



Craters of the Moon Historical Structures Overview
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Pacific West Regional Office-Seattle

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Introduction

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge set aside 22,651 acres in south-central Idaho as Craters of the Moon National Monument. With its lava flows, cinder cones, splatter cones, tree molds, caves, rifts and other volcanic features, Craters of the Moon contains an outstanding display of the effects of basaltic volcanism. Volcanic activity began about fifteen million years ago in what is called the Great Rift, which extends for sixty miles and is the source for the more than sixty lava flows and twenty-five cones at the monument. Most of the volcanic features here are between fifteen thousand and two thousand years old. The rift is still active, and could erupt again in the next one thousand years.

The monument also contains numerous natural and cultural resources. Besides the lava fields, the monument includes approximately four thousand acres of the foothills of the Pioneer Mountains. Scientists have recorded about fifty mammal, 150 bird and 600 plant species. A number of archeological sites have been found at the monument. Goodale's Cutoff, a section of the Oregon Trail that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, passes through the northern section of the monument. There have been six boundary additions since 1928, and Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve now comprises over 750,000 acres.¹

The structures at Craters of the Moon date from the two main periods of National Park development—the rustic era and the Mission 66 era. Congress began appropriating money for park infrastructure, such as roads and buildings, in the mid-1920s, and funding increased during the New Deal during the 1930s. The monument's log comfort station and log warehouse date from this era, and these structures are the only extant rustic-style buildings constructed by the National Park Service in Idaho. The second major period of park development began in 1955, when Congress allotted seven hundred million dollars for the Mission 66 program. The five housing units, the visitor center, the utility building and the brick comfort station in the campground were built during this time. The buildings are an early example of Mission 66 development, and are the only representations of Park Service Modern architecture in Idaho.

This report is intended to describe the historical development of the park's rustic and Mission 66 structures, to identify character defining features of these structures, and to provide recommendations to park staff for the treatment of these buildings. Park resource managers requested treatment recommendations in 2008, in order to assist their efforts to maintain the structures while preserving their integrity. Monument staff hopes to use this

¹ David Louter, Administrative History, Craters of the Moon National Monument, (Seattle: National Park Service, 1992), 8-11.

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document as the basis for a Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer.

The rustic and Mission 66 buildings at Craters of the Moon have a distinctiveness in Idaho that is worthy of preservation. As the lead preservation agency in the nation, the National Park Service has a responsibility to protect integrity in these historic buildings. To retain the structures' integrity and thus their eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places, any substantial changes to the buildings should be done in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and a historical architect that meets the Secretary of the Interior's standards for professionals. Preservation maintenance projects should utilize in-kind materials whenever possible to ensure that integrity is maintained. Please also consult the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 68). The standards for preserving, rehabilitating, restoring and reconstructing historic structures have been included in Appendix A.

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The Rustic Era at Craters of the Moon, 1931-1934

The rustic log structures at Craters of the Moon were constructed during the first major era of National Park Service development. While the National Park Service (NPS) had encouraged tourism since the nineteenth century, railroads undertook the first significant development efforts in order to increase train travel to the parks and to maximize profits. Railroads built hotels, shelters, homes, and railroad stations in a variety of architectural styles, largely between 1900 and 1915. The Department of the Interior constructed some buildings in national parks, but these structures were small and utilitarian. In 1918, two years after the creation of the National Park Service, Director Steven Mather issued a policy statement that not only called for comprehensively planned development in national parks, but also structures that harmonized with the natural landscape. This statement would guide NPS building efforts for the next twenty years. Most parks were greatly in need of roads, buildings, and other infrastructure, and while Congress appropriated increasing amounts of money during the 1920s, funds remained inadequate. In the late 1920s, however, Mather convinced Congress to boost the NPS budget by one-third, and to grant larger appropriations for infrastructure such as buildings. New Deal programs in the 1930s also provided the means for national parks and monuments to develop or expand infrastructure.

Rustic architecture became the dominant style of construction in the national parks during the 1920s and 1930s. This style was an attempt by the National Park Service to build functional buildings that harmonized with their environments. Rustic design principles also represented the romanticism of nature and western settlement. Landscape architect Thomas Vint and his team in the National Park Service's Western Office of Design and Construction refined and institutionalized the rustic style. The architects sought to preserve and enhance the "natural character" of a site by "harmonizing manmade improvements with the natural setting and topography." Log structures, which typified rustic design, were meant to appear rugged and handcrafted, as if they were built "by pioneer woodsman with limited hand tools." Construction methods proved labor intensive, but manual labor was abundant as men sought employment through Depression-era federal relief programs.²

Rustic style at most national parks was characterized by use of native materials. Architects also sought to design structures that remained unobtrusive by taking into account the color, scale, massing and texture of natural features of the landscape. At the Grand Canyon, for instance, "chunks of rubble masonry laid in courses mimicked the

² Linda McClellan, Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916-1942, (Washington D.C: National Park Service, 1993).

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local geologic strata, and the log detailing had sizes identical to the trunks of the surrounding forest.” At Mt. Rainier, rounded, glacial boulders and large logs served as exterior building materials.³ The buildings had a simple, horizontal shape form, in order to remain unobtrusive. Irregular, low-pitched, gabled roofs were common, and architects avoided perfectly straight roof lines so that the building would blend into the natural landscape. Carpenters left knots and whorls on the logs, in order to retain a natural look.⁴

When the National Park Service assumed management of Craters of the Moon in 1924, the monument lacked any structures or visitor facilities. NPS officials expected to draw tourists on their way to and from Yellowstone National Park, and initial plans called for a permanent water supply, campground restrooms, an entrance area in the monument’s northern section, and improved roads and trails. However, national monuments across the nation did not benefit from the National Park Service budget increases in the 1920s. These units lacked financial support until 1933, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order that brought national monuments into the National Park Service. At Craters of the Moon, sufficient funding was not appropriated to create the infrastructure called for in the 1920s, and by 1931, only the water system was in place.

New Deal relief efforts funded the first significant physical developments at the monument.⁵ The park constructed roads, trails, and three structures—a custodian’s residence, a comfort station, and a warehouse—in part, with Public Works Administration funds. The structures were built in the rustic style that typified national park construction during this time. In 1931, the monument completed a four room log cottage that served as the custodian’s residence. The log equipment shed, also known as the warehouse or the log storage building, was completed in 1932, while the log comfort station was constructed in 1934. The buildings, unlike rustic structures at other parks, did not reflect the surrounding environment or make use of native materials. Instead, they reflected the National Park Service’s enthusiasm for rustic architecture during this time. One monument custodian argued the rustic style was “wholly inappropriate” for the monument, since there was “hardly a tree in the whole area.” Later NPS planners agreed, and recommended the use of lava rock masonry for future construction.⁶

The popularity of the rustic style declined by the end of the 1930s as architects began to favor the cleaner lines and innovative materials and techniques of the International Style. Furthermore, New Deal funding waned during the late 1930s, then vanished

³ William Tweed, Laura Soulliere and Henry Law, National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916-1942, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, February 1977.

⁴ Albert Good, Park and Recreation Structures, (Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990), 6-8.

⁵ An inn (with a lodge and cabins) had been built by a concessionaire previous to this development, but the only NPS facilities were a campground and a custodian’s cabin.

⁶ Louter, Administrative History, 84-85; 268.

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altogether as the nation entered World War II. The NPS had not fully implemented development plans for Craters of the Moon by the late 1930s (in particular, the monument had not built an administration building), and so facilities remained inadequate. Monument staff removed the custodian's residence by 1957 in preparation for a new headquarters complex, but the log comfort station and the log equipment shed remained.

The National Park Service and the Mission 66 Program, 1955-1966

The Mission 66 program, implemented between 1955 and 1966, marked the second era of national park development and modernization. Congress had drastically cut national park budgets during World War II, and funding remained low throughout the rest of the 1940s and early 1950s due to the Korean War and Cold War defense spending. Furthermore, New Deal programs that had provided the National Park Service with labor for maintenance and construction projects (such as the Public Works Administration) were abolished in 1942. As soon as World War II and the associated rationing and travel restrictions ended, however, park visitation boomed. Ever-increasing numbers of Americans flocked to national parks in the 1950s due to a rise in population, high auto ownership, better roads and highways and an increased amount of leisure time. In the national parks, visitation rose from 17 million in 1940 to 56 million in 1955.⁷

However, park budgets remained at prewar levels, and visitors found poorly maintained and inadequate facilities. Parks offered too few campgrounds, accommodations, restrooms, and parking lots. Roads were clogged with traffic. Existing facilities were often in poor repair. Most employee housing was outdated and dilapidated, and NPS officials regarded the housing crises as one of their most serious problems. Administrators sought to double park staff, so the need for more and better housing was especially acute.

To accommodate the 80 million visitors that were expected to visit the parks in 1966, the NPS embarked on a campaign to upgrade and construct roads, trails, visitors centers, campgrounds and other park facilities, as well as to increase staffing and acquire new parcels of land. Mission 66, proposed in 1955 by National Park Service director Conrad Wirth, was a development program that sought to modernize and enlarge park facilities (and the park system itself) by the NPS's fiftieth birthday in 1966. President Eisenhower proved enthusiastic about the plan, partially due to his support of public works projects that could stimulate the economy, but also because of the negative press that the national parks' infrastructure was receiving. In the spring of 1956 Congress approved huge budget

⁷ Ethan Carr, Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma, (Amherst: University of Massachusetts, 2007), 3-7.

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increases for the National Park Service so that the agency could begin the \$700 million program. Congress would allot additional budget increases over the next ten years.⁸

Through Mission 66, Wirth sought to reinvent the National Park system to meet the demands of post-war America. He put forth a set of new ideas about how visitors would experience national parks and how parks would function as public spaces, and these ideas manifested themselves in particular patterns of park development. Park planners intended Mission 66 developments to be designed and located so that they would accommodate large numbers of visitors while minimizing the impact on a park's resources. "Enjoyment without impairment" characterized this ideal, and park planners sought to concentrate new developments in areas where they would cause minimal impact, and to relocate developments away from historic sites and important natural features. This policy included discouraging new overnight accommodations within the park, and removing existing hotels and inns. Wirth hoped that tourists would stay outside the parks in nearby communities.⁹

The Mission 66 era was the most recent period of significant park expansion and improvement. By 1966, \$1 billion had been spent on land acquisitions, staffing and new or improved facilities, and seventy new units had been added to the system. The park service constructed or improved thousands of miles of roads, hundreds of miles of trails, and hundreds of new structures for visitor use and park administration under Mission 66. It was also the last era in which "profoundly new ideas found expression in a system wide program of national park development." The Mission 66 program proved unpopular among preservationists, who disliked the modern architecture style of most new buildings, and among wilderness advocates, who opposed construction projects in national parks, but it did accomplish what Wirth had intended. The plan reinvented the national park system, and the program significantly shaped park landscapes in ways that are still clearly visible to twenty-first century visitors.¹⁰

Mission 66 Architecture

Buildings constructed by the National Park Service during the Mission 66 period represented a departure from earlier architectural styles in the national parks. During the previous major era of development in the 1920s and 1930s, architects designed rustic structures modeled after older hotels in the parks or inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement. By the 1950s, modernist architecture, characterized by simple forms, a lack of ornamentation, the use of concrete and steel, and unusual fenestration, had emerged as

⁸ Carr., 3-10

⁹ Ibid., 14-15.

¹⁰ Ibid., 1-6.

