

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 RECEIVED **MAY 31 1977**  
 DATE ENTERED **JUN 9 1978**

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Yosemite Transportation Company Office

AND/OR COMMON

Wells Fargo Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*N. 10 Wawona on YNP*

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Yosemite National Park VICINITY OF Wawona

15th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Mariposa

043

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER Interp. Prog.

**4 AGENCY**

National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

CA

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 577

CITY, TOWN

Yosemite National Park

STATE

CA

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Structures Report/Inventory

DATE

1961

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

same as #5

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1960</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Yosemite Transportation Company Office was constructed in Yosemite Valley in 1910 and moved to Wawona in 1960. Originally housed in the building were a variety of transportation and communication facilities. It is a 1½ story frame structure 23' x 21'. The building consists of an unpeeled log frame, vertical posts, and horizontal beams, with infill panels of natural cedar bark and thin, unpeeled logs arranged in decorative patterns (predominantly herringbone). It has a steeply pitched overhanging roof of wood shingles, supported on log rafters, which measures over half of the height of the building. A king post truss of peeled logs is used both functionally and decoratively in the front gable, which overhangs four feet.

The casement windows have diamond-pane sash which are placed horizontally in the frames.

The building receives adequate preservation maintenance through its inclusion in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. An historic structure preservation guide should be completed for this building.

The justification for moving the building is in paragraph two of the significance statement. The roof structure was removed to facilitate passage through the Wawona tunnel. It was replaced at the new site and the building was treated with wood preservative. An interior fire prevention sprinkler system was installed at this time.

# 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 checked="" 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      1910      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Yosemite Valley Railroad Co.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Yosemite Transportation Company Office (Wells Fargo Office) is of local significance in the fields of architecture and transportation. These significances are based on the design of the structure and on its use for many years as a transportation facility for visitors to Yosemite Valley.

The building is an exceptional and rare example of the Rustic Style of architecture as it first developed in the Yosemite region. Characteristic of the style was the use of cedar bark strips applied in decorative patterns, as exterior sheathing material on wood frame buildings. Structures which are similar in design include the Yosemite Valley Railroad Station at El Portal (destroyed by fire, 1949) and four buildings extant in Yosemite Valley: the Curry Cabin, Tresidder Cabin, original Camp Curry Registration Office, and the Pohono Studio (all nominated to the National Register). These rustic structures represent an effort to design facilities which would not be intrusive or incompatible with the natural environment.

The transportation significance of the structure results from its function as a horse and motor stage terminal. The building was erected at the Old Village site, near the Sentinel Hotel, in 1910 with funds and design provided by the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company. The railroad had recently completed a line to El Portal on the western boundary of Yosemite National Park. Horse and later "auto-stages" connected the El Portal depot with Yosemite Valley. During the stagecoach years the building also served as a telegraph and express office and it was then that the name "Wells Fargo" became associated with it.

After the all-year highway was opened in 1927 the popularity of the Yosemite Valley railroad began to diminish in favor of private vehicles and commercial buses. The Yosemite Transportation Company shifted its transactions to the "front desk" at lodgings throughout the park. In the late 1930s the vacant Y.T.C. building was converted to an employee residence.

In 1959 the "Wells Fargo Office" was slated for demolition as part of the National Park Service's "Mission 66" program that dismantled the majority of buildings in the Old Village and restored the meadow to its natural state. Recognition of the building's unique design and local history led to the

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Building File: Wells Fargo Office, PYHC, Yosemite Research Library  
 Interpretive Prospectus/Pioneer Yosemite History Center, Doug Hubbard, 1959.  
 Johnson, Hank. "Railroads of the Yosemite Valley," Yosemite, Flying Spur Press.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA *less than One*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 10

UTM REFERENCES

265-450 775

A	1 1	2 5 6 4 4 4	4 1 5 7 7 6 2	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are defined by the walls of the building.

