



Ansel Adams Gallery Complex Rehabilitation



History of the Ansel Adams Gallery

Best's Studio was one of several artists' studios operating in Yosemite Valley at the turn of the twentieth century. Harry Best opened his studio in Yosemite Valley in 1902. In 1925, he relocated the business from Old Yosemite Village (near the Chapel) to its present day location (between the Visitor Center and the Yosemite Post Office). A young and talented artist named Ansel Adams often played the piano at Best's Studio. Ansel met his future wife, Virginia Best, there, and it is where he first publicly exhibited his art. He and his family lived and worked at this site, in the private residences, public gallery, and working photography darkroom (known collectively as the Ansel Adams Gallery buildings) through the late 1940s. In the 1960s, Ansel made improvements to the Gallery and designed the porch and pergola that exist today. These buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places and sited within the Yosemite Valley Archaeological District and Yosemite Village Historic District. Today, the family still

What repairs are needed ?

Currently, the Adams family operates their business and houses employees on site through a concessions contract with the National Park Service, which is responsible for maintaining the buildings. Minor repairs and upgrades have been made; however, after more than 90 years of continuous operation and occupation, the buildings are in need of major repair and rehabilitation. A 2002 facility assessment recommended that the main building undergo substantial stabilization and rehabilitation, and the residences either be substantially stabilized and rehabilitated or completely replaced due to their deteriorating condition. These buildings are historically significant for their association to the late Ansel Adams. The site and this area of Yosemite Valley are rich in traditional cultural and archaeological history. Rehabilitation plans for this project seek to protect

What does the environmental assessment cover?

The park is analyzing rehabilitation options through an environmental assessment that evaluates the following alternatives:

- Alternative 1 (No Action) – assumes that existing conditions would continue including routine maintenance and repairs.
 - Alternative 2 (Conservation) – focuses on the preservation and repair of existing fabric and intact character-defining features.
 - Alternative 3 (Building Performance) – maximizes building performance by providing a higher degree of seismic safety and energy efficiency with a greater level of intervention.
 - Alternative 4 (Balanced Rehabilitation) – balances conservation of historic fabric and the optimization of building performance.
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What does the Preferred Alternative propose?

Alternative 4 is identified as the agency's Preferred Alternative and the environmentally preferred alternative. This alternative rehabilitates the Ansel Adams Gallery Complex using architectural and structural design tailored to improve building performance and retain historic integrity. To implement comprehensive seismic and structural strengthening and energy efficiencies, this alternative would preserve and repair certain historic materials and elements where feasible, and replace others in kind. Alternative 4 would provide reasonable accessibility, safety, site circulation, and drainage improvements while retaining the historic materials and features that

Project Schedule

Public scoping occurred in July-September 2011. The public review and comment period for the environmental assessment will occur April 16 – May 16, 2014. A decision document is anticipated by Summer 2014 and the project would be implemented in Fall 2014.

Your Part in the Process

- **Visit online:** www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm
- **Submit your email address** to receive the park's periodic electronic newsletter yose_planning@nps.gov
- **Provide input during the planning process.** You can submit comments by visiting the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) project page at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/AnselAdamsEA>. Or send regular mail to:

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