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the dominant style in the United States and Europe.¹¹ NPS architects were inspired by modernism, but they also sought to design structures that served park needs and were appropriate for their environments. Mission 66 buildings were utilitarian, functional, and without the “historical allusions” of the rustic style. They were constructed of modern materials, such as concrete masonry units, with earth-toned textured concrete, wood or stone veneers on the facade. Their efforts resulted in a distinctive building type known as Park Service Modern. Architects designed each visitor center individually, while housing, comfort stations and other small buildings were often based on standardized design to limit costs.¹²

The visitor center represented the most “architecturally significant expression of the planning and design practices” developed by the National Park Service during the Mission 66 era. The center was an entirely new building type, one that was meant to replace park museum and administration buildings, and NPS architects used modern architectural styles to fulfill a variety of functions. They concentrated visitor services into one structure that served as the information center and included restrooms, exhibits, audio visual presentations, and administrative offices. The centers oriented the public to the park, helped them understand the park’s resources, and explained how to make the best use of their time there. Architects sited most centers at park entrances in order to intercept visitors, and they became a familiar feature of the park landscape. The NPS built more than 100 centers during the Mission 66 era.¹³

Architects designed visitor center exteriors that would blend into the natural landscape, facilitate visitor circulation and provide a central gathering space. The horizontal shape, flat or shallow roof form, color and texture of materials and unornamented elevations that typified the centers helped the structures remain subordinate to their surroundings. Patios, arcades, porches, oversized windows and doors with windows blurred the boundary between interior and exterior spaces. In front of the visitor centers, courtyards or plazas with geometric planted areas and raised beds, served as a public gathering space. These plazas were often constructed with a grid pattern, and included tinted elements in order to blend with the natural landscape. Outdoor picnic and sitting areas were common. With the postwar increase in visitation, circulation patterns were of primary importance to Park Service architects, and they sought to avoid crowded interior spaces with open or circular floor plans. Visitor centers typically had high ceilings, an open floor plan, wide doorways, and spacious lobbies. Restrooms were

¹¹ Ibid., 137-139.

¹² Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo and Len Warner, “Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources,” National Park Service, Pacific West Regional Office-Seattle; Sarah Allaback, Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type (National Park Service, 2000); Carr, 149-150.

¹³ Carr et al, 37; Carr, 141-147.

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located away from the information area, through a separate entrance or in an adjacent building. Administrative and public areas were segregated.¹⁴

National Park Service officials implemented the Mission 66 program in part to modernize park facilities, and to this end, the NPS built 584 comfort stations in parks across the country. These buildings typically followed a standardized design, and included men's and women's restrooms and at least one utility room in the middle of the building. The buildings were usually small and single-story, with low, gabled roofs and extended eaves at the gabled end. A row of windows was often set below the top of the wall. Comfort station exterior finishes usually matched other park structures.¹⁵

Since upgrading and maintaining park facilities represented an important part of the Mission 66 program, new utility and maintenance buildings were vital. These structures provided a central location for maintenance vehicles and equipment, and the NPS built 218 utility buildings during the Mission 66 era, based on standardized designs. Architects located the structures out of public view, often near employee housing areas. These buildings typically had a shop, storage area, restroom, and equipment bays with large, overhead doors. The structures were rectangular, constructed with concrete masonry and topped by a flat roof with overhangs. Exposed interior and exterior roof structures were common.¹⁶

Parks also built employee housing based on standardized plans, in order to keep costs low while raising the standard of living for park staff. The agency built 743 single-family and duplex units, as well as 496 apartment units, during the Mission 66 era. The NPS sought to make staff housing safe, clean, durable and modern, but within guidelines for size and budget as set by the Bureau of Budget Policies. The NPS issued standardized housing plans in 1957, and these plans provided a layout for various types of housing. The buildings presented a sharp departure from earlier types of staff housing. NPS architects designed residences that were low-profile, horizontal structures, similar to suburban style ranch houses, made of modern materials such as concrete masonry units. The staff housing complexes as a whole were meant to resemble suburban housing developments, with curvilinear streets. Each single-family home, and many multi-family dwellings, had attached garages or carports, depending on the climate of the park. The dwellings had a combined living and dining area, one or one-and-a-half baths, and a kitchen and bedrooms on opposite sides of the house. They were equipped with conveniences such as modern appliances, linoleum floors, and central heating. An aluminum-framed picture window was usually set in the living room, with oversized

¹⁴ Carr, 141-147; 149.

¹⁵ Carr, 145 and 173; National Park Service, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources, August 2002, 122, Pacific West Regional Office-Seattle,

¹⁶ Carr, 166-167.

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aluminum-framed windows in the bedroom. Residents accessed the backyard through a door from the living, dining or kitchen areas. The front door was characterized by a stoop or recess. A walkway led from the drive to the front door. Parks often modified the plans to suit their particular needs, and building materials depended on what was locally available.¹⁷

Mission 66 at Craters of the Moon

The Mission 66 program transformed Craters of the Moon from a monument with few visitor amenities into a monument with modern, comprehensively planned facilities. Visitation at Craters of the Moon grew from less 1,000 per year in the 1930s to over 120,000 in 1956.¹⁸ Staff attributed the increase not only to postwar travel trends, but to the publicity nearby that Atomic Energy Commission developments garnered. While the monument gained some buildings for visitor services during the New Deal, there was still no museum, and no central facility to help the public understand the geologic story of the site. Staff considered the rustic log equipment building “poorly constructed” and badly located, and they believed that the administration building, a 14’ x 16’ framed tent cabin, was “unsightly and inadequate.” Employee housing consisted of the rustic log superintendent’s residence and two small tent cabins. Roads, visitor facilities and staff housing at the monument were “inadequate and poor.”¹⁹ Monument administrators hoped to hire more staff, but the nearest town was located nineteen miles from the monument, so they emphasized the need for additional housing during the Mission 66 planning process. They believed the public would be best served through new day use facilities, so they sought to build a museum and visitor center, as well as new roads and interpretive overlooks. Monument administrators also hoped to replace the park’s 1930s era rustic log buildings, which some felt were inappropriate in the stark, volcanic landscape.²⁰

Craters of the Moon became one of the first parks in Region Four to receive Mission 66 funding, and the program addressed many of the monument’s long standing needs. Between 1957 and 1958, the monument gained a visitor center, utility building, comfort station, one four-unit apartment building, one duplex, and three three-bedroom homes. The agency also installed water and sewage systems, paved the loop road, built nine parking areas, and improved the campground by leveling sites and paving the road. The National Park Service spent about \$1 million at Craters of the Moon under the Mission 66 program. Workers removed all of the park’s older structures except the log warehouse

¹⁷ Carr, 166-170; National Park Service Mission 66 Resources, 123-125.

¹⁸ National Park Service, “Mission 66 for Craters of the Moon National Monument,” CRMO Archives.

¹⁹ National Park Service, “Mission 66 for Craters of the Moon National Monument,” CRMO Archives.

²⁰ National Park Service, Craters of the Moon Master Plan, 1952, 2.

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and rustic log comfort station by 1958. NPS director Conrad Wirth sought to reduce the amount of overnight accommodation in national parks, and to this end, the monument's inn was also removed.²¹ NPS planners sited the new visitor center near the highway in order to provide a convenient location for visitors, as well as to allow for easy control of auto traffic, a development that was first called for in 1927.²²

Workers began constructing the new headquarters complex in 1957. By December, the utility building had been finished. The visitor center and five employee housing units were completed in March and August of 1958, respectively. Workers finished the campground comfort station in September 1959. That year, as part of the Mission 66 program, workers also built a fence and an entrance booth, and installed a drinking fountain, secondary water and sewage systems, and an irrigation system. In the campground, workers put in twenty-five new fireplaces and thirty picnic tables and constructed a new picnic area.²³ Mission 66 master plans catered to the increasing number of automobile visitors during the post-war era, and at Craters of the Moon, circulation patterns were changed to reflect the increase. In 1957, workers constructed a new entrance 800 feet west of the existing entry, as well as two parking areas in order to facilitate auto circulation.²⁴

The new buildings at Craters of the Moon represented Park Modern architecture. Cecil Doty of the Western Office of Design and Construction (WODC), who designed many of the early visitor centers and was instrumental in developing their style and purpose, designed the monument's visitor center as well as the landscaped areas and circulation system.²⁵ The building originally housed administrative offices, staff and public restrooms, a lobby and display space, a work room, a heater room, and a museum. Like other Mission 66 structures, the single-story Park Modern visitor center is characterized by its horizontal form, a flat roof, and an open lobby. Like other Mission 66 buildings of the same type, the staff housing, utility building and comfort station were based on standardized designs. Except for the comfort station, the new buildings were clustered together, which was a hallmark of Mission 66 design.²⁶

The new structures appeared radically different than the rustic log buildings. As was typical of Mission 66 structures, the buildings were constructed with concrete masonry units, with exterior finishes designed to blend into the surrounding landscape. At Craters of the Moon, architects used split-faced pumice blocks in earth-toned colors. The

²¹ David Louter, Historic Context Statements, Craters of the Moon National Monument, (Seattle: National Park Service, 1995), 195.

²² National Park Service, Craters of the Moon Master Plan, 1952, 1, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Seattle.

²³ Louter, Administrative History, 274.

²⁴ Smith-Steiner, 17.

²⁵ Carr, 143-145.

²⁶ Louter, Administrative History, 198.

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buildings included many of the other characteristic features of Mission 66 design, such as low-profile, horizontal forms, low-pitched or flat roofs, and oversized windows. Staff believed that the new Park Modern-style buildings fit into the park's volcanic landscape much better than the log buildings had.²⁷

Monument staff was initially happy with the new structures, which they considered “functional and well designed. They considered the visitor center in particular a success. “With its calm and relaxed atmosphere,” one staff member stated, “the visitor center presents a thorough, concise and clear introduction to Craters of the Moon.” Staff credited the structure with shaping positive visitor attitudes.²⁸ The utility building was completed in 1957 and originally contained six garage stalls, a supply room, a shop and a restroom. Staff considered this an especially important building, since the monument did not have equipment storage space. Five new housing units—three single family residences, an apartment building and a duplex—provided modern housing for NPS employees. The campground comfort station provided restrooms and showers to overnight visitors.

Cecil Doty considered landscaping essential to making the location “livable,” since plants would furnish shade and wind breaks, so he designed a landscape with trees, shrubs and other vegetation. Workers added 1,302 cubic yards of topsoil to the rocky, volcanic soil of the complex area, and by May of 1958, they had planted 469 shrubs, ten Douglas fir, 150 limber pine and 77 Colorado quaking aspen. Some of these trees were intended to screen the staff housing from the highway, visitor center and campground. However, many soon died in the monument's harsh climate.²⁹

The buildings also proved unsuited to the environment. Their porous, uninsulated walls and single pane windows allowed drafts in winter. Some doors were routinely blocked by snowdrifts. The buildings required more maintenance than the rustic structures. In the past fifty years, the park has added insulation, replaced windows and undertaken other efforts in order to create more energy efficient buildings.³⁰

While the individual buildings are not unique or outstanding examples of Mission 66 architecture on their own, the complex is significant. Designed between 1951 and 1956 and built between 1957 and 1959, it is one of the earliest examples of a Mission 66 complex, and it is the only representation of a Mission 66 complex in Idaho. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the National Park Service that the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon, which includes the visitor center, the utility building, the five housing units, and the administrative area circulation system, is

²⁷ Louter, *Ibid.*, 198.

²⁸ National Park Service, “Master Plan for the Preservation and Use of Craters of the Moon, 1963,” National Park Service Technical Information Gateway, 3.

²⁹ Completion Reports, Box 3, RG 79, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Seattle.

³⁰ Louter, *Administrative History*, 276-7.

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eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. It has been found eligible under criterion A, for its association with events—the Mission 66 program—that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national park planning and development, and criterion C, for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of Park Service Modern architecture.³¹ The complex has been found to possess a high degree of integrity.³²

³¹ National Park Service, List of Classified Structures, Craters of the Moon Mission 66 Complex.

³² National Park Service, List of Classified Structures, Craters of the Moon Mission 66 Complex.

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Rustic Log Comfort Station

Significance

The log comfort station is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the category of local significance under Criterion C for its representation of rustic architecture in Craters of the Moon National Monument. The building is one of only two extant rustic-style buildings built by the NPS left in Idaho (there were originally three, all at Craters of the Moon). The structure is in its original location, and the setting, the monument campground, remains mostly unchanged. The comfort station is largely in its original condition, with the exception of a new roof and minor changes to the building's interior, and thus possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials. The comfort station retains integrity of feeling, since the rustic structure conveys its historic character and is used for its original purpose.

