large casement windows are also framed by heavy timbers. The asymmetrical floor plan includes a sheltered front porch framed with heavy posts. The rustic image is completed by a well-proportioned rubble masonry fireplace and foundation. A patio behind the residence is finished with similar masonry. A temporary snowshed connects the rear door of the residence with an adjoining garage building. Neither the snowshed nor the garage is deemed to have architectural or historical significance.

Although the other structures in the village area have undergone repeated and extensive alteration, the general setting of the three significant buildings on the site has not been greatly altered since the complex was completed in the early 1930's. During that period, the village consisted of (east to west) a gas station, the studio gift shop, the market, the comfort station, the post office, the coffeeshop (cafeteria), and the ranger residence. A ranger information booth stood about 35 yards north of the post office.

Modifications to the complex since 1935 can be summarized as follows. The cafeteria building has undergone interior remodeling and exterior alteration on numerous occasions. The most significant of these was the addition of a large new wing about 1970 on the site of the old post office which was torn down at that time. Several alterations have been made to the market, including the addition of a warehouse to the rear about 1936. The window and door pattern of the west wing have been remodeled several times, but with no loss of integrity. A lean-to barber shop, which was attached to the east end of the market for many years, was removed recently. The studio gift shop building east of the market has been recently remodeled, including the razing of one wing. The old gas station and ranger information booth are gone.

The Camp Kaweah portion of the district has also undergone changes. Camp Kaweah started out in 1926 as a frame tent camp. By 1940, all of the Upper Kaweah guest tents had either been converted to or replaced by rustic cabins. Since 1940, the western half of Upper Kaweah has been relatively stable except for the moving of cabins 501-503 to the felling of a leaning sequoia tree in 1966. The eastern half of Upper Kaweah (which is not a part of the historic district) was cleared of housekeeping cabins in the 1960's and redeveloped as a motel complex. The toilet and bathhouse, which stands on the edge of the historic district (but outside), is scheduled for replacement in the near future.

Lower Kaweah is a second area of housekeeping cabins of more recent vintage. Although

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similar to the Upper Kaweah complex, it is not believed to possess architectural or historical significance.

The physical condition of the structures contained within the historic district varies from poor to good. The Camp Kaweah office/warehouse is in fair condition. Portions of its roof need replacement. The Camp Kaweah cabins are in fair to poor condition. Some need roof repairs, and several are still resting on wood foundations which have allowed settling to occur. All the cabins need paint. The frames are exposed to winter snow damage and require partial replacement almost annually.

The Giant Forest Market is generally in good condition, as is the neighboring comfort station. The ranger residence is in fair to good condition. However, in recent years the building has received only superficial maintenance. It should be returned to the list of buildings receiving winter snow load protection.

All structures within the district boundaries are considered significant except for the ranger residence garage, fire fighting stations, and utility boxes.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Gilbert Stanley Underwood

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Giant Forest Village/Camp Kaweah Historic District contains structures and landscapes which are of Regional significance in the field of recreation and of local significance in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and literature. This significance results from the half century of use these structures and sites have received from campers and housekeeping camp residents, from the original and occasionally unique rustic designs displayed by the numerous structures within the district, from the landscape design of the two complexes, and from the role of the complexes in the development of the well-known nature writer, Sally Carrighar.

The development of Giant Forest Village and the Camp Kaweah housekeeping cabin complex was a response to the opening of the General's Highway through the Giant Forest portion of Sequoia National Park in 1926. Because of the poor transportation conditions which have prevailed prior to the completion of the new road, Giant Forest had not been the site of major tourist facility development. With the opening of the new road, it was apparent that new, larger tourist facilities were required. The new highway grade bisected the sites of the existing commercial village and housekeeping camp in a manner which prevented further use of the rather small areas in question. New sites would have to be chosen.

