

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Lake Mead Lodge District

other names/site number Hualapai Lodge

=====

2. Location

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street & number 322 Lakeshore Road not for publication
city or town Boulder City vicinity
state Nevada code NV county Clark code 003
zip code 89005

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- _____ private
- _____ public-local
- _____ public-State
- X public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- _____ building(s)
- X district
- _____ site
- _____ structure
- _____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 4 </u>	_____ buildings
<u> 1 </u>	_____ sites
<u> 5 </u>	_____ structures
	_____ objects
	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Hotel

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other-International Style/Spanish

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof Concrete shake

walls Concrete block

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Entertainment/Recreation
- Community planning and Development
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance 1941-1955

Significant Dates 1941
1954

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder W.D. Peugh
Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam Tours, Inc.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: National Archives and Records Administration-Laguna Niguel

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	___	_____	_____	3	___	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	___	_____
	___	See continuation sheet.				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/title Christine Avery

Organization National Park Service date July 9, 2008

street & number 909 1st Avenue telephone 206-220-4127
city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98104

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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Lake Mead Lodge Complex
Clark County, NV

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7. Description

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Lake Mead Lodge, set on the shores of Lake Mead, was built in 1941 by National Park concessionaire Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam Tours, Inc. The hotel was the first on Lake Mead, and has been in continuous use as tourist accommodation since its construction.¹ Lake Mead Lodge was a key part of the plan to develop tourism in southern Nevada, and the structures retain their integrity to the historic period.

Location, Setting and Spatial Definition

Lake Mead Lodge is located on the shore of Lake Mead in Lake Mead National Recreation Area, about seven miles northeast of Boulder City, Nevada, at an elevation of 1250'. The recreation area occupies the southeastern corner of Nevada and the northwestern corner of Arizona, and it encompasses Lake Mead and Lake Mohave. In 1936, the National Park Service (NPS) began managing the site, known as Boulder Dam Recreation Area, when a Memorandum of Agreement between the NPS and Bureau of Reclamation transferred management from the Bureau to the NPS.² Congress extended the boundary of the park in 1947, in anticipation of the completion of Davis Dam and the creation of Lake Mojave.³ On October 8, 1964, Congress designated Lake Mead National Recreation Area a unit of the National Park Service. The recreation area spans 2,500 square miles.

The lodge is set in the Boulder Beach developed area. The site is located north of Hemenway Wash on an alluvial fan which slopes to the shoreline from the River Mountains to the west. Creosote bush-bursage desert surrounds the site. Pines, oleander, and bottlebrush dot the landscaped area around the buildings. Summer temperatures can exceed 110 degrees, while winter low temperatures may dip below freezing. The area receives an average of five inches of rainfall annually. Boulder Beach, one the most popular sites in the recreation area, occupies the shore of the developed area.⁴

The proposed Lake Mead Lodge historic district contains four lodge buildings and one structure—a swimming pool. The four lodge buildings are eclectic, and contain elements of International style and Spanish-style architecture. The four buildings of the lodge—the annex, the south wing (building A), the administration building (building C), and the north wing (building B)—are laid out south to north. All face east, toward Lake Mead, and the guest rooms are afforded views of the lake. The pool lies east of the administration building, across the parking lot.

Landscape features include pedestrian pathways connecting the structures, lawns, trees, a barbeque and patio area just south of the pool, an entrance road and parking areas. Palms, oleander and pines are set amid the grassy lawn in front of the administration building, while cypress line the front and sides of the meeting room. Railroad ties, cut into shorter lengths and set on end, serve as a retaining wall east of the building, near the parking lot. There is little

¹ The National Park Service expects to take possession of the lodge in 2008.

² The site was called Boulder Dam Recreational Area until 1947.

³ After the expansion, the recreation area stretched for 42 miles below Hoover Dam. Davis Dam was completed in 1951.

⁴ National Park Service, *Boulder Beach Overview: Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Improvements*, 1976, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Lied Library, Special Collections.