Description

The comfort station measures 20' X 10' and includes about 200 square feet. The one-story building rests on a cement slab foundation and contains walls made of 10" diameter logs. Four log knee braces hold up the overhanging roof eaves on the south side. Two 5' x 2' fixed sash windows are set beneath the gables on the east and west sides of the building. On the south side, one 2'6"x 2' hinged sash window appears in the center of the structure, illuminating the utility room, while two 5' x 2' fixed sash windows are located on either side, above the restrooms. 6'6"x 2'8" plank doors, on the east and west sides, lead into each restroom. The structure is broken into three rooms: a men's restroom, a women's restroom, and a utility room measuring 3'8" in width that separates the two restrooms. The door to the utility room is set on the north side.¹

Alterations

There have been some changes to the interior of the structure. The women's restroom originally contained a 3' x 3'6" shower, a dressing room, one sink, and three toilet stalls. The men's restroom also contained a 3' x 3'6" shower, one sink, a dressing room, two urinals and two toilet stalls. The shower stalls were removed sometime between 1950 and 1985. An asphalt shingle roof replaced the tar paper roof. The interior walls were

¹ National Park Service, List of Classified Structures, online resource at <http://www.hscl.cr.nps.gov>; Building Report, Log Comfort Station, CRMO Archives; NPS Branch of Plans and Designs, "Craters of the Moon Comfort Station," 24 September 1934, National Park Service Technical Information Gateway.

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originally log with tongue and groove panels. The structure originally had no heating or electricity.² In 1986, monument staff replaced the interior floor.

Character Defining Features

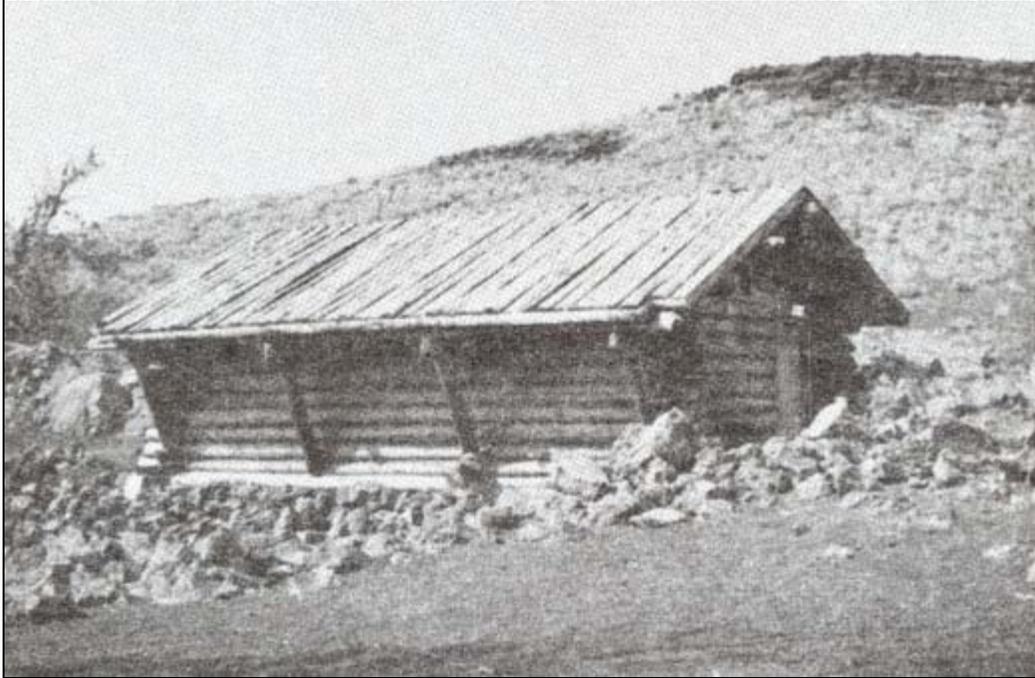
- Low profile, horizontal form
- Small size
- Low-pitched gable roof
- Log walls
- Fenestration pattern

Recommendations

The character defining features of the building, such as the scale and building height, the log walls, and the window placement, should be maintained and preserved. The logs may be replaced as needed without affecting the integrity of the structure.

² NPS Branch of Plans and Designs, "Craters of the Moon Comfort Station," 24 September 1934, National Park Service Technical Information Gateway. Plans show 120-gallon solar powered water tank that rested on the comfort station's roof; two solar heaters, measuring 12'6" in length, heated the water. If the tank and solar heaters existed, they were removed before 1949.

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Log comfort station, view to north, 1934



Log comfort station, view to northwest, 1934

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Log comfort station view to northeast, 2007



Log comfort station, view to southwest, 2007

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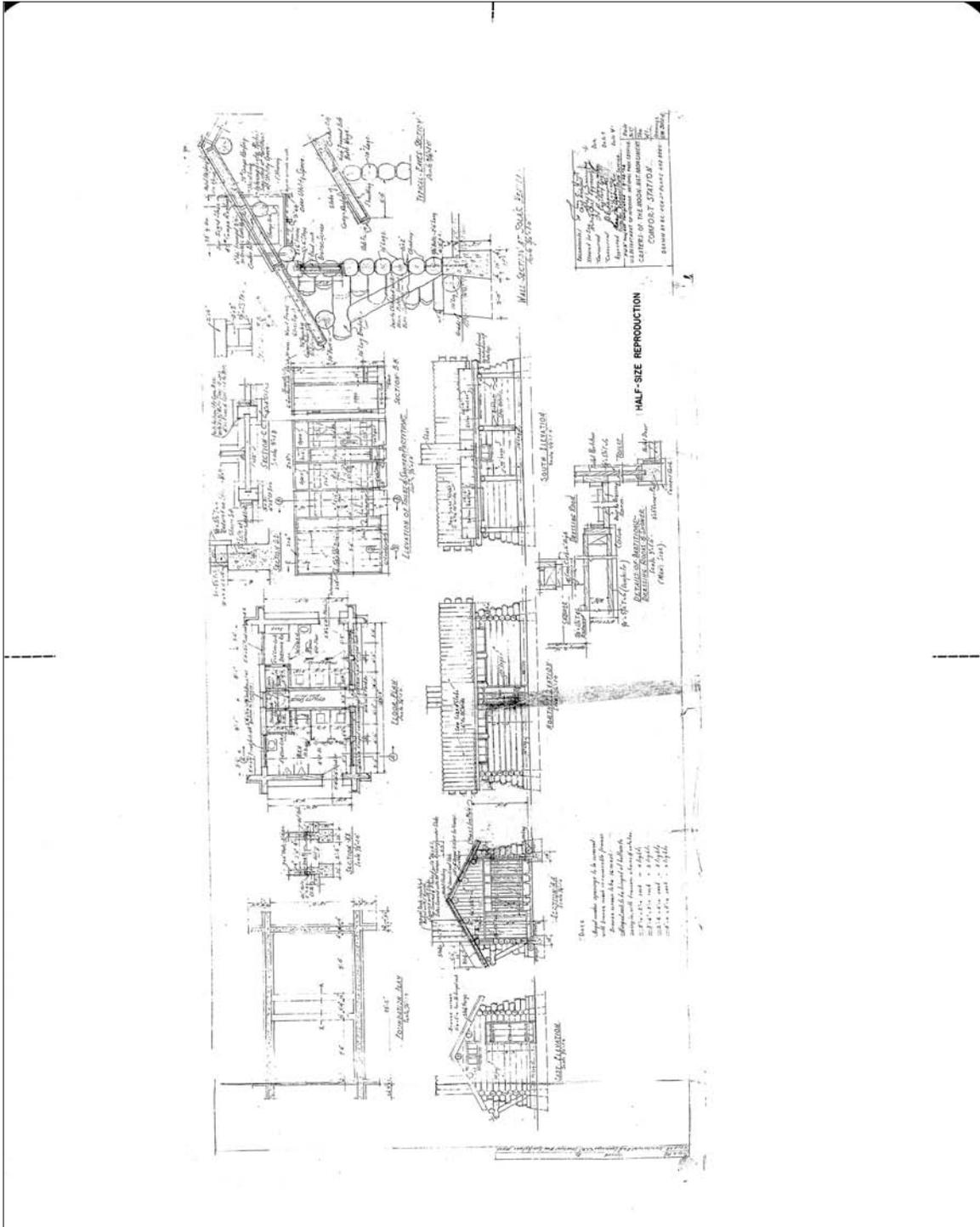


Log comfort station, view to southeast, 2008



Log comfort station, view to northwest, 2008

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Log comfort station, 1934

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Log Equipment Shed

Significance

The log equipment shed is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the category of local significance under Criterion C for its representation of rustic architecture in Craters of the Moon National Monument. The building is one of only two extant rustic-style buildings built by the NPS left in Idaho, and it embodies many of the characteristics of rustic architecture developed under the National Park Service's Branch of Plans and Design during the 1930s. The equipment shed has been little altered, though as of 2008 it remains in poor condition, with log deterioration and roof leaks. The structure is in its original location, and the setting, on a service road southeast of the headquarters complex, remains largely unchanged. Though the structure suffers from deterioration, it still provides an example of rustic style and methods of construction, and thus possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials.

Description

The building measures 24' x 36' and contains 858 square feet. The structure has log walls and gable ends but no foundation. There is one small window in each gable end. Electricity was added to the building in 1976. In 2008, problems with leaks and log deterioration remain.

Character Defining Features

- Simple shape and form
- Gable roof
- Cavernous door openings
- Log walls

Recommendations

The building is in poor condition, and NPS staff believes that it has outlived its purpose. In order to fulfill their responsibilities under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the park should formally evaluate the structure for National Register eligibility, and move forward on a decision about the structure's future.

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Log equipment shed, view to southwest, 1932



Log equipment shed, view to southwest, 2007

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Log equipment shed, view to southeast, 2007



Log equipment shed, view to west, 2007

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Log equipment shed, interior, 2007

Mission 66 Visitor Center

Significance

The visitor center represents Park Modern architecture is the only example of a National Park Service Mission 66 visitor center in Idaho. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the National Park Service that the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon, which includes the visitor center, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It has been found eligible under criterion A, for its association with events—the Mission 66 program—that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national park planning and development, and criterion C, for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of Park Service Modern architecture.¹ Despite alterations, the center maintains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association. The building remains in its original location, and the setting is largely unchanged. The center conveys the original design intent and possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials. The building retains integrity of feeling and association, since it conveys its distinctive character and is used for its original purpose.

Description

The visitor center contains 7,913 square feet and includes administrative offices and visitor services such as an information desk, restrooms, an auditorium, a shop and an exhibit area. The structure rests on a 4” concrete slab and contains concrete masonry unit walls. 4” x 16” split-faced pumice blocks, in two earth-toned colors, serve as exterior walls. A galvanized steel roof tops the structure. Four large, steel-sashed windows occupy the south wall of the lobby. Gray and beige porcelain panels are set above and below the windows on the building’s southern facade. Visitors enter the building through aluminum doors on the east and west façade, which lead into the lobby and shop. Three doors occupy the north façade and provide staff access to the rear of the building. Pairs of regularly spaced transom windows run the length of the structure’s northern side.² A 50’ deep entry plaza, composed of 10’ concrete squares separated by 2” x 4” redwood planks, separates the building from the parking lot. Benches are set around the west end of the plaza.

¹ National Park Service, List of Classified Structures, Craters of the Moon Mission 66 Complex.

² List of Classified Structures; Visitor Center Building Report, 1959, CRMO Archives.

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Alterations

Between 1984 and 2005, monument administrators altered the visitor center in order to increase energy efficiency, comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, and better serve visitors' needs. The building was originally composed of three rectangles, measuring 54' x 17', 62' x 12', and 24'8" x 32' east to west, which contained 4,600 square feet. In 2005, wings were added to the east and west side of the building. The eastern addition includes 1,830 square feet and houses museum storage, a library and additional office space. The western addition consists of 1,900 square feet of auditorium space. When viewed from the exterior, the additions present a similar appearance to the original building. The building was gutted and new wiring, heating, a sprinkler system, double pane windows and single-ply roof were installed at this time. However, the public areas retain the original floor plan. The roof was originally composed of tar and cinder, but it has been replaced by a galvanized steel roof.