During the summer of 1926, new locations were designated for both functions about one-quarter mile west of the old development area. On a gentle slope north of the highway, construction began on a new housekeeping cabin area, "Camp Kaweah." Twenty-five bungalow housekeeping tents, an office/warehouse, and a bath house were erected. The new village area across the highway from Camp Kaweah was excavated and leveled at the same time. In October, several buildings from the old village were moved to the new location to serve until new structures, specifically adapted to the site, could be planned and erected.

Camp Kaweah opened at the beginning of the summer of 1927. The camp's popularity soon convinced its operator, the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks Company, to expand it. During 1927 and 1928, the number of tents increased considerably, and the construction of wooden rustic cabins began. During the fall of 1929, at least eighteen cabins were weather-sealed for winter use. National Park Service landscape architect Merel S. Sager provided landscape guidance to the S&GGNP Co. as it laid out the rapidly expanding camp. Every effort was made to harmonize the growing village of tents and rustic cabins with the natural setting. Roads were excluded from the cabin area, access being provided by foot paths from a parking area located near the office at the southern edge of the camp. Under

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Historic Resource File, "Camp Kaweah," in files of Division of Cultural Resource Management, National Park Service, Western Regional Office.
2. Historic Resource File, "Giant Forest Village," in files of Division of Cultural Resource Management, National Park Service, Western Regional Office.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	3 41	3 10 10	4 0	4 7	8 2 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The historic district is composed of three separate tracts: (1) Beginning at point 0+00 on the Camp Kaweah lease line survey of 1928, proceed NW 400 feet; thence SW 400 feet; thence SE 400 feet; thence NE 400 feet to point of beginning. (2) From a point 10 feet N of the N corner of the Village Market, proceed SW ~~200~~ feet; thence SE ~~100~~ feet; thence NE 200 feet; thence NW 100 feet. (3) From a point 30 feet NE of the NE corner of the ranger residence, proceed W 100 feet; thence S 100 feet; thence E 100 feet; thence N 100 feet to point of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William Tweed, Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

DATE

August 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

TELEPHONE

556-3394

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California 94102

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Robert Meades

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

JUN 23 1977

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE [Signature]

TITLE

Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE AUG 19 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Coyle

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-22-78

DATE

5-17-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Sager's direction, the cabins were placed in a seemingly random pattern that was in reality a carefully planned response to the topography. Cabin and tent designs were developed which emphasized low horizontal lines in an attempt to hide the construction within the existing forest cover. Because the site was thickly forested and relatively free of rock, the structures were built almost entirely of wood and painted in brown and green forest tones. These same considerations had controlled the design of the office/warehouse and bath house erected in 1926. Since these buildings were larger, however, different solutions had been applied. Although an attempt was made to maintain a low profile similar to that of the cabins and tents, design requirements necessitated larger wall surfaces. These were successfully harmonized with the surroundings through the use of exposed frame timber patterns. As discussed more thoroughly in the descriptive portion of this form, the log posts which framed the front entrance of the office were a specific response to the immediate setting. Thematic details such as styled brackets and barge boards were carried from the design of the two larger 1926 structures to the growing number of cabins. The result of these efforts was an economically constructed housekeeping camp which had a unique relationship to its natural setting.

While Camp Kaweah grew, Giant Forest Village also took shape. The buildings moved to the new village site in 1926 were not intended for permanent retention. Both the increasing visitor volume and the maturing architectural standards of the National Park Service required a new set of facilities. National Park Service's Chief Landscape Engineer Daniel R. Hull had chosen the new village site in collaboration with Superintendent John R. White. Once the site was chosen, Hull turned to the problem of planning a facility which would both provide efficient services to a large number of park visitors and harmonize with the natural setting. Because the two major structures required in the new village, the market of the S&GGNP Co. and the Lindley Eddy photographic studio, were to be privately owned, Hull could not design them. He was obviously influential, however, in the choice of architects for the two projects. Between 1923 and 1927, the Landscape Engineering Division of the National Park Service, Hull in charge, was located in Los Angeles where Hull actually shared an office with the architectural firm of Gilbert Stanley Underwood and Company. Among other results, the Hull/Underwood relationship produced the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite, and lodges at Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Grand Canyon National Parks. The Underwood Company was commissioned to design the two major structures for Giant Forest Village.

