

PH0683795

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 SEP 7 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 4 1978

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Tioga Pass Entrance Station

AND/OR COMMON

Tioga Pass Ranger Station and Restroom, buildings 3201, 3203

**2 LOCATION** (Tioga Pass, Yosemite National Park, California)

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Not applicable

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Lee Vining Fourteenth

STATE  
California

CODE  
06

COUNTY  
Tuolumne

CODE  
109

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

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

VICINITY OF

STATE

California (94102)

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Administration Building, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

Box 577

CITY, TOWN

Yosemite Village, Yosemite National Park, California

STATE

**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 (gates)

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

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

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

The Tioga Pass complex consists of two historic buildings and the piers for two wooden gates which were removed some years ago.

The ranger station stands on the north side of the highway over Tioga Pass right at the summit. Listed in the park building files as No. 3200, it is a predominately stone building roughly 28 by 28 feet square, except for a small indentation on the northwest corner. Additionally, it has a porch across the eastern two thirds of the front. The main entry, near the eastern end of the front, leads into a "lobby" featuring a fine stone fireplace, currently out of service due to trouble with the flue. A door from the lobby leads west into a bedroom in the southwest corner of the building. Behind the bedroom is a small bath, and east of the bath a door leads from the bedroom into a kitchen which occupies the center rear of the building. East of the kitchen is a porch which occupies the northeast corner of the structure north of the lobby. The building consists of stone walls, the stones being of rather large size. Heavy adzed wooden beams form the window lintels. The rafters are logs of about 8 inches diameter, and the roof is shingled. The porch has a stone border and two upright peeled logs serve as posts. The chimney from the lobby fireplace, of stone, pierces the roof of the building. The building is partly recessed into the hillside, which slopes gently downward to the south. Just southwest of the building is a small flagpole. Interior walls are wallboard with battens, and the floors are 1 by 4 inch tongue and groove. The building cost \$3,900 in 1931, and was designed to house two to four people.

A few yards to the east is a tiny public comfort station constructed of stone and wood frame. Built in 1934 at a cost of \$2,737, it is building No. 3203 and is roughly 11 by 26 feet, featuring battered stone walls. In the center is a small storage room entered from a door in the middle of the north side. The east end houses a men's rest room with one urinal and two toilets, along with a single sink. The west end has the women's rest room with three toilet stalls and a sink. The building has a gable roof finished with shingles.

The wooden entrance gates made of peeled logs have been removed, but the stone piers from which they pivoted still stand flanking the highway a few feet east of the Ranger Station. At the top, horizontal logs extend out from the piers in all four directions, and originally the two on the roadway side of the piers extended several feet and formed the upper axis from which the gates pivoted. When the gates were removed, these peeled log extensions were cut back a foot or so, so as not to snag passing traffic. The road between these piers and past the ranger station, originally dirt and gravel, is now paved and there are two parking lots nearby, one east of the gate piers on the south side of the road and one west of the comfort station on the north side of the road.

Except for the paving of the road, removal of the entrance gates and part of the upper logs from which they pivoted, the construction in 1940 of a rustic, but non-harmonious entrance kiosk in front of the ranger station and its replacement in recent years by a modern kiosk, the scene is unchanged since construction of the buildings and gate piers.

# 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1931 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT National Park Service

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tioga Pass Entrance Station, comfort station, and gate piers are of local architectural significance due to their "rustic" design, and of local historical significance in the "social/humanitarian" category as products of Civilian Conservation Corps work in the high country of Yosemite National Park.

During the early 1930's, the National Park Service rebuilt much of the old Tioga Pass road through the high country of Yosemite National Park, and as a part of this program constructed new buildings at several points along the route. By this time, the NPS had a decade of experience in "rustic" architectural design--erecting buildings that were environmentally harmonious, built of native materials such as stone and wood, and reflecting a considerable amount of hand labor reminiscent of pioneer artisans. Consequently the new structures at Tioga Pass would be of this "rustic" style, then so popular.