In 1997, the back (north) wall of the restrooms was demolished and the restrooms were expanded to allow for handicapped accessible stalls. Monument staff also remodeled the exhibit area that same year, and alterations included a dropped ceiling.³ There have been minor changes to the floor plan of the administrative area, including the addition of a wall between the break room and the hall and the creation of a copy room by removing another wall.⁴

The visitor center originally featured covered porches on the east and west sides of the building, and these provided the only shade for visitors at the complex. They measured 10' deep and were supported by four 8' columns on the east facade of the building, and nine eight-foot columns on the west facade of the building.⁵ In 1984 the porches were enclosed in glass, to keep snow drifts from blocking access to the building in winter. A metal fence with porcelain panels originally divided the visitor center landscaped area from the staff parking lot in front of the utility building, but this was replaced with a brick wall at an unknown date.⁶

There have also been alterations to the landscaped areas since the Mission 66 era. The plaza remains intact, but the lawns that were originally planted to the east, west and south

³ Craters of the Moon Superintendent's Report, 1997, National Park Service Technical Information Gateway.

⁴ List of Classified Structures; Conversation with John Apel

⁵ Barbara Smith-Steiner, "National Register Nomination for Craters of the Moon Mission 66 Resources," 5-7, Pacific West Regional Office, Seattle.

⁶ Smith-Steiner, National Register Nomination, 5-6.

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of the structure were replaced by native vegetation in the 1990s in order to conserve water. Informational panels and additional benches have been added to the plaza area. Sidewalks have been installed between the parking lot and the building. However, the exterior spaces still function as intended during the Mission 66 era.⁷

There have also been alterations to the landscaped areas since the Mission 66 era. The plaza remains intact, but the lawn was replaced by native vegetation in the 1990s in order to conserve water. Informational panels and additional benches have been added to the plaza area. Sidewalks have been installed between the parking lot and the building. The original fence separating the visitor center landscaped area from the utility building parking lot was replaced with a brick wall. However, the exterior spaces still function as intended during the Mission 66 era.⁸

Character Defining Features

- The low-profile, horizontal profile
- The size, color and patterning of the split-faced pumice block on the exterior walls
- The flat roof
- Prominent, oversized windows
- The open lobby and circulation patterns of the interior
- Doors with windows
- The segregation of public and administrative areas
- The information desk and interpretive displays
- The grid pattern and tinted elements of the outdoor plaza

Maintaining Integrity

The Mission 66 visitor center at Craters of the Moon should retain all or most of its character defining features. Character defining features include the size, color and pattern of the pumice blocks on the exterior walls, the low-profile horizontal shape of the building, the prominent windows, the entry locations, and circulation patterns. The center should continue to be used as the primary site for visitor services such as interpretive displays, auditorium space for audio visual presentations, information, and restrooms, and for administrative functions. Exterior alterations should remain in keeping with the low-

⁷ List of Classified Structures; Smith-Steiner, 7-8; Conversation with John Apel.

⁸ List of Classified Structures; Smith-Steiner, 7-8; Conversation with John Apel.

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profile, horizontal architectural style of the building, and the building should continue to harmonize with its setting through the use of earth-toned, textured pumice block. The existing entrances should be maintained in order to preserve present visitor flow. Rehabilitation should maintain and preserve roof form. The entry plaza size, layout, and materials, including hardscape patterning and color, are character defining features and should be maintained.

Interior rehabilitation should not alter the definition or function of interior spaces. The size of the lobby and store and separation of offices and visitor space should be maintained. Fenestration patterns should remain the same. The integration of interior and exterior spaces, through the large windows and entry plaza, should be kept intact.

As determined in National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, Mission 66 visitor centers must maintain integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The additions of the wings do not disqualify the visitor center from eligibility, since they are compatible with the intent of the original design, and they do not obscure the qualities for which the building is significant.⁹

⁹ National Park Service, "Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register Nomination," 114-116, PWRO-Seattle.

Craters of the Moon Historical Structures Overview



Visitor Center, view to north, 1957



Visitor Center, view to east, 1957

Craters of the Moon Historical Structures Overview



Visitor Center, view to northeast, 1957



Visitor Center, view to east, with utility building and housing in background, 1957

Craters of the Moon Historical Structures Overview



Visitor Center, view to northwest, 1957



Visitor Center and parking lot, view to northeast, 1957

Craters of the Moon Historical Structures Overview



Visitor Center, view to northwest, 2008



Visitor Center, view to north, 2008

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Visitor Center and entry plaza with west end addition and enclosed porch in foreground, view to northeast, 2008



Visitor center, east end addition, 2007

Craters of the Moon Historical Structures Overview



Visitor Center, West end addition, 2007



Visitor Center enclosed porch, 2008

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Visitor Center and surroundings, view to northeast, 2008



Picnic area and brick wall just east of the visitor center, 2008.

Utility Building

Significance

The utility building represents Park Modern architecture and is the only example of a Mission 66 utility building in Idaho. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the National Park Service that the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon, which includes the utility building, is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. It has been found eligible under criterion A, for its association with events—the Mission 66 program—that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national park planning and development, and criterion C, for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of Park Service Modern architecture.¹ The utility building maintains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association. The building remains in its original location, and the setting, behind the visitor center in the administrative area, is largely unchanged. The building conveys the original design intent and possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials. The building retains integrity of feeling and association, since it conveys its historic character and is used for its original purpose.

Description

The utility building is set just west of the staff housing area and north of the visitor center. Like most Mission 66 utility buildings, the structure faces a large asphalt parking lot. The structure includes thirteen bays and encompasses 5,600 square feet. It rests on a 4” concrete slab foundation and has concrete masonry unit walls, with split-faced pumice block in earth-toned colors and tinted mortar on the exterior walls. The roof is galvanized steel. Nine of the bays have upward acting sectional doors that measure 9’, and each has 2’ view panes set at 4’ in height. Two bays have hinged doors and two are not accessible by door but have one slider window each. The second bay from the east is composed of a recessed split-faced pumice block front and hinged door that leads to the restrooms. 11’ x 16” concrete masonry columns (with split-faced pumice block on the exterior) on the north and south facades support the roof; the columns slant down toward the rear at a 2.5% angle and create wide roof eaves front and rear. The eaves as well as the ceiling are comprised of 2”x 4” laminated fir, set on edge. The ceilings reach 12’ in height.²

¹ National Park Service, List of Classified Structures, Craters of the Moon Mission 66 Complex.

² Maintenance Garage Extension drawing, May 1, 1980, National Park Service Technical Information Gateway; Smith-Steiner, 9.

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Clerestory windows top eight of the bays on the south facade. There are no windows set on the east or west end of the building.³

Alterations

The one-story building originally contained nine bays and 2,350 square feet. In 1978-9, the monument added four bays to west end of the building. Despite the addition, the façade retains the appearance of the original structure. In the 1990s, windows were placed on the north side in two of the bays to illuminate staff offices. During this decade, monument staff added a shed to the north side of structure. The building was originally topped with a tar and cinder roof, but that has been replaced by galvanized steel. Interior walls were originally lined with the same earth toned, split-face pumice block exterior walls to match the visitor center, but drywall and four inches of insulation have been added to the brick walls that separate the bays, as well as the ceilings.⁴

Character Defining Features

- Low profile, horizontal shape
- The size, color and patterning of the split-faced pumice block on the exterior walls
- Fenestration patterns
- Overhanging roof form with exposed structure
- Overhead doors
- Interior spaces containing a shop, storage area, and restroom

Maintaining Integrity

The Mission 66 utility building should retain all or most of its character defining features. Exterior alterations should remain in keeping with the low-profile, horizontal shape of the building, and the structure should continue to harmonize with its setting through the use of earth-toned, textured pumice block. The size, color and profile of the pumice block units on the exterior walls should be maintained and preserved. Fenestration patterns should remain the same, and rehabilitation should maintain and preserve roof form.⁵

³ Utility Building, Building Report, 1959, CRMO Archives; Smith-Steiner, 8-9.

⁴ Smith-Steiner, 9-10.

⁵ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, 123, PWRO-Seattle.

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Mission 66 structures should maintain integrity to the period of significance.⁶ The addition does not disqualify the building from the National Register, since it is compatible with the intent of the original design, and does not obscure the qualities for which the building is significant.

⁶ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, 123, PWRO-Seattle.

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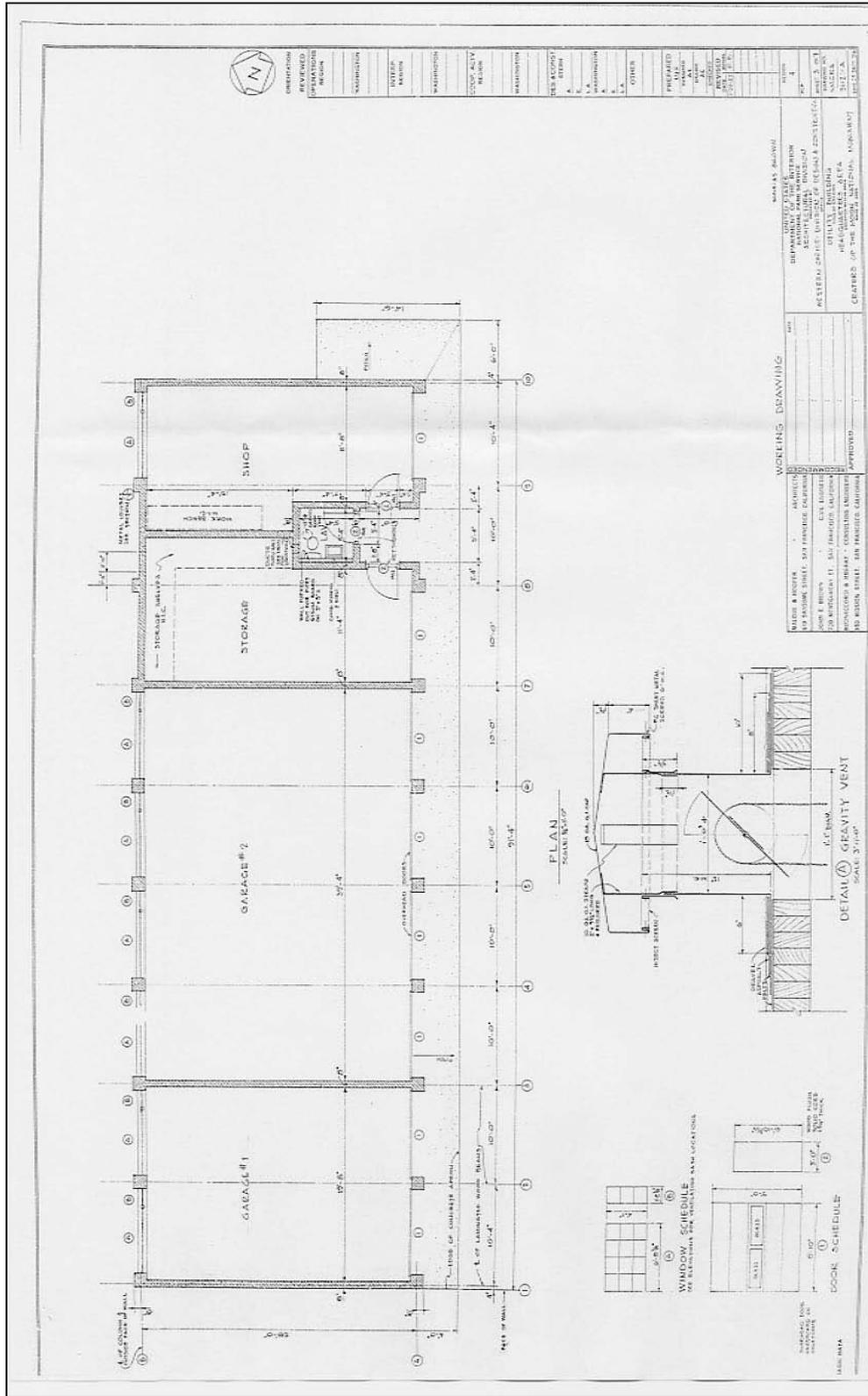


Utility building, view to east, 1957



Utility building, rear, view to west, 1957

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Utility building, floor plan, 1957

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Utility building, view to northeast, 2007



Utility building, view to northwest, 2008

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Utility building, beams and roof, 2007

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Utility building, rear, 2007

Apartment Building

Significance

The apartment building, completed in 1958, is a component of the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon, and it is the only example of a Mission 66 apartment building in Idaho. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the National Park Service that the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon, which includes the apartment building, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It has been found eligible under criterion A, for its association with events—the Mission 66 program—that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national park planning and development, and criterion C, for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of Park Service Modern architecture. The apartment building, which maintains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association, retains the most integrity of any structure in the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon. The building remains in its original location, and the setting is largely unchanged. It possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials, since there have been no structural changes to the building, it retains its original floor plan, and the exterior appearance, except for the roof, remains largely unchanged. The building retains integrity of feeling and association, since it conveys its distinctive modern character and is used for its original purpose.