The plans for the Giant Forest Market were completed in May, 1928, and construction began that summer. As designed by Underwood, the market was a long, low exposed-frame structure with a highly symmetrical facade. Because it was a relatively large building standing in the center of a large, artificial opening in the forest, the market required its own special adaptations to the site. Balance between the wall surfaces and the massive scale of the surrounding trees was achieved by the use of heavy timber exposed framing. Although Underwood had originally sketched the market with half round exposed

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log members, the decision was made to go forward with more economical square timbers. The almost exclusive use of wood in the building's exterior surfaces was another facet of the environmentally sensitive design, as were the herringbone patterned doors, and the large windows composed of numerous small panes. Even the green and brown color scheme was a response to the building's setting. As completed in July, 1929, the market was (and remains) not only pleasing to the eye, but also a highly successful answer to the problem of erecting a relatively large building in a primarily natural setting without allowing competition to develop between the setting and the structure.

Underwood completed plans for the Eddy Studio in May, 1929, and construction began the following month. The project went forward slowly after the completion of the foundation and was not finished until 1931. Because the building, now used as a cafeteria, has undergone frequent and thorough remodelings (including several major additions), it is not believed to possess architectural or historical significance.

Over half a dozen smaller structures were built at the village in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Two of these, a ranger residence (#55) and a comfort station (#179), are National Park Service structures which possess architectural significance.

The Giant Forest Ranger Residence was built during the summer of 1931 to plans drawn by Merel Sager. An exposed frame rustic structure of superior design and construction quality, the residence is of significance both because of its architectural merit and because of its excellent landscape placement. Although the house incorporates several modern architectural features (see description) and stands in a location where it commands a clear view of the west end of the village, nothing about it attracts attention or competes with the surrounding sequoia forest. It is a prime example of the best type of work to come out of the National Park Service Landscape Engineering Division prior to the initiation of the Emergency Conservation Work program of the FDR administration. (See descriptive section of this form for architectural details.)

During the summer of 1932, a comfort station designed by the Landscape Division was erected between the market and the Eddy Studio. As in the case of the ranger residence, the aim was to produce a building which created a minimal visual intrusion. An exposed frame, wood textured solution was successfully applied to the problem. So well did the architect succeed, that the architectural beauty of the design becomes apparent only when one approaches the building and studies the massive, yet intimate, patterns of its exposed frame and shake exterior. The comfort station is another excellent example of the National Park Service policy of designing and building structures which harmonize to the highest possible degree with their natural settings. (See descriptive section of this form for architectural details.)

By 1933, both ("Upper") Camp Kaweah and the Giant Forest Village were essentially

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complete. However, alterations to both complexes continued. In 1935, work began on a major extension for Camp Kaweah, but the new cabin area, "Lower Kaweah," was separated from the original site by topographic barriers. During the later 1930's, the remaining guest tents in Upper Kaweah were converted to rustic cabins. Alterations to the village complex mainly took the form of additions to existing buildings. In 1936 or 1937, for example, a lean-to warehouse was added to the rear of the market.

It was during the 1930's, that both complexes began to gain their current Regional significance in recreation. By 1938, the two sections of Camp Kaweah contained over 140 guest units. Throughout the summer months, these cabins maintained a high occupancy rate. The housekeeping guests came mainly from California, especially from the San Joaquin Valley communities and southern California. These refugees from the heat of the then un-airconditioned California lowlands often spent long periods in Giant Forest. Many summer residents of Kaweah remained four to six weeks. It was not uncommon for guests to take a cabin for the entire summer. The market provided necessary supplies for the housekeeping residents and also for the occupants of the nearby Giant Forest campgrounds.