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 Leslie Starr Hart/Historian  
 Merrill Ann Wilson/Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Denver Service Center/National Park Service	8/76 (rev. 11/76)
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
655 Parfet, P.O. Box 25287	(303)234-4509/Hart or -5545/Wilson
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Denver	CO 80225

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NAME *Leslie Starr Hart*  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

JAN 12 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]* MAY 25 1977

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Walter C. Cole*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *6/9/78*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE *6.7.78*

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Yosemite Transportation  
CONTINUATION SHEET Company Office ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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allocation of funds for removal rather than destruction. The building was acquired from Yosemite Park and Curry Company and moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona. There the building was restored to a circa 1912 appearance and opened for interpretive use.

Because the building was moved from its historic location in 1959, the sole significant value requiring management protection is the physical integrity of the present structure.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Yosemite Transportation Company Office

AND/OR COMMON

Wells Fargo Office

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Yosemite Nat'l pk, Wawona, Pioneer History Center

Mariposa

California

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Dean Shenk

DATE OF PHOTO

National Park Service

10/75

NEGATIVE FILED AT

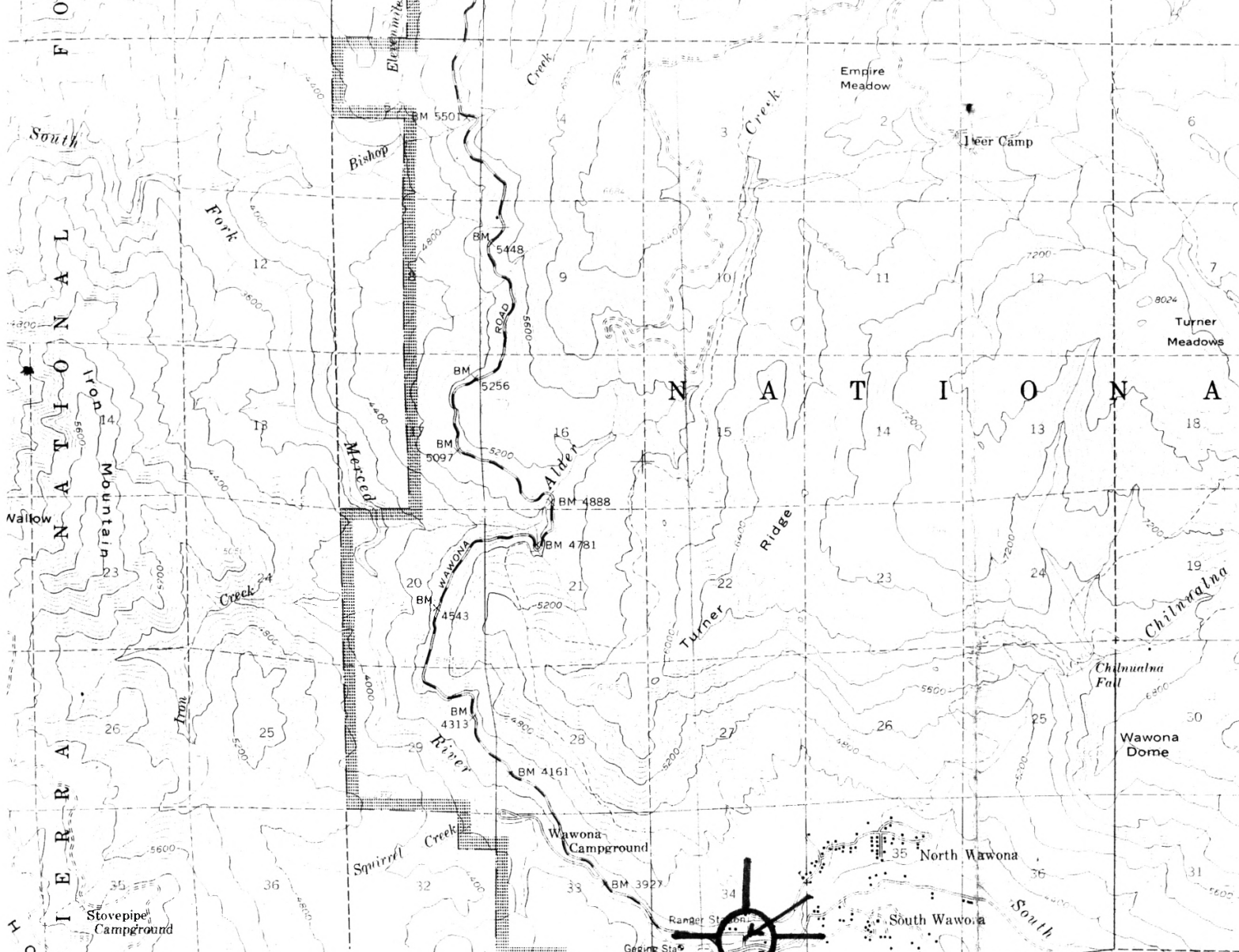
Western Regional Offcie, NPS, 450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36063, San Francisco, California