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landscaping in front of building A, though a few oleanders and pines grow near the building's south end. Pines and oleanders sit amidst a grassy lawn in front of building B. A wooden gazebo with plastic tables and chairs occupies each area in front of buildings A and B. Parking areas lie perpendicular to each building, and boat parking exists directly north of the pool. Lake Shore Drive/Route 166 runs along the western edge of the complex. The entrance road connects to the complex on the north side; drivers can also access the lodge from the entrance road to Boulder Beach, which connects to Route 166 just south of the complex. There is a dead end road between the main lodge building and the north annex, which used to serve as the lodge's driveway until it was blocked in the early 1990s. A driveway leads to the annex, and dead ends in a large parking area.⁵

Integrity

The Lake Mead Lodge historic district retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The administration building and buildings A and B have been used as hotel facilities since they were constructed in 1941, and they still convey their historic character. The annex building and the pool were built after initial construction but within the period of significance, and they demonstrate the evolution of the hotel to meet tourists' demands. The location and setting of the buildings and pool have not changed. The buildings and pool are largely in their original condition, and thus possess integrity of workmanship, design and materials. The district retains integrity of feeling and association, since the lodge has been used as a hotel facility since its construction. The few changes to the exterior of the buildings and the pool since the period of significance have been minor and were done with compatible materials, and do not diminish their ability to convey significance. The primary changes include the replacement of the original terra cotta tile roof with a concrete shake roof of similar appearance, and new landscape features—two gazebos, a retaining wall in front of the administration building, lampposts and rope fence near the pool—that were added around 1981. The lodge driveway, which originally entered the lodge between the administration building and the north wing, was moved north of the lodge in the early 1990s

Lake Mead Lodge Historic District-Contributing Resources

The district contains four contributing buildings, and one contributing structure—a swimming pool. There are no non-contributing buildings.

Administration Building (Lodge Building C)

This building was constructed in 1941, and is located between buildings A and B. It is single-story, with a low-pitched concrete shake roof, concrete block walls and a concrete foundation. This building has an eclectic architectural style, containing elements of International style and Spanish-style architecture. The building is 235.5' long and is of varying widths, from 16.5' at its narrowest, to 50' wide at its widest. It covers 6,675 square feet.⁶ Two sections of shallow, front gabled roof, each with a kingpost open truss, are prominent, east-facing features near each end of the structure.

⁵ The roads were originally oil-covered, but are now paved. The gazebos were built ca. 1981.

⁶ Kent C. Stevens, "Limited Appraisal Assignment Summary Appraisal Report," Lake Mead Lodge, 6 October 1998, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAME) Archives; "Lodge Buildings---Hualapai," 1941, National Park Service (NPS) Technical Information Center, etc.nps.gov. Plans for the entire lodge are available at this site.

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They are supported by pairs of concrete block supports that convey mass and strength. The supports have a decorative quality, and each contains one corbelled opening with a Southwest motif. The roof overhang and supports create two small patio areas in front of the building.

The 52' long meeting room, which protrudes from the front center of the structure, is a prominent feature. It is lined with three large windows on each side and seven in the front. Its simple style, lack of ornamentation, prominent windows and flat roof are typical of International style architecture. This room served as the dining room, and was added in 1949 after lodge management and NPS staff agreed that the lodge needed increased dining room capacity. The addition was built over what had served as a patio, and it nearly doubled the seating capacity from 35 to 68.⁷

A shed roof with concrete shake tiles, reminiscent of the terra cotta tiles that were originally used as roofing, tops the rest of the building. Windows have either eight, twelve, sixteen or twenty panes, and are steel-framed and single-pane. Redwood posts that measure 6" x 6" support the shed roof where it hangs over the front of the structure. The public spaces of the building can be accessed by solid-core wood double doors, just north of the meeting room, or through the solid core wood double doors that lead directly into the lobby.

This structure contains, in 2008, an operations office, a registration desk, a small lobby, laundry facilities, an employee break room, a manager's residence, a large meeting room, storage areas and two guest suites (numbered one and two). Corner windows were a hallmark in international style, and each suite contains a twenty-pane corner window (suite two has two of them). Suite two, unlike any other guest room, contains a fireplace. Each suite has a painted board ceiling.

Integrity:

The administration building retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The location and setting remain unchanged, and the building still serves as hotel administration and public space for guests. The building is largely in its original condition, and thus possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials. It retains its integrity of feeling and association, since it has been used for lodge administration since its construction. The major alteration—the dining room addition—occurred within the period of significance, and the structure retains its original design and intent. The exterior double doors that lead to the office and meeting room may not be original. A new, concrete shake roof was added in 1994, though it retains the appearance of the original terra cotta tile roof.

The interior spaces have been rearranged over time. The original building was laid out, from north to south, in the following order: Business office, manager's bedroom, office, curio shop (due west of the office), dining room, kitchen, restrooms, cocktail lounge, lecture room (for park service presentations), and three rooms for employees.⁸ Suite one formerly served as manager's quarters and office space, and suite two originally served as the lodge office and souvenir shop. The spaces were converted into suites sometime after 1957. By 1959, the curio shop may have

⁷ M.R. Tillotson to Director, NPS, 13 April 1949, Concessions File, RG 79, National Archives and Records Administration-Laguna Niguel, Ca.