One long-term housekeeping guest of special significance was Sally Carrighar, who spent a summer in the early 1940's in a cabin which overlooked Beetle Rock near the west end of Upper Kaweah. As related in her autobiography, "Home to the Wilderness", this experience was a crucial turning point in her life. Out of her stay in Camp Kaweah, came the first of her acclaimed string of nature books, "One Day on Beetle Rock." This success of this work led to additional books, including "One Day at Teton Marsh" and "Wild Heritage." Thirty years after its publication, "One Day on Beetle Rock" remains one of the best known and most read books about the Sierra Nevada, and Miss Carrighar's other books, including her autobiography, have earned her a permanent place in the pantheon of American nature writers.

After a long period of stability, Camp Kaweah and the Giant Forest Village again felt the impact of change after 1960. Half of the Upper Kaweah housekeeping camp was replaced by modern motel units, and the remaining cabins were electrified. At the end of the 1967 season, the Camp Kaweah registration office was closed and its function transferred to the nearby Giant Forest Lodge registration office. In the village area, the 1933 gas station and the old post office were removed. Major alterations were inflicted on the old Eddy Studio. Only the store and the ranger residence escaped this period of change relatively unscathed.

Even more significant were changes in the use patterns of the two complexes. By 1972, the last of the Giant Forest campgrounds had been closed as a part of the long-term National Park Service project to lessen human impact on the priceless trees of Giant Forest. This resulted in decreased patronage in the village area. During the same

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period the demand for housekeeping accommodations dropped off alarmingly, a result of America's new infatuation with recreational vehicles and house trailers. After 1967, the "no vacancy" sign went up at Camp Kaweah with increasing rarity. The middle 1970's, however, seem to be witnessing a resurgence of interest in these accommodations.

Values requiring management in the three significant Giant Forest Village structures are primarily related to external visual appearance. The market, the ranger residence, and the comfort station should be preserved without significant external modification. The definition of alteration should be sensitive enough to prevent alterations to roofs, doors, windows, external wall surfaces, paint colors, etc. Further, with regard to the residence, the natural surroundings should be preserved to the highest degree possible without endangering the structure. Reasonable adaptive use of the interiors will not interfere with identified values.

Significant values in the Camp Kaweah portion of the district again relate to preserving historic appearance and setting. Building exteriors should not be altered. The natural setting should not be disturbed beyond the minimum degree necessary to protect the structures from damage. Adaptive use of the office/warehouse interior is not objectionable assuming that the above criteria are not violated. With regard to the guest cabins, the historic housekeeping function, including outdoor kitchens and wood burning ranges, should be preserved. Canvas, not plastic, should continue in use in porch flies. The single employee cabin within the district should be maintained without exterior alteration as long as its function is necessary. Should employee housing no longer be required on this site, this cabin should be returned to housekeeping use. As long as authentic historic materials are used, alteration as described above will not include maintenance or partial restoration.



