



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615 (YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Ed Dunlavey, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2017-021 Snow Creek Cabin Fire Egress Ladders Installation (74604)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined the following:

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no adverse effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- There will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved and construction and/or project implementation can commence.

For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- Ensure documentary photos be taken prior to initiating work. Measured sketch drawings of original shutters will also be made.

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations: None

//Sula Jacobs// acting for
Palmer L. Jenkins

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2017-021 Snow Creek Cabin Fire Egress Ladders Installation

PEPC Project Number: 74604

Project Description:

A preliminary fire and life safety assessment of the Snow Creek Cabin was conducted by the Yosemite Fire Marshal. This cabin is available for public access only during the winter months by foot (snowshoe or skiing) and is approximately seven miles from Yosemite Valley. The elements identified for safe occupancy are common to buildings having historic significance and have been addressed in the past through careful review and compliance decisions. The fire marshal's recommendations are based on the assessment of risk, review of applicable policy, various codes and applying sound fire and life safety principles. The Snow Creek Cabin is classified as an existing hotel by National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 and Residential Group R-1 by the 2012 International Building Code.

This project addresses the installation of two fixed ladders on the building exterior for second floor evacuation in the event of a structural fire. The primary escape path is the cabin's front door. This door is located on the first floor, providing escape directly to the outside. There are no secondary escape paths except the first floor windows.

NFPA Code requires escape windows for the second floor sleeping rooms (one escape window per sleeping room) to be provided with fixed emergency escape ladders leading to ground. Collapsible escape ladders and devices such as those available for single family homes are not suitable for this cabin for numerous reasons. These ladders are only effective with intimate familiarity and repeated practice use by the occupants. Not all devices function in the same manner. Some devices are subject to deployment failure. Devices can be moved, hidden from view or removed. Devices do not provide for a stable easily accommodating platform and are slow to use. Devices are intended for single room evacuation serving typically lower single family dwelling occupant numbers per device.

The ladders will be attached perpendicularly to the building side wall with two stand-off brackets measuring six inches. Fabricated angle iron straps (2" x 5") will be welded to each end of the angle to create a flange. Each strap will bolt to the wall and to the side rail of the ladder. Two diagonal braces of angle iron bolted to the wall and connected to the outer rail of the ladder will brace the ladder perpendicular to the wall. There is solid backing in the wall next to the window provided by internal log framing members in a studded wall configuration.

This cabin does not have the typical residential use protections offered by contemporary building fire resistance and limited flame spread characteristics providing additional time for device deployment. Code for this type occupancy does not recognize these devices as an acceptable escape means. Secondary escape is traditionally dependent on rapid response of fire department rescue efforts (not available in this remote location) through windows large enough for firefighter access and temporary areas of refuge such as balconies and roofs accessible by fire department ladder.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Ensure documentary photos be taken prior to initiating work. Measured sketch drawings of original shutters will also be made.

CE Citation: C.19 Construction or rehabilitation in previously disturbed or developed areas, required to meet health and safety regulation, or to meet regulations for making facilities accessible to the handicapped.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Acting

Superintendent: //Sula Jacobs// acting for **Date:** 10/20/17
Chip Jenkins

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	

I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2017-021 Snow Creek Cabin Fire Egress Ladders Installation
PEPC Project Number: 74604
Project Type: Other Maintenance Activities (MNT)
Project Location: **County, State:** Mariposa, California
District: Valley **Other:** 6367 **Tract ID:** BcB 3450 Snow Creek Cabin
Project Leader: Ed Dunlavey

B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	None	
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
Biological Vegetation	None	
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
Cultural Archeological Resources	None	
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures <i>Snow Creek Cabin</i>	Potential	Installation of the ladder has a minor visual impact but is not considered adverse by the historical architect.
Geological Geologic Features	None	
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	Potential	The ladder installation allows for a second means of egress which meets fire code.
Other Operational	None	
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscares Soundscares	None	
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	None	
Water Floodplains	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	
Wilderness Wilderness	None	

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>10/2/2017</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>10/4/2017</u>
<u>//Ron Gaunt//</u> Acting Chief, Project Management – Ron Gaunt	<u>10/19/2017</u>

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>//Sula Jacobs// acting for</u> Palmer L. Jenkins	<u>10/20/2017</u>

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in Yosemite National Park.