Description

Based on standardized NPS design, the apartment building contains four studio units and a utility room. It is located east of the utility building and is the westernmost structure in the employee housing complex. The apartment building faces southeast and is accessed by the semicircular driveway that appears in front of all of the housing units. Parking spaces are set in the front of the building, and sidewalks lead to each of the four front doors.

The 1,450 square foot building rests on a concrete slab foundation and is comprised of concrete masonry unit walls with split-faced pumice block on the exterior that matches the other Mission 66 structures. The front of each apartment measures 21'6" and has an entry door, a shallow fixed sash window, a large, steel-framed double casement window and a small slider window. A fifth door in the center of the structure leads to the utility

Craters of the Moon Historical Structures Overview

room. A yellow porcelain panel fills the space below each window; the panel color was chosen to harmonize with the native grasses of the area. A concrete masonry column with a pumice block exterior separates each apartment from the next. The rear of each unit has a door, a 4' x 4' double casement window and a 1' x 3' slider window.⁷ The apartment building originally had a tar and cinder roof.

Each apartment contains 325 square feet, while the utility room, in the center of the structure, measures 125 square feet. Each unit includes a combination living/sleeping area that measures 20' x 9', an 8' x 12' dining area, a 3' x 12' storage area and a 7' x 5' bathroom. The utility room is 11' wide with concrete floors, concrete block walls and a wood plank ceiling.

On the north façade, a 3' deep concrete porch runs 84' along the back of the building; 3' roof eaves shelter the porch. Ten 6" x 6" wooden beams support an 8" eave that covers a 6' deep porch that extends along the south facade of the structure. The undersides of the eaves are composed of 2" x 4" fir beams.⁸

Alterations

There have been a few minor changes to the building. The monument replaced exterior wooden doors with metal doors, and some of the casement windows were replaced with double pane windows in 2006. A metal roof was added in 2002.⁹ The structure is currently used for housing seasonal employees.

Character Defining Features

- Low profile, horizontal shape
- The size, color and patterning of the split-faced pumice block on the exterior walls
- Shallow pitched roof with overhang
- Oversized windows
- Open living and dining area

⁷ List of Classified Structures; Smith-Steiner, 11.

⁸ Smith-Steiner, 11-12; List of Classified Structures.

⁹ Smith-Steiner, 13; List of Classified Structures; Conversation with John Apel.

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Maintaining Integrity

The Mission 66 apartment building should retain all or most of its character defining features. The building should maintain its low-profile, horizontal form, and should not undergo renovations that transform the exterior appearance of the building. The size, color and profile of the pumice block units on the exterior walls should be maintained and preserved. Fenestration patterns should remain the same.¹⁰ The original shallow pitched tar and cinder roof has been replaced with a metal roof of a similar profile, and future roof replacement should maintain the shallow-pitched form.¹¹ The Idaho SHPO deemed the metal roof an adverse effect. However, the new roof does not disqualify the building from the National Register, since it does not obscure the qualities for which the building is significant. The structure should maintain integrity to the period of significance.¹²

¹⁰ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, 123, PWRO-Seattle.

¹¹ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, PWRO-Seattle.

¹² National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, 123, PWRO-Seattle.

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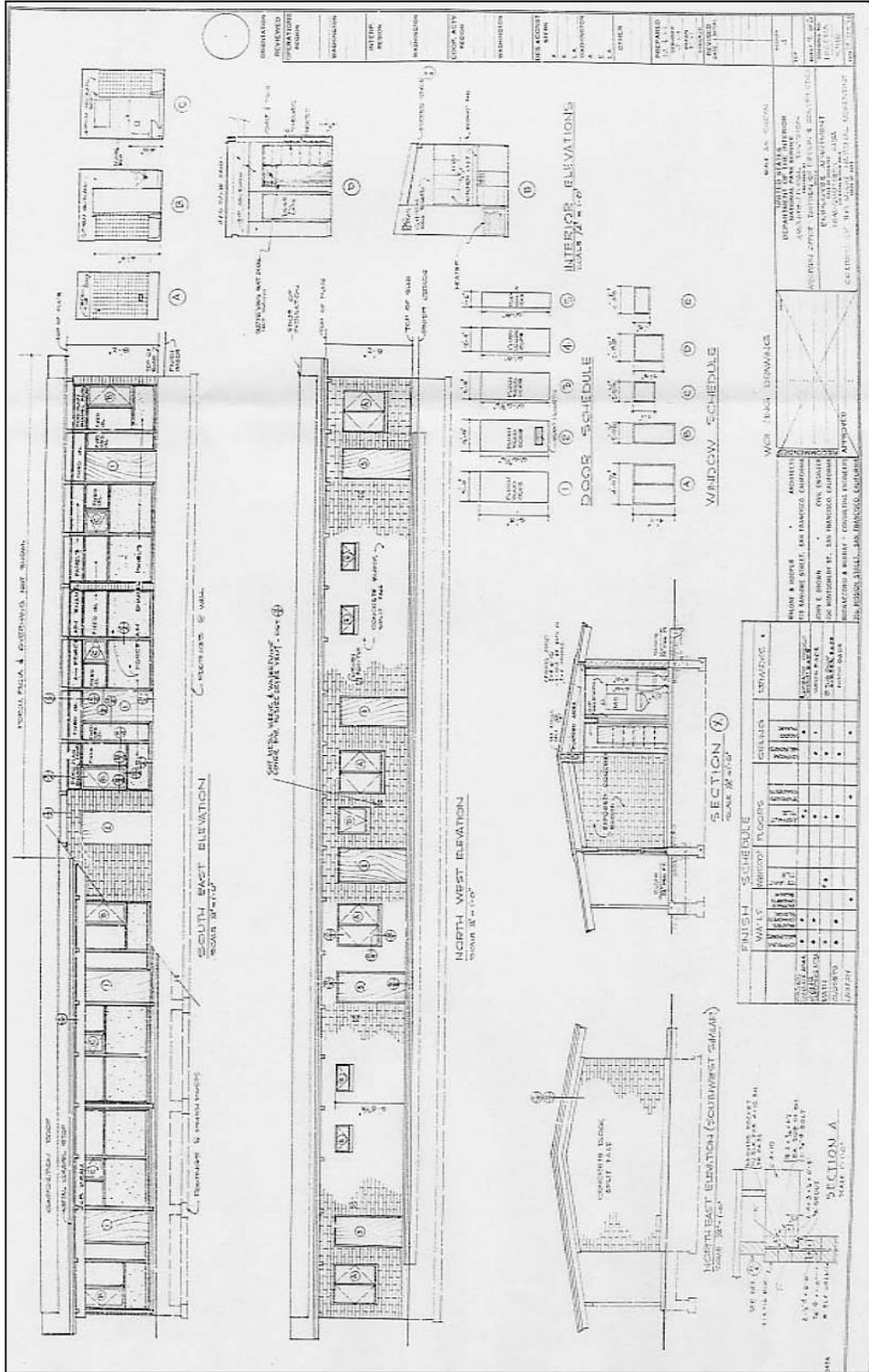


Apartment building, view to northwest, 1957



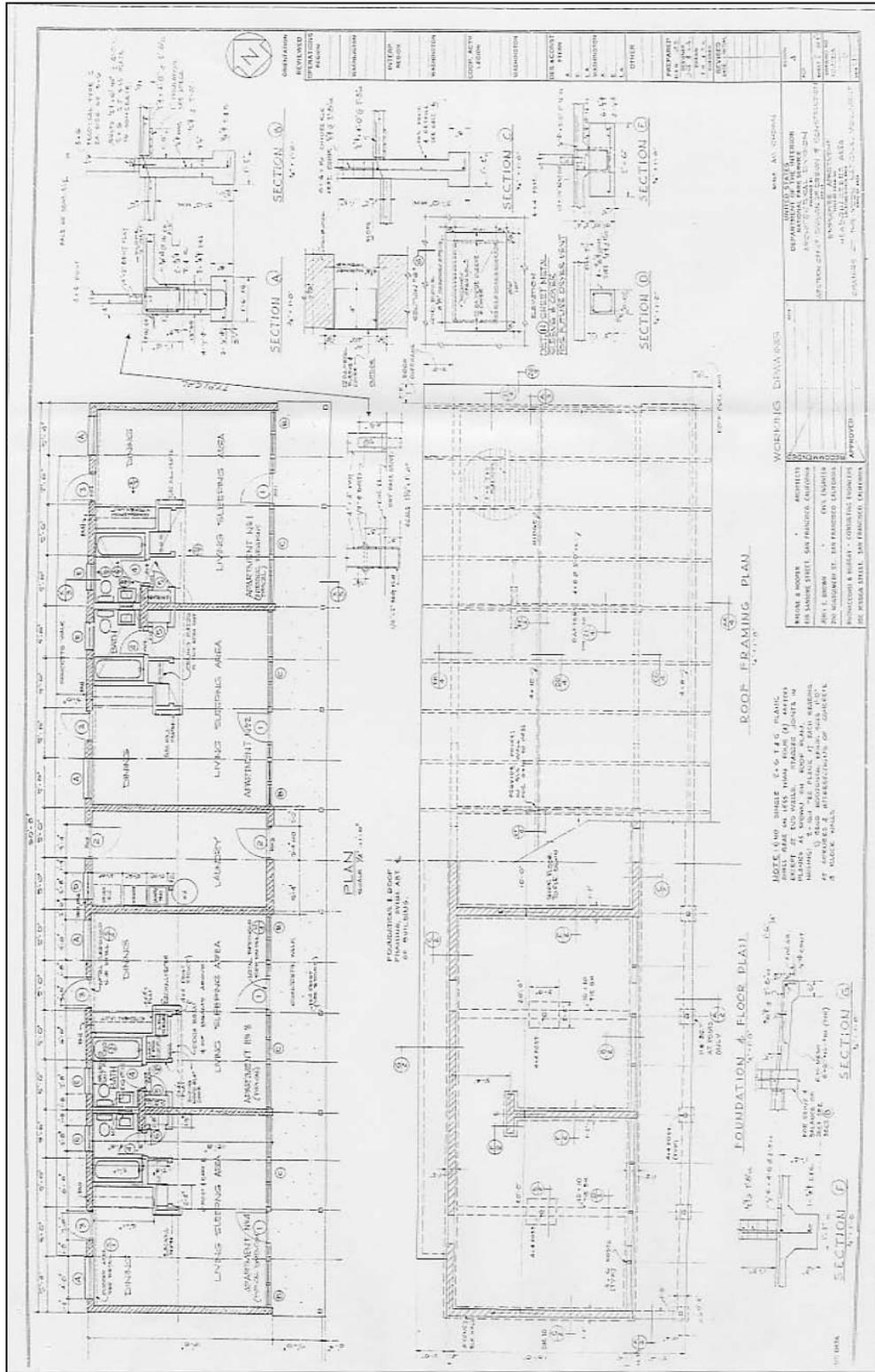
Apartment building, rear, view to south, 1957

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Apartment building elevation, 1957

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Apartment building floor plan, 1957

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Apartment building, looking northeast, 2008



Apartment building, south façade, 2008

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Apartment building, rear, view to south, 2007

Duplex

Significance

The duplex is a component of the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon. The structure, completed in 1958, represents Park Modern architecture and is the only example of a National Park Service Mission 66 duplex in Idaho. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the National Park Service that the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon, which includes the duplex, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It has been found eligible under criterion A, for its association with events—the Mission 66 program—that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national park planning and development, and criterion C, for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of Park Service Modern architecture. The duplex maintains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association. The building remains in its original location, and the setting is largely unchanged. It possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials, since there have been no structural changes to the building, it retains its original floor plan, and the design intent is evident. The building retains integrity of feeling and association, since it conveys its distinctive modern character and is used for its original purpose.

Description

Like the other housing units, the duplex was based on a standardized NPS design. There have been no structural changes to the duplex, and it retains its original floor plan. The one-story building lies to the east of the apartments and faces south, and is accessed by the semicircular driveway that runs in front of the five employee housing units. Each of the two units in the duplex contains 920 square feet of living area, and the structure, which measures 118' x 27', contains a total of 1,980 square feet of living space. The two units are mirror images of each other. They each have a garage, and the building contains a total of 520 square feet of garage space. The duplex is made of concrete masonry unit walls with split-faced pumice block on the exterior and a concrete slab foundation.

The building is rectangular, though the south façade protrudes 2' from the center of the building 18' from each end. The units each have three doors; one front and rear, and a third door at the back of the garage. A window measuring 4' x 4' is set near each end of the building on the south façade, while two large windows are set on each side of the garage doors. Two 1' x 4' windows occupy the east and west ends of the building. All of the doors and windows are set at 6'8" in height. A 6'7" wide concrete porch extends from

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the south façade of the building. A galvanized steel roof, with eaves that extend 3' from the building, tops the structure.

Inside, a 7' x 7' entry leads to a 21' x 14' living room. Exposed brick remains on one of the living room walls. Doors lead from the 9'6" x 9'6" dining room into the garage and the backyard. The kitchen measures 9' x 15'6" and also serves as a laundry room, and it contains a door to the backyard. There are two bedrooms, and both contain closets. The north bedroom measures 10' x 13' while the south bedroom measures 14' x 9'6". The unit also contains a furnace room, a storage room, a bathroom and two additional closets.

A chimney rises from the roof on each side of the duplex. A double driveway leads to the center of the building, where two garages are set side by side, with the residences on either side. A walkway stretches from each side of the driveway to each entry. Each garage measures 12'6" x 25' and contains a door leading to the backyard.

On the northern side, a 15' x 18' concrete patio, divided by a brick wall for privacy, occupies the backyard. Three doors lead from each of the duplex units to the backyard. The north façade displays twelve windows. A casement window near the center of each duplex is surrounded by wood shingles.

Alterations

The duplex retains its original floor plan but have undergone some other changes. The original tar and cinder roof was replaced with a galvanized steel roof in the 1990s. Yellow porcelain panels occupied the spaces above and below the windows. The porcelain panels on the north and south façades have been replaced with wood shingles. Two of the original windows along the north facade have also been replaced. The wood fence that originally divided the patio was replaced with a brick wall. The lawn was removed in the 1990s and replaced by native vegetation, though cheat grass has since encroached.

Character Defining Features

- Low profile, horizontal shape
- The size, color and patterning of the split-faced pumice block on the exterior walls
- Shallow pitched roof with overhang
- Oversized windows

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- Open living and dining area
- Attached garage

Maintaining Integrity

The Mission 66 duplex should retain all or most of its character defining features, and it should not be altered in such a way that transforms its exterior appearance. The building should maintain its low-profile, horizontal form. The size, color and profile of the pumice block units on the exterior walls should be maintained and preserved. The original shallow pitched roof has been replaced with a metal roof of a similar profile, and future roof replacement should maintain the shallow-pitched form.¹³ The Idaho SHPO deemed the metal roof an adverse effect.¹⁴ However, the new roof does not disqualify the building from the National Register, since it does not obscure the qualities for which the building is significant. The structure should maintain integrity to the period of significance.¹⁵

¹³ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, PWRO-Seattle.

¹⁴ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, PWRO-Seattle.

¹⁵ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, 123, PWRO-Seattle.

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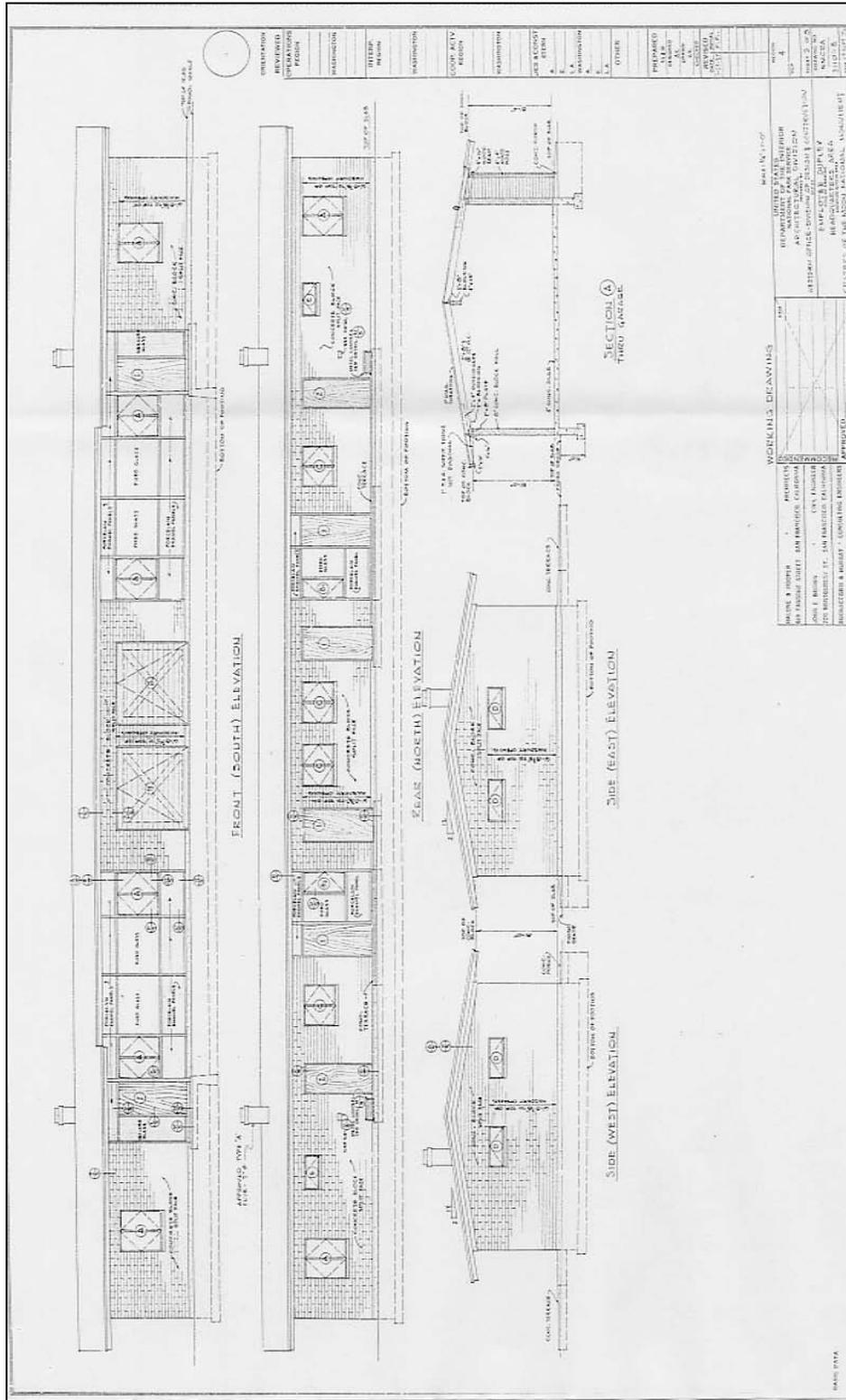


Duplex, view to northwest, 1957



Duplex, rear, view to east, 1957

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Duplex, elevation, 1957

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Duplex, view to northwest, 2007



Duplex, rear, 2007

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Duplex, rear, view to east, 2007

Single Family Residences

Significance

The three single-family residences are a component of the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon. The structures, completed in 1958, represent Park Modern architecture and are the only examples of their type in Idaho. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the National Park Service that the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon, which includes the homes, are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. They have been found eligible under criterion A, for their association with events—the Mission 66 program—that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national park planning and development, and criterion C, for their embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of Park Service Modern architecture. The homes maintain integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association. The homes remain in their original location, and their setting is largely unchanged. They possess integrity of workmanship, design and materials, since there have been no structural changes to the buildings, they retain their original floor plan, and the design intent is evident. The buildings retain integrity of feeling and association, since they convey their distinctive modern character and are used for its original purpose.

Description

Three identical three-bedroom houses are situated just east of the duplex. The homes were built according to standard NPS plans, though at 1,460 square feet the structures are 45 square feet larger than the typical NPS single family home. The one-story buildings measure 23'4" x 65'4". They are composed of concrete masonry units with split-faced pumice block on the exterior, and set on concrete slab foundations. Roof eaves overhang the building by 3' on the north façade and 4' on the other three sides.¹⁶

The houses face south and each contains a single-car garage on the west end. They are generally rectangular in shape, though the south façade extends an additional 3'6" just east of the front door. There are two large combination fixed casement windows in the center of the building, west of the front door, and two smaller casement windows east of the front door. The east wall of each home contains two 18" x 4' slider windows; the west façade contains no fenestration. A poured concrete sidewalk runs along the front of the house.¹⁷

¹⁶ Smith-Steiner, 12-13.

¹⁷ List of Classified Structures.

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The north façade contains three doors as well as a large casement window and two small sliding windows, hung at 8'6", east of the back door. This side also contains a large awning window and a fixed/casement combination window between the back door and the garage. There is a door on the north wall of the garage leading into the backyard. A 342 square foot concrete patio is set in the backyard.

Alterations

The houses retain their original floor plan but have undergone some other changes. Porcelain panels were originally located above and below the windows on the south façade. Russet colored panels adorned two of the homes, while the third contained turquoise panels. The porcelain panels on the front have been replaced with wood shingles. Galvanized steel roofs replaced the original tar and cinder roofs in the 1990s, and double pane windows replaced the single pane casement windows for energy efficiency. Doors and chimneys have also been replaced. The lawn was removed in the 1990s and replaced with native vegetation, though cheatgrass has encroached.

Character Defining Features

- Low profile, horizontal shape
- The size, color and patterning of the split-faced pumice block on the exterior walls
- Shallow pitched roof with overhang
- Oversized windows
- Open living and dining area
- Attached garage

Maintaining Integrity

The Mission 66 single-family homes should retain all or most of their character defining features, and should not be altered in such a way that transforms their exterior appearance. The buildings should maintain their low-profile, horizontal form. The size, color and profile of the pumice block units on the exterior walls should be maintained and preserved. The original shallow pitched roofs have been replaced with a metal roof of

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a similar profile, and future roof replacement should maintain the shallow-pitched form.¹⁸ However, the new roofs do not disqualify the building from the National Register, since they does not obscure the qualities for which the buildings are significant. As determined in National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, Mission 66 structures must maintain integrity of location, setting, feeling and association to remain eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and the single-family homes continues to meet these criteria.¹⁹ The structure also maintains integrity of design, workmanship and materials.²⁰

¹⁸ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, PWRO-Seattle.

¹⁹ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, 123, PWRO-Seattle.

²⁰ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, PWRO-Seattle.

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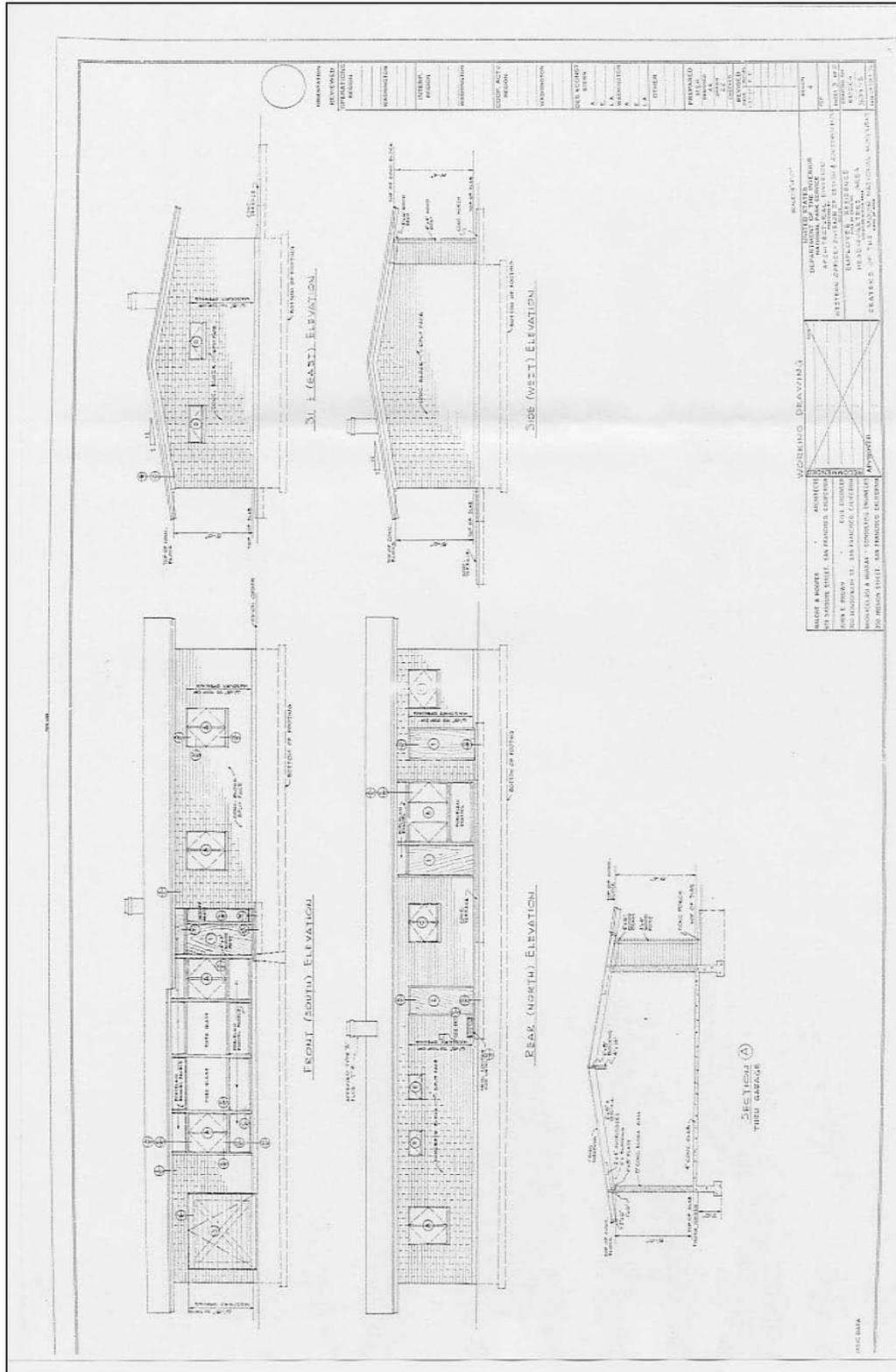


Single family residence, view to east, 1957



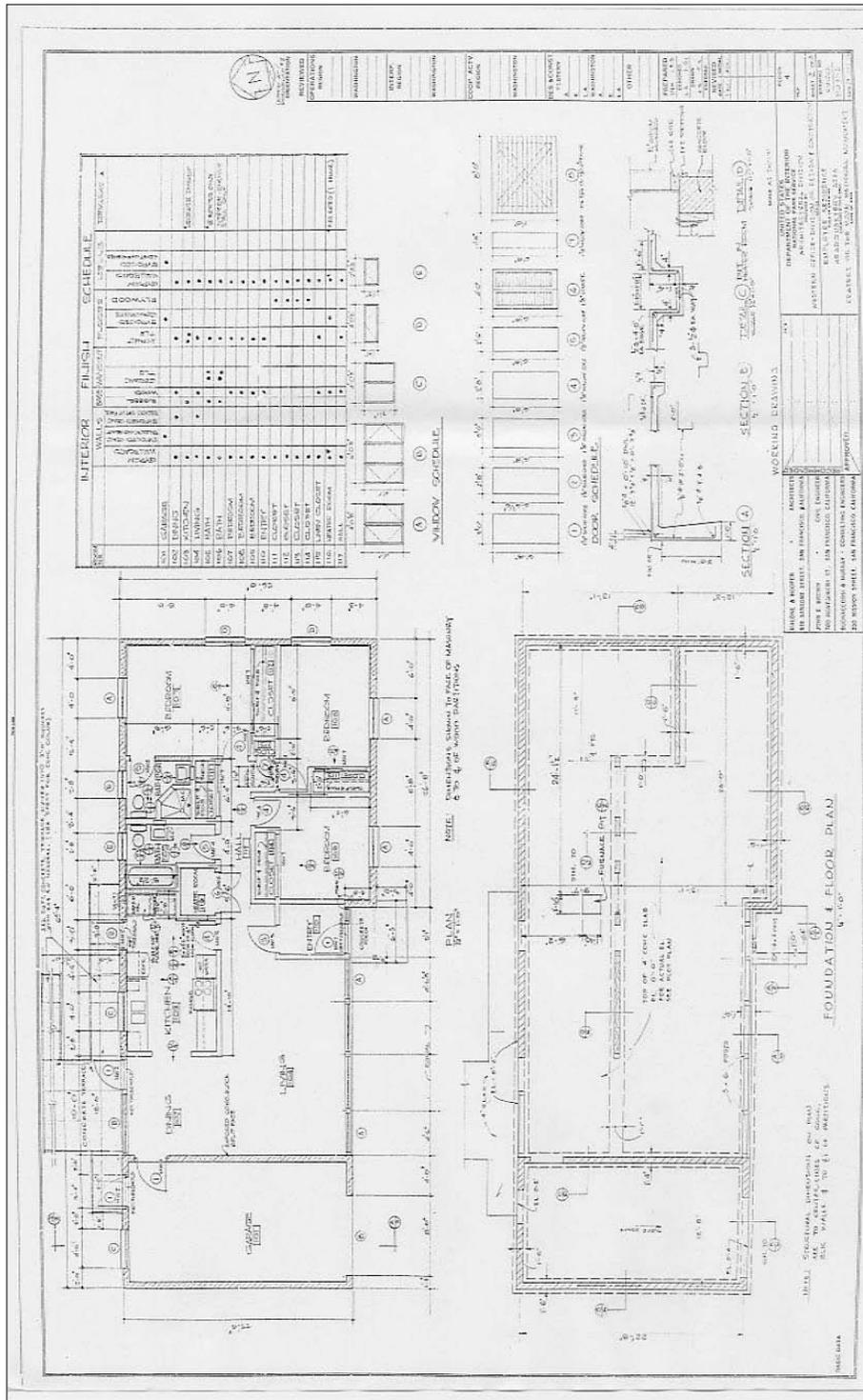
Single family residence, view to west, 1957

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Single family residence, elevation, 1957

Craters of the Moon Historical Structures Overview



Single family residence, floor plan, 1957

Craters of the Moon Historical Structures Overview



Single family residence, view to northeast, 2007



Single family residence, view to northwest, 2007

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Single family residence, view to west, 2007

Comfort Station

Significance

Completed in 1959, the Mission 66 comfort station represents the attempt to provide clean, efficient and modern facilities at Craters of the Moon National Monument. The comfort station is a component of the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon. The structure represents Park Modern architecture and is the only examples of a Mission 66 comfort station in Idaho. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the National Park Service that the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon, which includes the comfort station, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It has been found eligible under criterion A, for its association with events—the Mission 66 program—that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national park planning and development, and criterion C, for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of Park Service Modern architecture. The comfort station maintains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association. The building remains in its original location, and the setting is largely unchanged. It possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials, since there have been no structural changes to the building, it retains its original floor plan, and the design intent is evident. The building retains integrity of feeling and association, since it conveys its distinctive modern character and is used for its original purpose.

Description

Like other Mission 66 comfort stations, the small, single story building follows a standardized design with men's and women's restrooms and utility rooms.²¹ The building is constructed of concrete masonry units with exterior walls made of split-faced pumice block in earth toned colors, to match the other Mission 66 buildings. The structure measures 24' x 16' and contains 308 square feet. The building features pumice block on the interior, to a height of 5'4", above which windows are placed. This row of windows below the top of the wall was typical of comfort stations of this era. The comfort station also has concrete floors. The structure contains four wood doors, one on each side of the building that accesses four separate rooms—the 10' x 16' men's restroom, a 10' x 16' women's restroom, a 4' x 4' utility room and a 4' x 4' service room. The comfort station has 3'4"x 1'5" steel-framed windows (bottom hinged and fixed sash) made of obscured glass. The floor plan remains original. Most Mission 66 comfort

²¹ Carr, 145 and 173.

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stations were surrounded by an asphalt apron and included an auto pullout on at least one side, and the comfort station at Craters of the Moon conforms to this standard.²²

Alterations

The original tar and cinder roof has been replaced with a metal roof.

Character Defining Features

- Small, low rise, horizontal form
- The size, color and patterning of the split-faced pumice block on the exterior walls
- Low gabled roof form with deep overhangs and extended eaves at the gabled ends
- Structure contains separate men's and women's restrooms and utility rooms
- The fenestration pattern

Maintaining Integrity

The comfort station should retain most or all of the character defining features as listed above, and maintain integrity to the period of significance. Major exterior alterations that transform the appearance of the building should not be undertaken. The dimension, profile, and color of the pumice blocks on the exterior should be preserved.

Rehabilitation of the comfort stations should maintain and preserve roof form, entrance locations, and fenestration patterns. The building should retain easy pedestrian access.²³

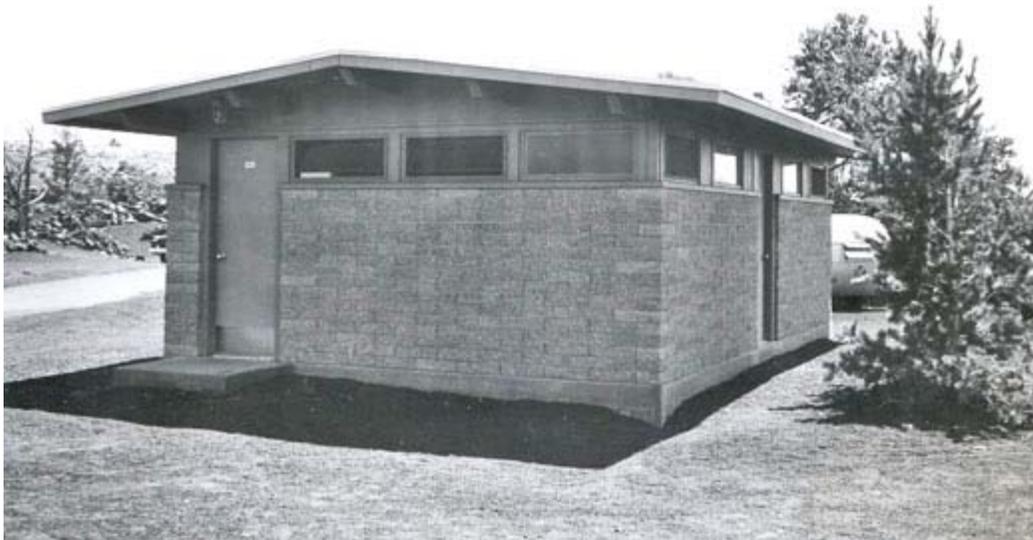
²² Completion Reports, Box 3, RG 79, NARA Seattle.