GIANT FOREST VILLAGE/CAMP KAWAII HISTORIC DISTRICT

AUG 29 1977

SEQUOIA NAT. PARK, CA

MAY 22 1978

GIANT FOREST MARKET

NPS PHOTO BY <sup>WILLIAM</sup>TWEED

7/76

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Tulare County

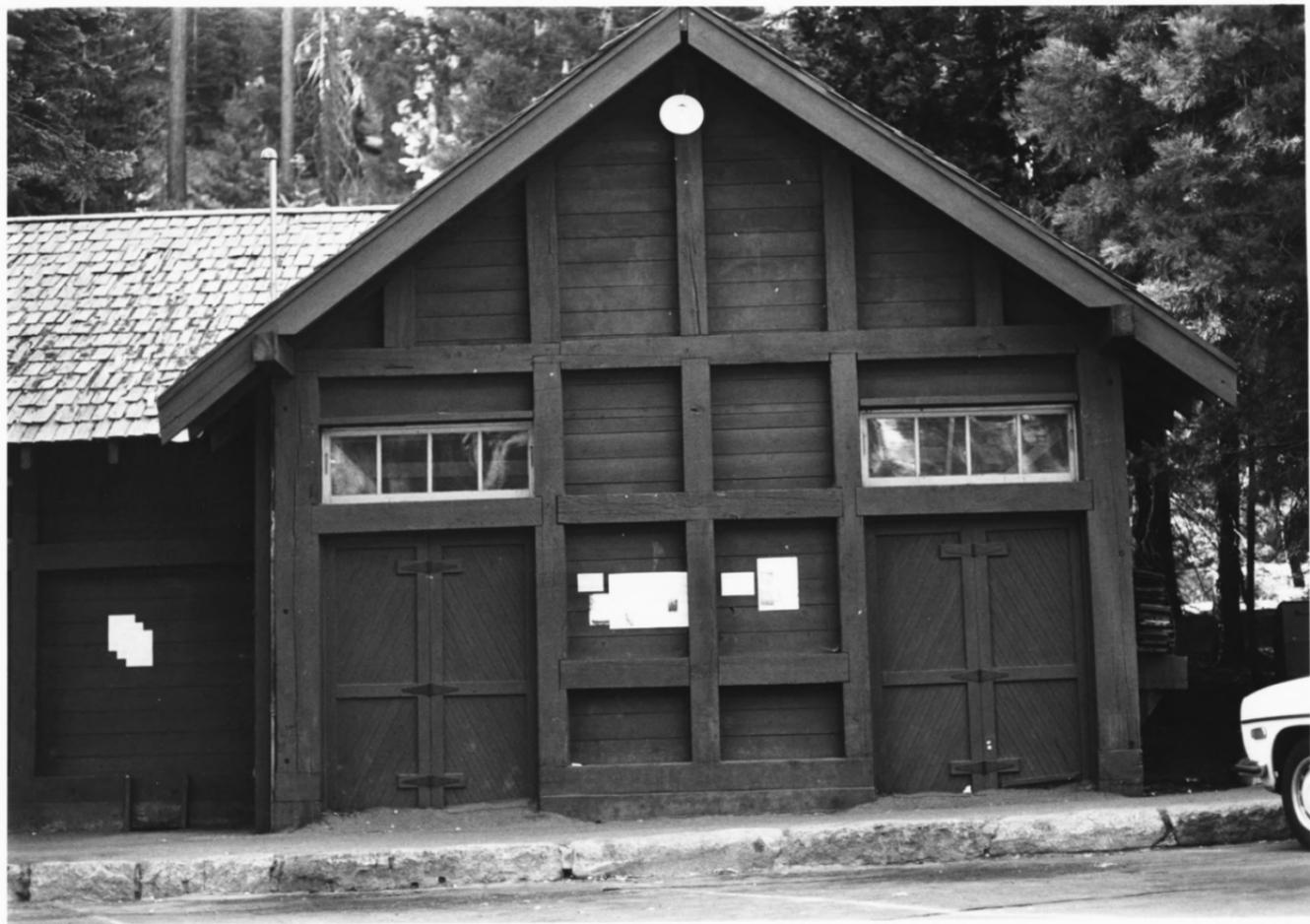
NEGATIVE ON FILE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE - RC