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

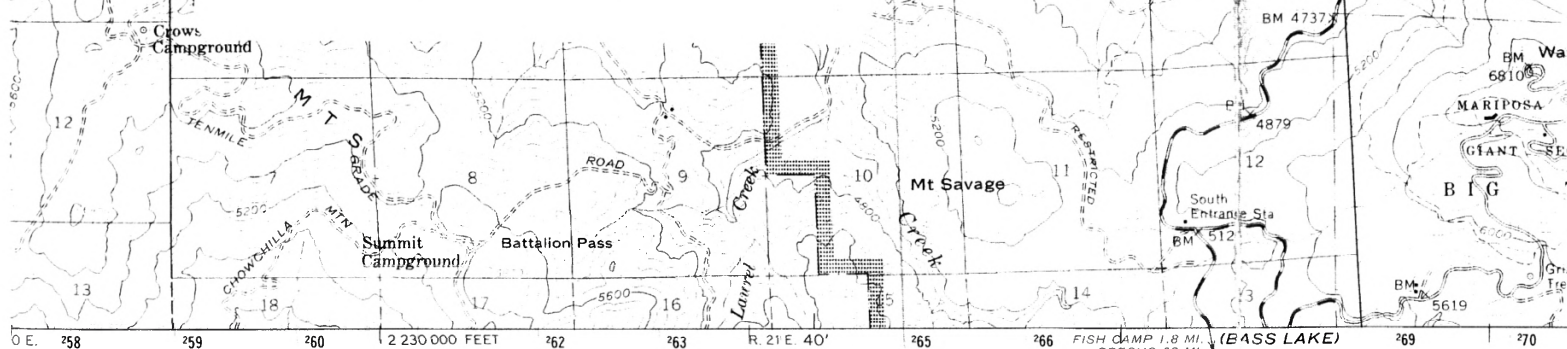
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Yosemite Transportation Co. Southwestern and Southeastern sides

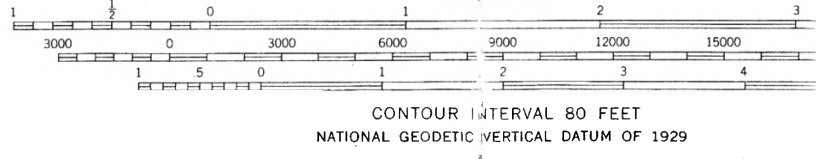
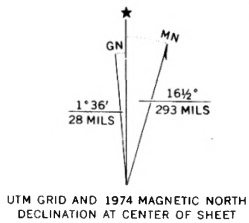


Yosemite Transportation Co. Office  
 Yosemite National Park, Wawona, PYHC  
 UTM: A 11/256444/4157762  
 265-450 775



dated, and published by the Geological Survey  
 JSGS and USC&GS  
 from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
 graphs taken 1955. Advance field check 1956  
 resection. 1927 North American datum  
 t grid based on California coordinate system, zone 3  
 Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 own in blue

1 lines indicate approximate locations  
 nsurveyed in T. 2 S.-R. 22 E., T. 3 S.-R. 23 E., and  
 2 S.-R. 21 E., T. 3 S.-R. 20 E., and T. 5 S.-R. 22 E.  
 rmitted in T. 2 S.-R. 23 E., T. 4 S.-R. 23 E., and  
 3 S.-R. 22 E., and T. 4 S.-R. 20 E., because of  
 data



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST