

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In reply refer to:
D3423 and C58

Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming
January 23, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Two

From: Superintendent

Subject: Buildings and Related Structures Removed as a Part of the
MISSION 66 Development Program

This report covers obsolete and unsightly buildings and related structures of negligible value which have been removed as a part of the conservation phase of the MISSION 66 Development Program for Yellowstone National Park. Other buildings are presently being removed.

Permission to remove a building or structure was requested for one of four general reasons--(1) no longer usable or valuable, (2) could not be economically converted to another use, (3) occupied a site needed for planned development, or (4) detracted from the appearance of its surroundings.

The buildings removed by the Government during the summer and fall of 1958 were the following.

Mammoth

Building No. 93, a storage shed, probably built c. 1890 to serve as an Army messhall. It was in an advanced state of deterioration and wholly beyond further use or salvage possibilities. Park Maintenance crews razed the structure July 9, 1958, and the debris was burned when weather conditions became favorable in the fall. The site has been cleared of all debris.

Building No. 92, another storage shed built before 1890, probably for use as a troop barracks. It also was in an advanced state of deterioration, but some use was being made of it for warehousing at the time it was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin September 3, 1958. Park crews have cleaned up the resulting debris and restored the site to a natural condition.

Nine unnumbered C.C.C. buildings occupying the site of the new employees' trailer court development. These buildings had served no useful purpose since World War II, and lack of maintenance

combined with their essentially temporary nature left only a slight salvage value. The structures were sold to the highest bidders, who tore them down and removed the materials from the Park. The sites were obliterated in the course of construction work during the fall of 1958.

Six unnumbered seasonal ranger cabins occupying the site of an apartment building scheduled for construction in the 1960 fiscal year. The buildings were given to the National Park Service by the Yellowstone Park Company twelve years ago, and were then considered "worn out" by the concessioners. A decade of further use dissipated their little remaining value. The structures were sold to the highest bidder, who removed them from the Park.

One coal shed behind building No. 40, no longer used for the storage of solid fuel. The two sets of quarters originally served by the shed had been converted to use oil fuel, leaving the shed unused and a traffic hazard by reason of its proximity to a heavily used service road. The structure was removed by Park crews November 21, 1958.

In addition to the above, the removal of five other Mammoth buildings has been started. They are building No. 15, the Provisional Army Hospital (built in 1893, and partially occupied as seasonal quarters during recent years); building No. 21, the former stove storage shed, no longer needed for that purpose and very unsightly; building No. 41, a residence occupying land on the Yellowstone Park Company lease (it is sub-standard as a quarters building and isolated from the residential area); buildings No. 53 and 54, shacks used as seasonal residence (they were construction shacks abandoned to the Government many years ago and are unsightly and unsanitary, being without plumbing); and nine unused coal sheds behind buildings 4, 5, 6, 7, 24, 30, 31, 32 and 33. Conversion from coal to oil fuel has eliminated the need for these coal sheds, and they are now only a hazard to neighborhood children (in particular, the sheds block the visibility of drivers operating vehicles on the adjacent street).

Canyon

Building No. 260, the Dunraven Pass Patrol Cabin and a relic of the road maintenance camp which once occupied the site. The structure had been abandoned for any use since it was so seriously damaged by heavy snow loads as to be unsafe. Park maintenance crews razed the structure in October, 1958, burned the debris and restored the site to a natural condition.

Twenty-three unnumbered single-room shacks and tent frames in the new Canyon Utility area. The shacks were given to the National Park Service by the Yellowstone Park Company twelve years ago when the concessioner was replacing some of the worst tourist facilities. For a time, such hand-me-downs provided badly needed housing for Park personnel, but completion of new buildings under MISSION 66 left no valid reason for using junk structures.

Lake

Building No. 230, the Cub Creek Patrol Cabin, a building of unknown age. It had been used for many years and had deteriorated beyond salvage. Park Maintenance crews razed the structure in October, 1958, burned the debris and restored the site to a natural condition.

One unnumbered road camp building at Lake Eleanor (a remnant of a camp abandoned over twenty years ago). The log structure had partly collapsed and constituted a scar upon an otherwise scenic site. Park maintenance crews hauled the debris to an old borrow pit and burned it there. The building site was restored to a natural condition.

Old Faithful

An unnumbered C.C.C. wash house within the area being developed as an employees' trailer court was razed to make room for a liquefied petroleum storage tank installation.

A continuation of this clean-up project is contemplated, particularly in the Lamar, Lake, West Thumb, and Old Faithful areas of the Park.

The buildings removed by the Concessioners during the spring, summer and fall of 1958 were the following.

Mammoth

One hundred and thirty-one (131) buildings of the old Mammoth campers' cabin development, recently abandoned by the Yellowstone Park Company. The buildings formed an unsightly intrusion upon an open landscape and were no longer considered a necessary part of the concessioner's operation at Mammoth. The cabin office, wood shed and 58 cabins were moved to West Thumb where they will become a part of the cabin development; 59 cabins were moved to Old Faithful where they will be used (34 were modernized); one restroom and one cabin were sold and moved out of the Park; two cabins were given to the National Park Service and moved to Canyon for the use of the Blister Rust Control Crew, and eight cabins were given to the Newell J. Olson Construction Company (six have subsequently been removed from the Park and two are now at Lake). Three restrooms and the utility lines remain to be removed from the site.

Old Faithful

Twenty-five (25) tent frames, replaced by some of the cabins moved from the Mammoth campers' cabin development. The tent frame accommodations were no longer desirable at Old Faithful, and were demolished for their salvage.

West Thumb

Thirty (30) tent frames, replaced by some of the cabins moved from the Mammoth campers' cabin development. The reason for

their removal was the same as at Old Faithful.

Lake

Four employee dormitories, an employee's laundry building, a barn, two restrooms, the former winter keeper's quarters, three woodsheds, twenty tent frames, twenty-six old cabins and the plumbing shop no longer needed by the concessioner as a result of modernization at the Lake development. In all, a total of sixty structures were demolished. At the same time, ninety-one structures were moved to new sites in the same area, and five cabins were given away (two to the Government and three to Landon Construction Company).

Canyon

The old general store (Hamilton's), and the adjacent service station and underground storage facilities, no longer needed since completion of the new Canyon development. The structures were demolished, the debris was burned and the sites were restored to natural conditions. At the same time, a two-story dormitory was moved from that point to Old Faithful for use by Yellowstone Park Service Station employees.

Fifty-two buildings and the horse stalls were removed from the old Canyon Lodge site for use by the concessioner at other points in the Park. Of these, forty-five cabins were moved to the West Thumb development, two cabins to Lake, one cabin to Fishing Bridge and three to Roosevelt Lodge. The carpenter shop and horse stalls also were moved to Roosevelt Lodge. The Yellowstone Park Company has also contracted for the removal of twenty-eight other structures from the old Canyon lodge site during 1959.

Lemuel A. Garrison
Superintendent

In duplicate
Attachments (9)