956 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE BDX 36063

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102



GIANT FOREST VILLAGE / CAMP KAWeah HISTORIC DISTRICT AUG 29 1977

SEQUOIA NAT. PARK, CA

MAY 22 1978

GIANT FOREST VILLAGE MARKET

NPS PHOTO BY <sup>WILLIAM</sup> TWEED

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AUG 29 1977

GIANT FOREST VILLAGE / CAMP KAWEAH HISTORIC DISTRICT

MAY 22 1978

SEQUOIA NAT. PARK, CA

HOUSE KEEPING CABINS, UPPER CAMP KAWEAH

NPS PHOTO BY <sup>WILLIAM</sup> TWEED

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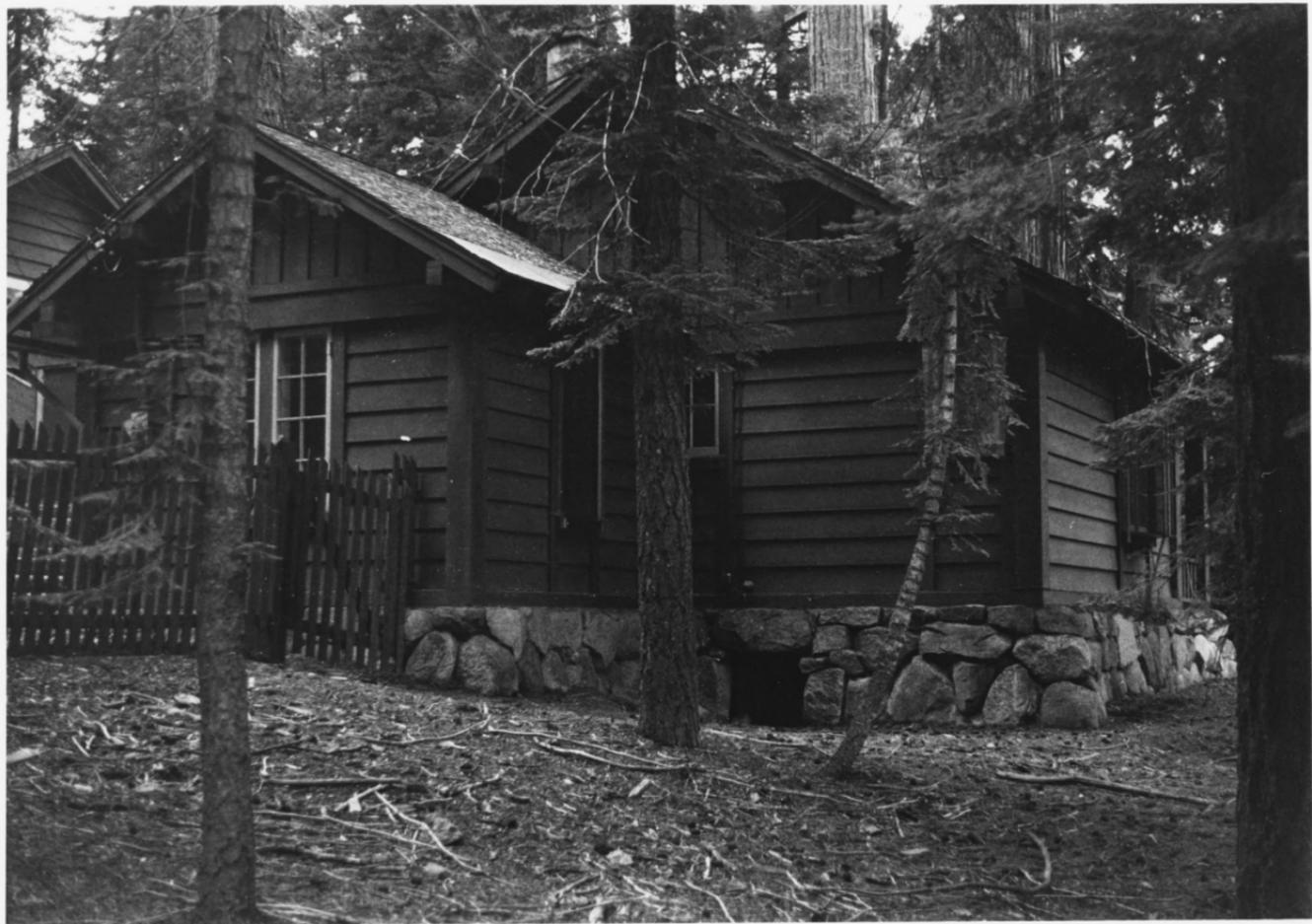
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GIANT FOREST VILLAGE/CAMP KAWeah. HISTORIC DISTRICT AUG 29 1977