²³ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, 125, PWRO-Seattle.

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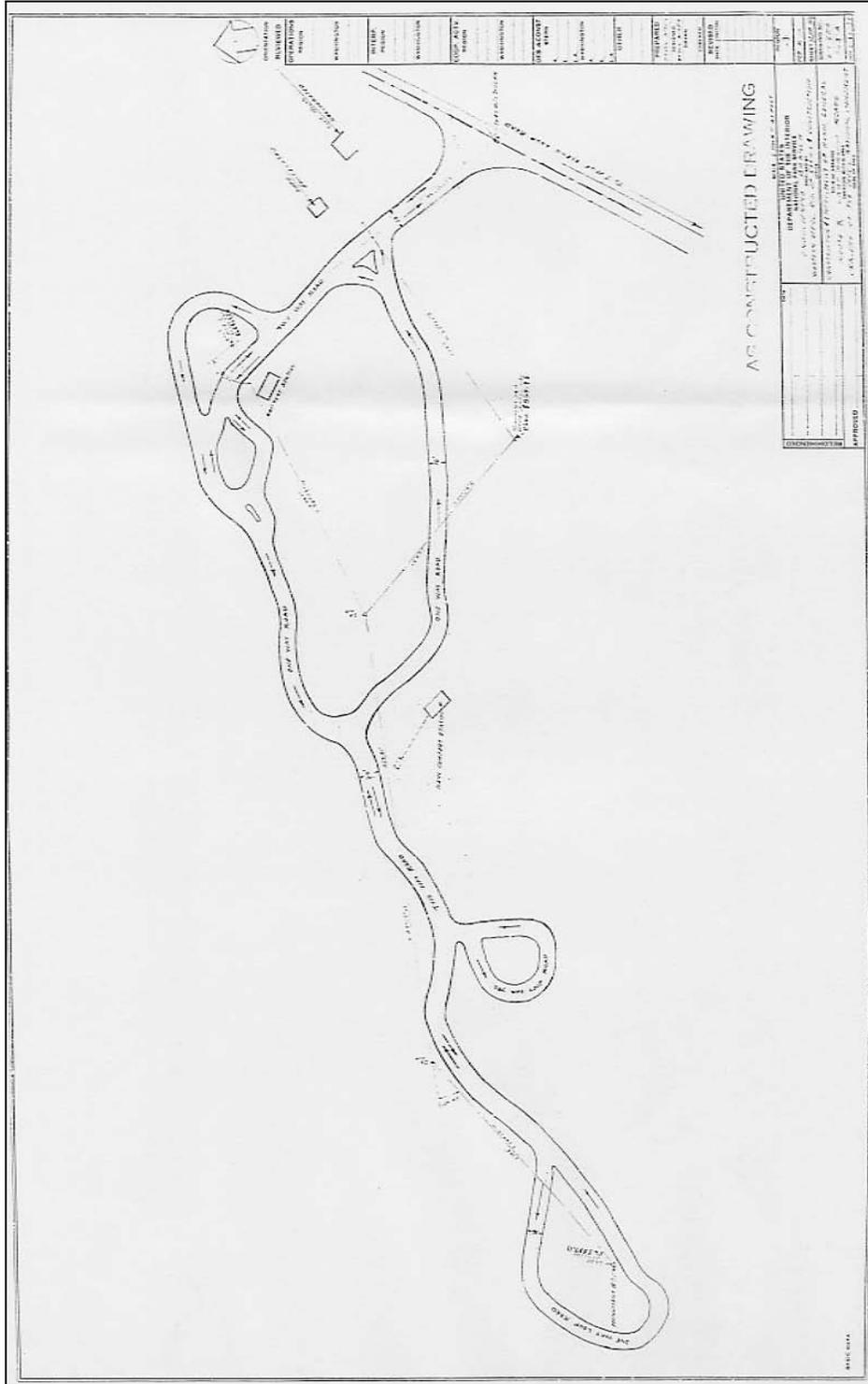


Comfort station, view to west, 1957



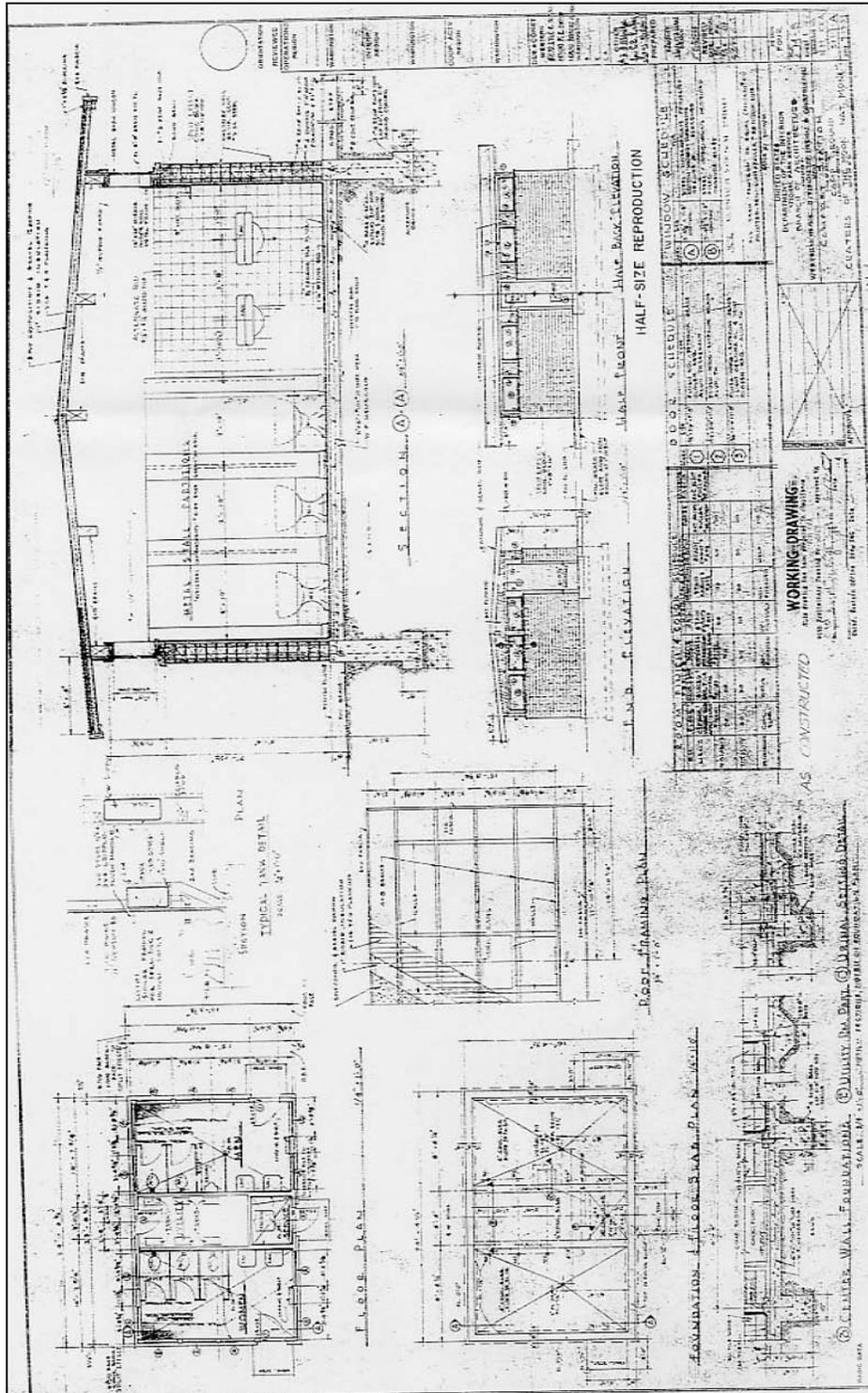
Comfort station, view to east, 1957

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Comfort station site plan

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Comfort station elevation and floor plan, 1957

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Comfort station, view to west, 2007



Comfort station, view to east, 2007

Administrative Area Circulation System

Significance

The circulation system, built in 1957, is a component of the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the National Park Service that the Mission 66 complex at Craters of the Moon, which includes the administrative area circulation system, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The circulation system maintains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association. The road system remains in its original location, and is largely unchanged.

Description

The entrance road intersects Highway 93/20/26 and leads in a southeasterly direction before curving to the northeast in front of the visitor center. Continuing east, the road is bisected by the entrance station, where it joins the monument's loop road. There are two parking areas, located just southwest and southeast of the Visitor Center. The easternmost lot, which contains two islands, provides parking for recreational vehicles. The western lot contains parking spaces for passenger cars and trucks, and is separated from the entrance road by a narrow landscaped area. A semi-circular spur from this road fronts the employee housing area. The curved driveway that fronts the residences is in the style of a suburban neighborhood street.²⁴

Alterations

A landscaped island on the center's east side was removed to create parking for recreational vehicles, but the rest of the system remains intact.

Character Defining Features

The design attributes and character of the administrative area circulation system should be maintained. This includes width, alignment, paving material, layout and drainage structures. Modifications such as curve widening or changes to the road width to accommodate larger vehicles are appropriate if they do not change the basic character of the circulation system. The basic road alignment patterns should remain the same, except

²⁴ National Park Service, List of Classified Structures.

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to address minor changes needed for visitor safety and accessibility. Substantial realignment or complete reconstruction could render the circulation system ineligible for the National Register.²⁵

²⁵ National Park Service, Property Types, National Park Service Mission 66 Resources National Register nomination, 121, PWRO-Seattle.

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Administration area circulation, 2007



Circular road in front of the employee housing area, 2007

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The entrance road and parking lot west of the visitor center, 2007



The parking lot, east of the visitor center.

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Appendix A: Excerpts from the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Preservation of Historic Properties

The first treatment, Preservation, places a high premium on the retention of all historic fabric through conservation, maintenance and repair. It reflects a building's continuum over time, through successive occupancies, and the respectful changes and alterations that are made.

1. A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties

Rehabilitation, the second treatment, emphasizes the retention and repair of historic materials, but more latitude is provided for replacement because it is assumed the property is more deteriorated prior to work. (Both Preservation and Rehabilitation

standards focus attention on the preservation of those materials, features, finishes, spaces, and spatial relationships that, together, give a property its historic character.)

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in a such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties

Restoration, the third treatment, focuses on the retention of materials from the most significant time in a property's history, while permitting the removal of materials from other periods.

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use which reflects the property's restoration period.
2. Materials and features from the restoration period will be retained and preserved. The removal of materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize the period will not be undertaken.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate and conserve materials and features from the restoration period will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.
4. Materials, features, spaces, and finishes that characterize other historical periods will be documented prior to their alteration or removal.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize the restoration period will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated features from the restoration period will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials.
7. Replacement of missing features from the restoration period will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence. A false sense of history will not be created by adding conjectural features, features from other properties, or by combining features that never existed together historically.
8. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
9. Archeological resources affected by a project will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
10. Designs that were never executed historically will not be constructed.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Reconstruction of Historic Properties

Reconstruction, the fourth treatment, establishes limited opportunities to re-create a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object in all new materials.

1. Reconstruction will be used to depict vanished or non-surviving portions of a property when documentary and physical evidence is available to permit accurate reconstruction with minimal conjecture, and such reconstruction is essential to the public understanding of the property.

2. Reconstruction of a landscape, building, structure, or object in its historic location will be preceded by a thorough archeological investigation to identify and evaluate those features and artifacts which are essential to an accurate reconstruction. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
3. Reconstruction will include measures to preserve any remaining historic materials, features, and spatial relationships.
4. Reconstruction will be based on the accurate duplication of historic features and elements substantiated by documentary or physical evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different features from other historic properties. A reconstructed property will re-create the appearance of the non-surviving historic property in materials, design, color, and texture.
5. A reconstruction will be clearly identified as a contemporary re-creation.
6. Designs that were never executed historically will not be constructed.