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2017-021 Snow Creek Cabin Fire Egress Ladders Installation

Prepared by: Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 09/13/2017 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 74604

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

District: Valley **Other:** 6367 **Tract ID:** BcB 3450 Snow Creek Cabin

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

Snow Creek Cabin Building

3. **Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

 No

 X Yes

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

Archeological Resources Affected: None

Historical Structures/Resources Affected: Snow Creek Cabin

Name and numbers: Snow Creek Cabin Building **LCS** **Asset** 3450

Cultural Landscapes Affected: None

Ethnographic Resources Affected: None

5. **The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

 No **Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure**

 No **Replace historic features/elements in kind**

 No **Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure**

No **Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)**
No **Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape**
No **Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible**
No **Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible**
Yes **Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources**
No **Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources**
No **Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)**
 Other (please specify): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] 106 Advisor
Name: Kimball Koch
Date: 09/20/2017

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected X No
Adverse Effect Adverse Effect X Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Stipulations per subject matter expert reviews.
Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)
Streamlined Activity:
4. Health and Safety Activities

[X] Anthropologist
Name: Scott Carpenter
Date: 09/19/2017
Comments: Snow Creek Cabin is located within the boundaries of an archeological site. The project does not involve ground disturbance and the ladders will be attached to the building. As of the time of this PEPC report, no known properties of religious or cultural significance have been identified

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [X]
Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected X No
Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 09/07/2017

Comments: Snow Creek Cabin is located within the boundaries of an archeological site. The project does not involve ground disturbance and the ladders will be attached to the building. There are no archeological concerns and no monitoring is required.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___No Potential to Cause Effect ___No Historic Properties Affected X No

Adverse Effect ___Adverse Effect ___Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Historical Architect

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 09/27/2017

Comments: These changes are needed due to the transient occupancy classification of the building and have been designed to minimize impact to historic fabric and character.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___No Potential to Cause Effect ___No Historic Properties Affected X No

Adverse Effect ___Adverse Effect X Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Photo document as noted in Scott Carpenters review.

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)

Streamlined Activity:

4. Health and Safety Activities

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 09/19/2017

Comments: Snow Creek Cabin is a historic building. All modifications to the building under this project are planned to have limited change to historic fabric and are reversible.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [X]

Assessment of Effect: ___No Potential to Cause Effect ___No Historic Properties Affected X No

Adverse Effect ___Adverse Effect ___Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Documentary photographs will be taken prior to initiating work. Measured sketch drawings of original shutters will also be made.

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 08/31/2017

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___No Potential to Cause Effect ___No Historic Properties Affected X No

Adverse Effect ___Adverse Effect X Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)
Streamlined Activity:
4. Health and Safety Activities

No Reviews From: Curator, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects
☐ No Historic Properties Affected
☒ No Adverse Effect
☐ Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

☐ A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

☒ B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

4. Health and Safety Activities.

☐ C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.
Specify plan/EA/EIS:

☐ D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

☐ E. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

[] G. Memo to SHPO/THPO

[] H. Memo to ACHP

SHPO/THPO Notes:

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

N/A

4. Stipulations and Conditions:

N/A

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

**Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)**

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball

Koch

//Kimball Koch//

Date: 10/2/2017

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

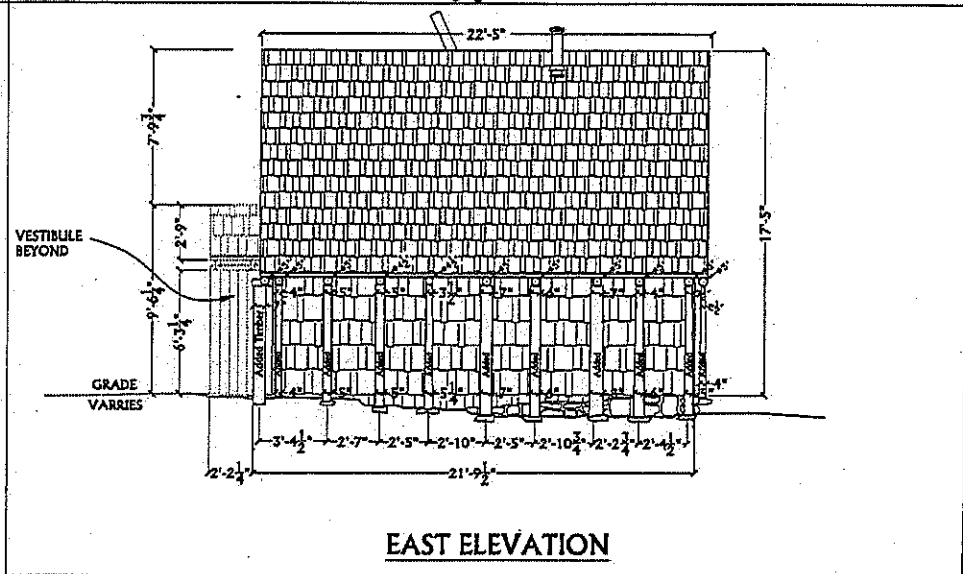
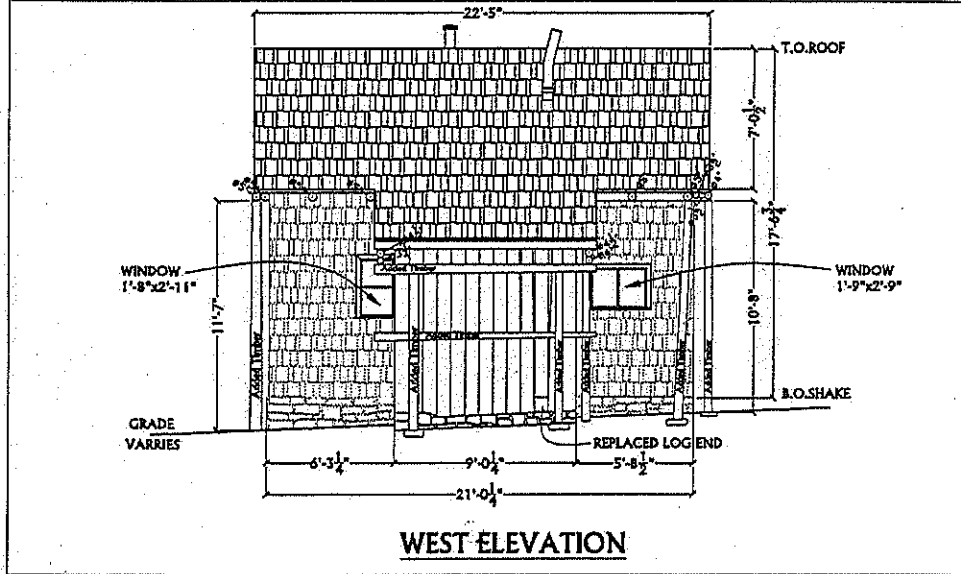
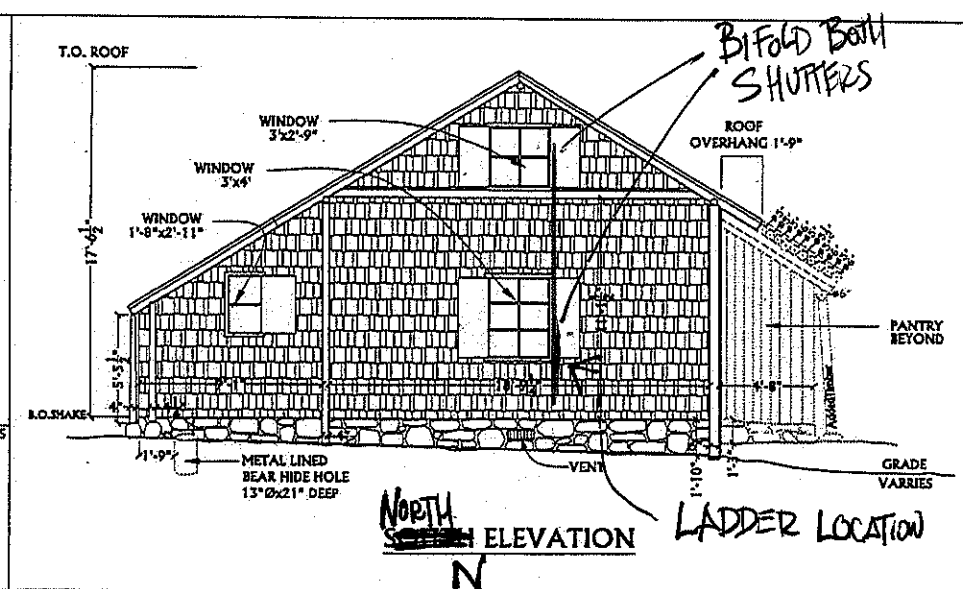
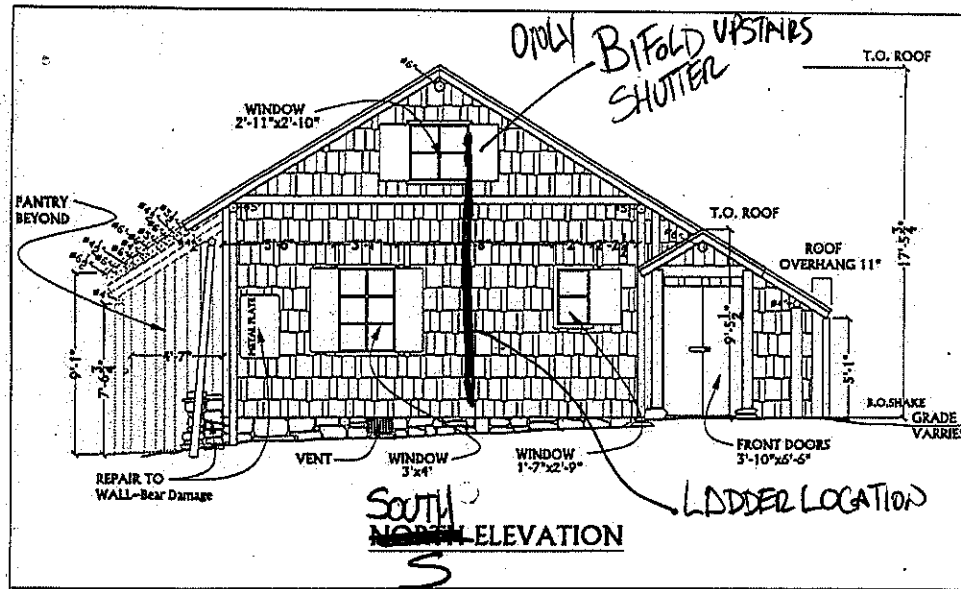
Acting