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, CA

MAY 22 1978

GIANT FOREST VILLAGE RANGER RESIDENCE

NPS PHOTO BY <sup>WILLIAM</sup> TWEED, 7/76

PHOTO NO. 9 of 5  
Tulnre County

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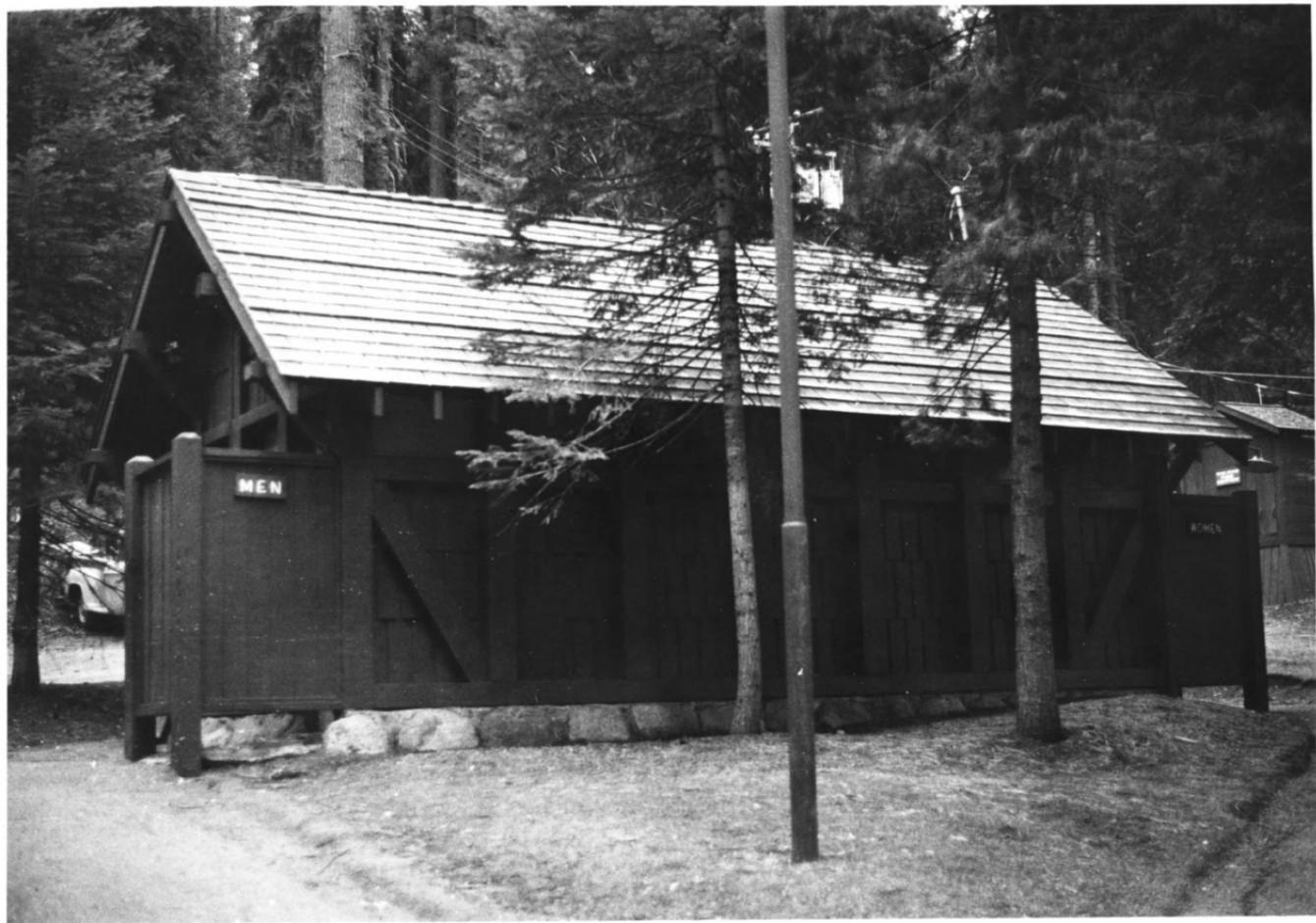
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AUG 29 1977

MAY 22 1978

GIANT FOREST VILLAGE/CAMP KAWAHA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, CA

GIANT FOREST VILLAGE COMFORT STA.

NPS PHOTO BY <sup>GORDON</sup> CHAPPELL, 8/75

VIEW TOWARD EAST

Tulare County

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