The ranger station was the first building to be erected, during the summer of 1931. Work in that vicinity could only be accomplished during a brief summer season due to the high elevation, the area being closed by snow most of the year. Its electrical system, however, was not completed until the summer of 1932. Two years later, during the summer of 1934, entrance gates and a rest room were added. The entrance gates consisted of two stone piers, one on each side of the highway a few yards east of the ranger station, with a pair of low gates built of logs in a "rustic" design. The rest room was a tiny building with battered stone walls and a gable roof with clipped or "hipped" ends. It accomodated men at the east end and women at the west. In recent years, the gates have been removed and the log beams from which they pivoted have been cut back a foot or more; the stone piers remain. The original entrance station or kiosk was a small wood-frame, gable-roofed structure with exterior walls finished with shingles, which was erected in 1940. Although of a simple "rustic" style, it did not harmonize with the stone buildings at Tioga Pass. In recent years it was removed and replaced with a still more modern entrance station which is without significance. The old ranger station and rest room buildings, and the stone piers of the gates, remain essentially unchanged. The old water system, incorporating a wooden tank on concrete piers located up the hillside north of the ranger station, has been replaced with a modern water system, and no longer possesses any significance.

The ranger station at Tioga Pass was the first stone building of "rustic" architectural style built by the National Park Service in the Tuolumne Meadows/Tioga Pass area, and according to NPS Assistant Architect John Wosky, set the precedent for use of that style

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Park Service Building Files, Division of Cultural Resource Management, Western Regional Office, San Francisco, California  
 Monthly Reports of the Acting Resident Landscape Architect, Yosemite National Park, to the Chief Architect, for 1934  
 Tweed, William, Henry Law and Laura Soulliere, National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916-1942. (San Francisco: National Park Service Western Regional Office, 1977)  
 See especially pp. 57, 88.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .1779155

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,1	3 0,1 5,5,0	4,1 9,8 1,2,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is in the form of an upside-down "L" with the body of the "L" running generally north-south with its eastern edge on the western edge of the highway, and otherwise centered to encompass the ranger station and comfort station, being 50 by 125 feet in size. Extending eastward across the highway to encompass the two gate piers is the "foot" of the "L", which is 20 by 75 feet in size.

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

Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

DATE

October 15, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

JUN 30 1978

Kenny McEllan

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

J. R. Holland

TITLE

Acting Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources

DATE

8/24/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

W. Ray Luce

DATE

12-14-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/12/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

in this part of the park. Other "rustic" buildings were erected in the Tuolumne Meadows area in 1934, also of stone, at the time the Tioga Pass comfort station was built. (Earlier "rustic" buildings in the Tuolumne Meadows area were exclusively of wood and were more functional in design than deliberately "rustic.") The "rustic" style was intended to give the impression of having been built by pioneer craftsmen employing hand tools, and through that impression, along with the employment of native materials and natural exterior colors, such buildings would harmonize with their environment. At Tioga Pass these stone buildings match the color and texture of the exposed granite peaks and ridges which dominate the scene, and their heavy log beams and shingled roofs blend with the sparse and scattered stands of conifers near the Sierra Nevada timberline here.

Civilian Conservation Corps labor contributed to the construction of this complex, and lends it a local historical significance due to that association. The CCC was an experiment in providing work for unemployed young men during the Great Depression. The CCC provided essentially unskilled labor to assist the stone masons and carpenters assigned to the project.