Superintendent: //Sula Jacobs// acting for

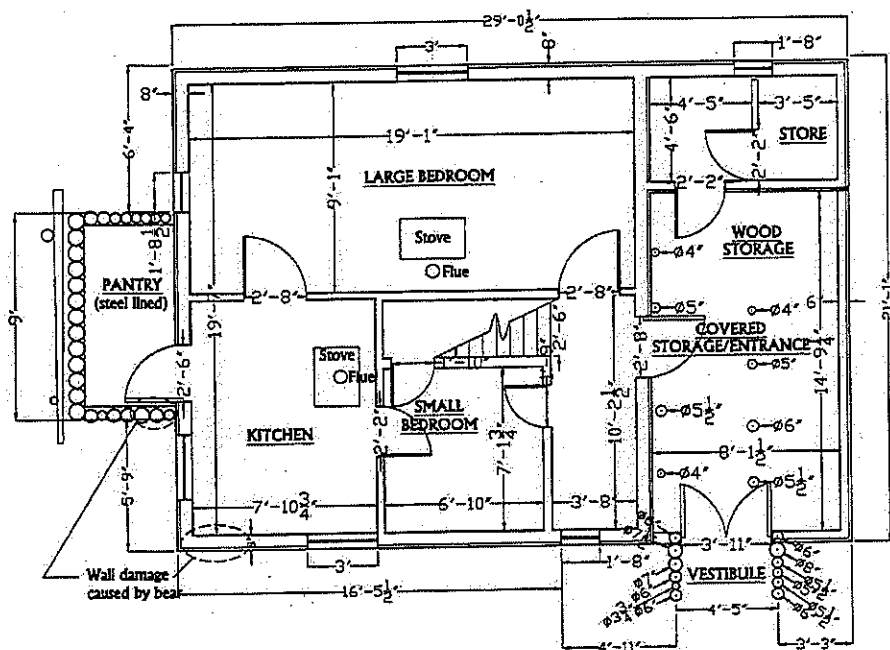
Date: 10/20/2017

Chip Jenkins

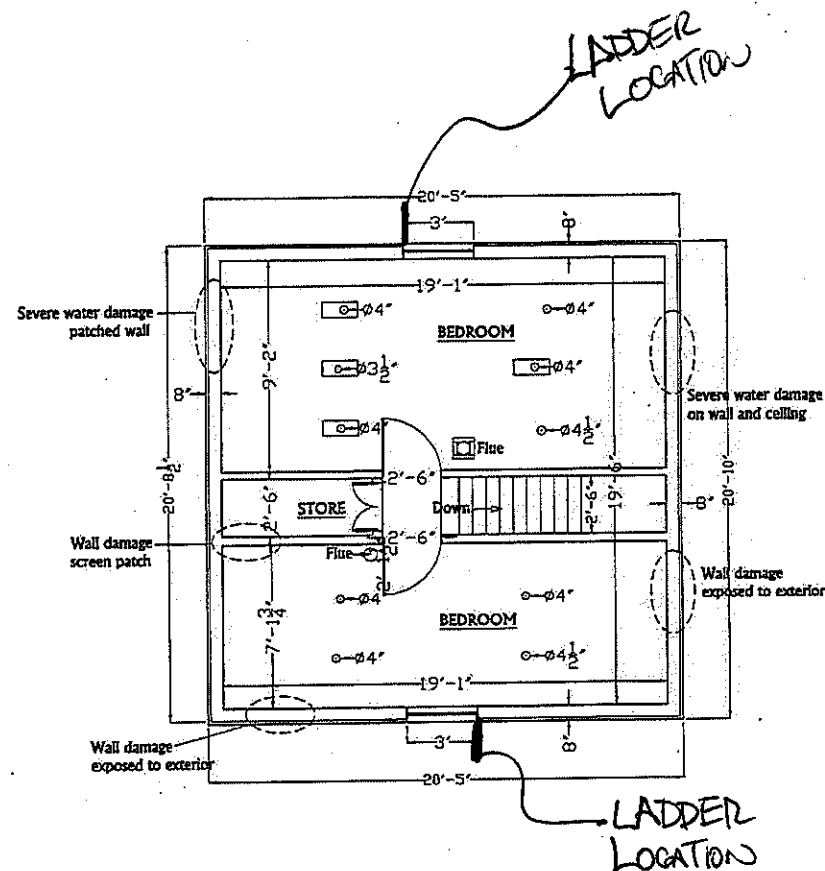
*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



DESIGNED BY: KIMBER 100% REVIEW	SUB SHEET NO.	TITLE OF SHEET SNOW CREEK CABIN EXISTING ELEVATIONS YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CA	DRAWING NO.
DATE: 9/99			
			SHEET 1 OF 2



SNOW CREEK CABIN
Ground Floor Plan



SNOW CREEK CABIN
Second Floor Plan

DESIGNED	SUB SHEET NO.	TITLE OF SHEET	DRAWING NO.
DRAWN: KIMBER CHECKED: KEAGLE TECH. REVIEW:		SNOW CREEK CABIN EXISTING PLANS YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CA	1016
DATE: 9/99			1016