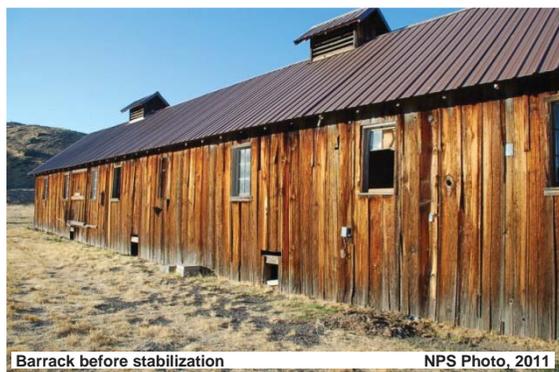




Castle Rock
© Hanako Wakatsuki

Emergency Stabilization of Camp Tulelake

The Tule Lake Unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific would like to thank the Tule Lake Committee and the McConnell Foundation for their help to preserve the barrack building at Camp Tulelake. The Tule Lake Committee applied for the Shasta Regional Community Foundation grant to recognize the importance of saving this part of the Tule Lake Segregation Center's history.



Barrack before stabilization
NPS Photo, 2011

Camp Tulelake served many different purposes through the years. Originally it was a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp and was in use from 1935-1942. Men who were enrolled in the CCC helped with road construction, fire prevention, fire protection, and construction of



Inside view of north wing of stabilized barrack
NPS Photo, 2013

irrigation canals, lookouts, trails, and the Clear Lake Dam. During WWII, it was used to house Japanese American internees who refused to answer the loyalty questionnaire, separating them from the remaining population at the segregation center. In October 1943, Camp Tulelake was used for temporary housing of Japanese American strikebreakers from other War Relocation Authority incarceration centers when Tuleans called for a strike due to poor working conditions. In 1944, Camp Tulelake housed Italian and German Prisoners of War to help with the harvest in the surrounding agricultural fields.



North wing with new access ramp and stabilized walls
NPS Photo, 2013

Most of the 30 structures in the original Camp Tulelake complex are gone. There are currently five remaining structures onsite. The wooden barrack was in desperate need of repairs and this grant provided the funds needed to clean, stabilize, construct a ramp, following the universal accessibility guidelines, and create four new interpretive signs around the barrack.

The intent of stabilizing the barrack building was to halt the rapid deterioration of the building. The Maintenance and Resource Management Divisions consulted with the Regional Cultural Resources staff of the National Park Service to initiate the stabilization process according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. The stabilization work included the removal of hazardous bird, bat, and rodent excrement; re-leveling the post and pier foundation; repairing/closing openings in walls and gables to stop bird, bat, and rain entry; and installing a new floor and additional cross bracing to tie floor to piers and roof to walls.



View of inside of barrack before clean-up
NPS Photo, 2013



View of inside of barrack during clean-up
NPS Photo, 2013

Despite the concerted effort to close the gaps in the barrack, a maternity colony of bats moved right back in this summer. This group of mother bats has used the warm, safe rafters of the barrack to give birth and raise their young (called pups) since at least 2009. The species was identified as either little brown bats (*myotis lucifigus*) or Yuma bats (*myotis yumanensis*); further acoustic monitoring is needed to determine this.

