



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2007-030 Ahwahnee Hotel, Correct Fire Safety Deficiencies

PEPC Project Number: 17512

Project Description: This project includes extending the existing partial fire sprinkler (see Specification 13930) and fire alarm systems (see Specification 13851) to provide full sprinkler and alarm coverage throughout The Ahwahnee, providing smoke control curtains in exit stairs. A metal exit stair would be added to the loading dock. Selective demolition and subsequent patching of existing historic finishes would be necessary to route new piping and wiring. Quality control is crucial to avoid an adverse effect. The National Park Service Historical Architects would provide final review and approval of device locations, patching methods, and finishes. A full closure of the hotel would be required during a portion of the work.

Scope of Work: The scope of work for this project includes:

- Testing and upgrading the existing riser system.
- Relocating the existing fire department pumping connection and adding a second connection via underground piping.
- Providing individual zone-control valves for all new and existing sprinkler zones including 1) flow and tamper devices and 2) inspector's test and drain valves.
- Replacing existing sprinkler piping in the basement.
- Installing wet-pipe sprinkler zones throughout the majority of interior spaces including guest rooms, lounges, main dining room, main kitchen, and all storage areas.
- Installing dry-pipe sprinkler zones for the back loading dock and support areas.
- Installing deluge sprinkler zone for the porte cochere and main entry. This shall be connected to the deluge control panel and detection devices.
- Modifying existing sprinklers in storage spaces and fifth and sixth floor guest rooms and corridors.
- Providing a new drain pipe network to properly drain all sprinkler zones.
- Installing two new fire hydrants.

There would be three areas of trenching required to connect the sprinkler system to the new fire hydrants or to extend the sprinkler system to the external chiller. All trenching would be approximately three feet wide and up to five feet deep but varying in length (see trenching map).

- 1) The first area of trenching would be from the north end of the kitchen to the chiller building and measure approximately five feet in length in a pre-disturbed area.
- 2) The second area of trenching would be approximately 10 feet from the boiler room to a new fire hydrant located in the back dock. This is a pre-disturbed area and would require the contractor to patch the pavement after completion of work.
- 3) The third area of trenching would be from beneath the porte cochere at the main entrance of The Ahwahnee and extends approximately 150 feet beyond the flag pole lawn to a new fire hydrant

For all three areas of ground disturbance, the National Park Service Archeologist would be consulted for recommendations to reduce the potential for effect on archaeological resources.

All disturbed soils would be backfilled into the trench after the hose installation. The area would be re-vegetated with the salvaged trees and shrubbery.

Project Location:

Mariposa County, Ca

Mitigations:

- Ensure that archeological monitoring would occur during trenching. Park Archeologist, Laura Kirn, 379-1314.
- Submit a Safety Plan to the Yosemite Safety Office; include a trenching and excavation plan and address the need for a competent person.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Acting Superintendent //Katariina Tuovinen// (acting)

Date 2/4/10

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



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 01/26/2010

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2007-030 Ahwahnee Hotel, Correct Fire Safety Deficiencies
PEPC Project Number: 17512
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District: Yosemite Valley
Project Leader: Jim Vandenberg

Preliminary drawings attached? Yes

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? No

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			Three areas will be trenched approximately 3 feet wide and up to five feet deep. See description for areas affected.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Temporary in nature; air emissions during the fire safety upgrades.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			There will be temporary construction noises during the project.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				

11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			There would be a full closure of the hotel during a portion of the project. Work with the highest noise levels would only occur during closed periods.
18. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
21. Energy resources	No				
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity		Negligible			This project meets the park's long-term management of resources by addressing and upgrading the unreliable fire suppression system.
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Historic Properties Affected	No Adverse Effect	Adverse Effect	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		X		Yosemite Valley Archeological District; archeological monitoring would occur during trenching.
2. Archeological resources		X		Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark.
3. Prehistoric/historic structure		X		Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark.
4. Cultural landscapes		X		Yosemite Valley American Traditional Cultural Property.

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
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		Mitigated; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
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 law, or a 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 (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		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		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the National Park Service, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act, by impairing park resources or values, would constitute an action that triggers the U.S Department of Interior exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

D. OTHER INFORMATION

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes

Did personnel conduct a site visit? Yes

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? Yes, the SHPO

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)?

Yes, the Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Niki Nicholas	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kristina Rylands	Acting Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Paul Laymon	Acting Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Jim Vandenberg	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialist	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>1/27/10</u>
<u>//Madelyn Rufner// (acting)</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>1/29/10</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>1/29/10</u>

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>//Katariina Tuovinen// (acting)</u> David V. Uberuaga	<u>2/4/10</u>

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 01/26/2010

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **January 26, 2010**

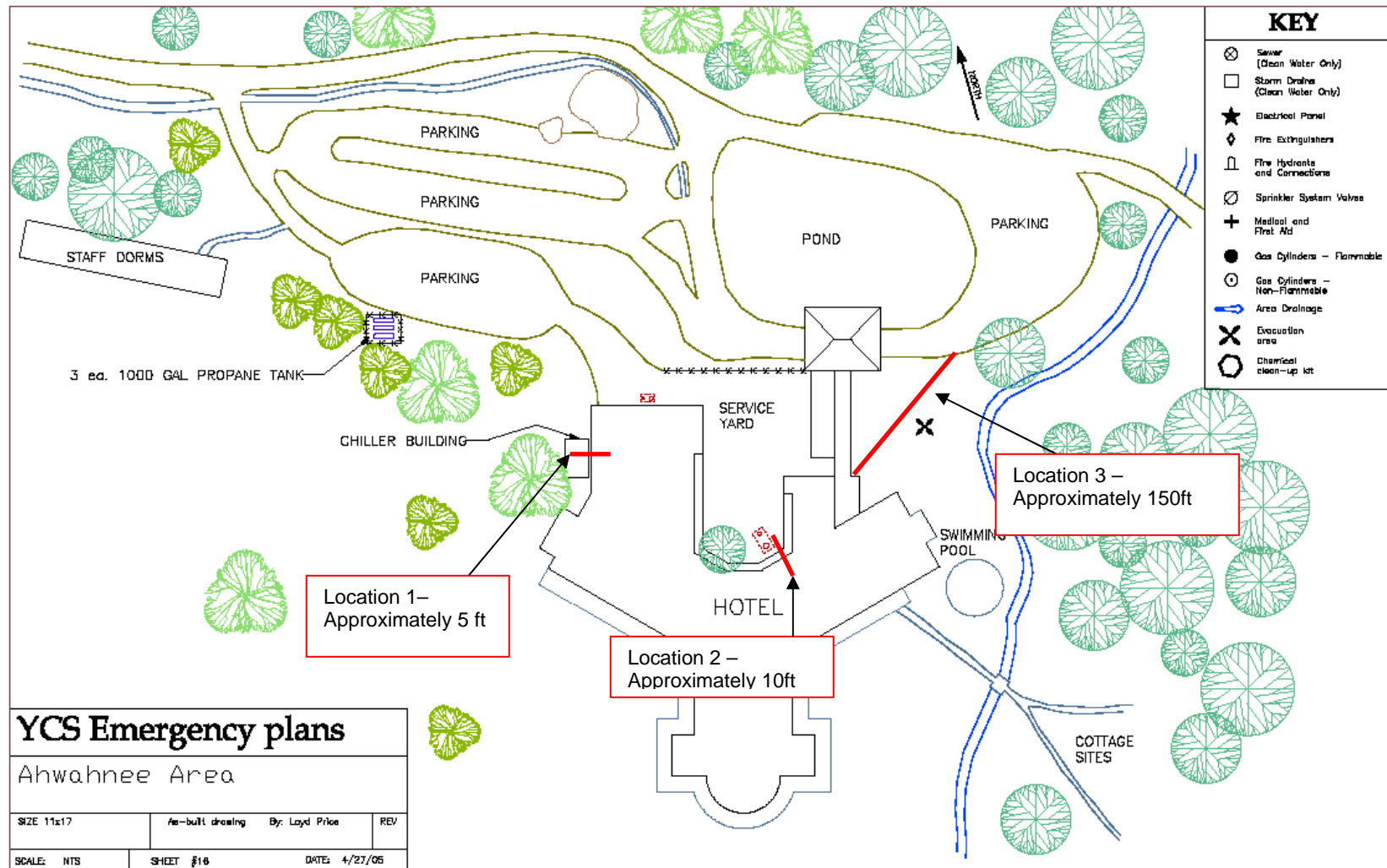
PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2007-030 Ahwahnee Hotel, Correct Fire Safety Deficiencies
PEPC Project Number: 17512
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District: Yosemite Valley,
Project Leader: Jim Vandenberg

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
5. Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Three areas will be trenched approximately three feet wide and up to five feet deep. See description for areas affected.
6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Yosemite Valley Archeological District; there will be archeological monitoring during trenching. A monitoring plan to be developed based on the recent findings (Nilsson et al 2009).

7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			The park Historic Architect will be consulted throughout the project.
8. Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			
9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	Yes			Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark; #55943.
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
10. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			Merced River.
11. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
12. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
13. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
14. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
15. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
16. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
17. Within designated Wilderness?		No		
18. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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January 21, 2010

In reply refer to: NPS070208A

Jeannette Simons
Historic Preservation Officer
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Re: Phase 1, Fire and Life Safety Improvements to The Ahwahnee, Yosemite National Park, California

Dear Ms. Simons:

Thank you for your November 5, 2009, submission of documents regarding this project at Yosemite National Park, to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f), as amended, and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR Part 800. This consultation for Phase 1 of the improvements to the fire and life safety systems at The Ahwahnee began in 2007. The information submitted with your latest letter includes the following:

- *The Ahwahnee Hotel Fire and Life Safety improvements*
- Response to Review Comments from California SHPO
- 100% Construction Document Project Manual
- Project Specifications
- NPS Park Rules and Regulations for Contractors
- NPS Fire Requirements
- Fire Alarm Narrative Report
- Fire Alarm Impairment Plan
- Review of Historic Elements affected by Project prepared by the Architectural Resources Group.
- Full size set 100% Construction Documents, architectural, fire alarm and sprinkler
- Annotated color photos of proposed sprinkler head locations
- CD of 100% construction documents, PDF format

The scope of work described in these documents has been reviewed for conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Overall, the project is much improved since your last correspondence, such as the removal of the VESDA system, the detailing of concealed sprinkler piping, careful placement of sprinkler heads below stenciling, concealing notification devices in chandeliers, and coordination and qualification of all construction parties.

In response to the latest documents submitted, I offer the following comments:

1. Section 01351, "Procedures For Treatment of Historic Properties": Although Paragraph 1.5 "Quality Assurance" requires resumes of all persons directly responsible for work performed, there is no paragraph for "Submittals" which directs the same. Past project experience has had negative results addressing submittal requirements in a

paragraph other than a "Submittals" paragraph. OHP recommends directing information to be submitted in a "Submittals" paragraph for all sections.

2. Further clarification was requested regarding differentiating new stenciling from old stenciling. As a continuing use, the matching of existing stenciling is appropriate and no differentiation is required.

3. OHP is concerned that, despite a thorough job of concealing the sprinkler piping, there appears to be one place where the piping is exposed at detail SP 26.1 on Drawing SP 26. OHP recommends concealing the pipe if it is exposed.

The National Park Service (NPS) has determined that this project has the potential to affect historic properties, including The Ahwahnee (a National Historic Landmark) and the Yosemite Valley Historic District. Along with your consultation initiation letter, you submitted repair plans and annotated photographs. The National Park Service (NPS) has applied the Criteria of Adverse Effect (36 CFR § 800. 5(a)(1)) and has concluded that the undertaking would have no adverse effect on The Ahwahnee.

After reviewing the materials submitted with your letter, it seems that the approach to the scopes of work appears consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Therefore, I concur with your recommended Finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking.

Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your planning. I look to continued review and consultation with the National Park Service and Yosemite National Park on this important project to ensure that one of Yosemite's most significant historic resources is preserved for future generations. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Beason, Project Review Unit historian, at (916) 653-8902 or mbeason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan K Stratton for".

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 01/20/2010

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Yosemite National Park **Park District:** Yosemite Valley

2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: 2007-030 Ahwahnee Hotel, Correct Fire Safety Deficiencies

b. Date: January 20, 2010

c. PEPC Project ID Number: 17512

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify cultural resources?

☐ No

☒ Yes, Source or reference: Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark nomination, Cultural Landscape Report, and Historic Structures Report

☐ Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resources:

Archeological resources affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Historical structures/resources affected?

Name and number(s): Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark

NR status: 7 - A designated National Historic Landmark

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark

NR status: 7 - A designated National Historic Landmark

Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property

NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district

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

☒ **Yes** Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

Yes Replace historic features/elements in kind
Yes Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
Yes Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
Yes 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
No 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. 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.

7. Supporting Study Data:

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

8. Attachments:

☐ Maps ☐ Archeological survey, if applicable ☐ Drawings ☐ Specifications ☐ Photographs
☐ Scope of Work ☐ Site plan ☐ List of Materials ☐ Samples ☐ Other:

Prepared by: Jeannette Simons **Date:** January 20, 2010 **Title:** Historic Preservation
Officer **Telephone:** 209-379-1372

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:

☒ Archeologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 01/25/2010

Comments: YOSE 1999 PA Stipulation VII.C.2.a, g, and h.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect
☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Archeological monitoring during trenching; monitoring plan to be developed based on recent findings (Nilsson et al 2009).

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Architect

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 01/20/2010

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___ No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect ___ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 01/26/2010

Comments: American Indian Liaison

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___ No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect ___ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

American Indian representative shall be present during trenching and ground disturbing activities.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 01/20/2010

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___ No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect ___ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Curator

Name: Jonathon Bayless

Date: 01/27/2010

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___ No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect ___ Adverse

Effect ☐ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: **Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor**

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

☐ 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.)

☐ 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.
Specify: _____

☐ E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

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

☐ F. No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

☐ G. STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer //Jeannette Simons//

Date: 1/27/10

D. 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.

Signature of Acting Superintendent //Katariina Tuovinen// (acting)

Date: 2/4/10

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