TIOGA PASS ENTRANCE STATION  
WHEN NEW  
C 1933

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK  
CALIFORNIA

VIEW TO NORTH

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

PHOTO 1 OF 5



TIOLA PASS ENTRANCE STATION

VIEW TO NORTHWEST

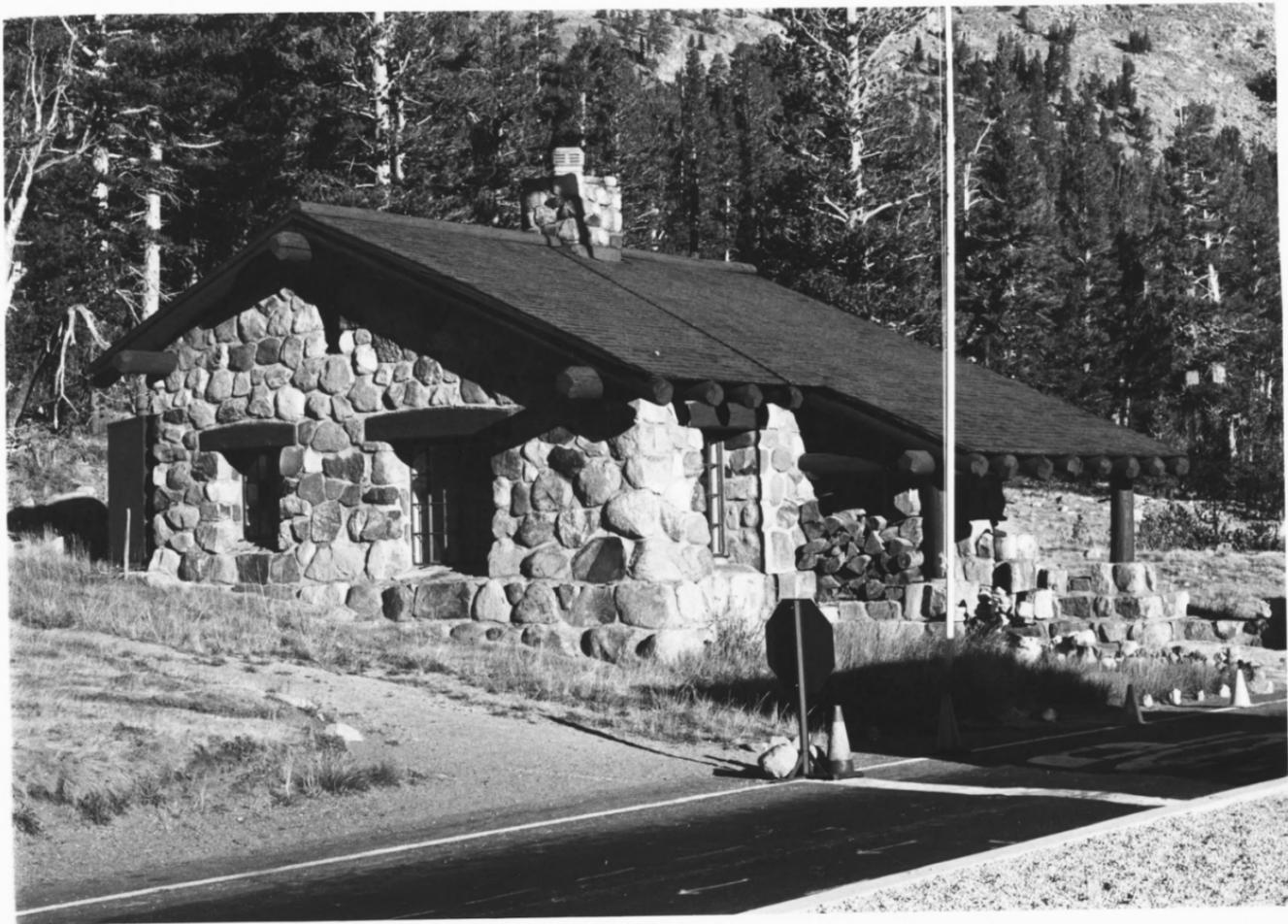
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

by GORDON CHAPPELL

OCTOBER 1, 1977

PHOTO 2 OF 5



TIOGA PASS ENTRANCE STATION

VIEW TO NORTHEAST

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

BY GORDON CHAPPELL

OCTOBER 1, 1977

PHOTO 3 OF 5



TIOGA PASS ENTRANCE STATION

VIEW TO WEST

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

BY GORDON CHAPPELL

OCTOBER 2, 1977

PHOTO 4 OF 5



TIOGA PASS COMFORT STATION

VIEW TO WEST

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

BY GORDON CHAPPELL

OCTOBER 2, 1977

PHOTO 5075