⁸ National Park Service, "Electrical Plan Unit C," 22 May 1941, National Park Service (NPS) Technical Information Center, etc.nps.gov.

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been replaced by a larger lobby (though no structural modifications were made), and the business office had been incorporated into the manager's living quarters. In 1957, the concessionaire planned to move the restrooms from the area between the kitchen and cocktail lounge, to the area due west of the lecture room, in an area that had served as outdoor restrooms. The old restroom space was to be used as bar storage. It is unclear if this plan was implemented.⁹ The dining room was converted into a meeting room, and the bar removed, sometime after 1965.¹⁰ None of these changes affected the exterior of the structure.

South Wing (Lodge Building A)

The building was constructed in 1941, and is located just south of the administration building. Like the administration building, building A has an eclectic architectural style, containing elements of International style and Spanish-style architecture. The building is 207' long and 4,524 square feet.¹¹ There are sixteen units plus an owner's suite. The structure is single-story, with a low-pitched concrete shake roof (reminiscent of terra cotta tile), whitewashed concrete block walls and a concrete slab floor. Two shallow front gables face east, near each end of the structure, while the rest of the building is topped with a shed roof. The shed roof intersects with the two gables. Both the shed roof overhang and the two gables in front of the building are supported by 6" x 6" posts. The roof overhang creates porch space that runs the length of the structure. The windows are single pane, steel-framed and include either two, eight, twelve or sixteen panes; the four corner rooms each contain one corner, twenty-paned window (a typical feature of International style buildings). Seven bathroom windows have been covered with a unique grid pattern created by horizontal and vertical concrete bricks set into the wall. The grids have been painted blue to emphasize the feature against the white exterior walls. Each door is solid core wood. A concrete block retaining wall separates the sidewalk in front of the rooms from the landscaping in front of the owner's suite and rooms five, six and seven; the wall contains small, decorative square windows. Seven wall mounted electric light fixtures have been placed on the exterior walls. Room interiors have concrete block walls and either drywalled or painted board ceilings.

Integrity:

The structure retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The location and setting remain unchanged. Units three and four were combined to create an owner's suite around 1985, but the other sixteen rooms remain substantially unchanged.¹² The building is largely in its original condition, and thus possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials. It retains its integrity of feeling and association, since it has been used for guest lodging since its construction in 1941.

North Wing (Lodge Building B)

The building was constructed in 1941, and has an eclectic architectural style, containing elements of International style and Spanish-style architecture. It is single-story, with a low-pitched concrete shake roof (reminiscent of terra cotta tile), whitewashed concrete block walls and a concrete slab floor. There are eighteen units. The building is 207' long and 4,524 square feet.¹³ Two front gables face east, near each end of the structure, while the rest of the building

⁹ National Park Service, "Restroom Addition," 1957, NPS Technical Information Center, etc.nps.gov.

¹⁰ M.R. Tillotson to Director, NPS, 13 April 1949, Concessions File, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

¹¹ Kent C. Stevens, "Limited Appraisal Assignment Summary Appraisal Report, Lake Mead Lodge," 6 October 1998, LAME archives.

¹² Interview with Paul Chandler, Jr., by author, 24 January 2008.

¹³ Stevens, "Limited Appraisal Assignment Summary Appraisal Report."

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is topped with a shed roof. The shed roof intersects with the gables. Both the shed roof overhang and the two front gables in front of the structure are supported by 6" x 6" posts. The roof overhang creates porch space that runs the length of the structure. The windows are single pane and steel-framed, and have either two, eight, twelve or sixteen panes. Rooms 35 and 37 have twenty-paned corner windows. The doors are solid core wood. Seven bathroom windows have been covered with a unique grid pattern created horizontal and vertical concrete bricks set into the wall. The grids have been painted blue to emphasis the feature against the white exterior walls. Seven wall mounted electric lights are placed along exterior walls, along the porch. Room interiors have concrete block walls and either drywalled or painted board ceilings.

Integrity:

The structure retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Unlike the administration building and building A (south wing), building B, to the best of our knowledge, has not undergone any structural changes. The eighteen guest rooms have been used as such since 1941 and remain essentially the same. The building is largely in its original condition, and thus possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials. It retains its integrity of feeling and association, since it has been used for guest lodging since its construction.

Annex

The annex building is located south of the main complex and was probably built in 1954.¹⁴ It was designed to fit into the existing lodge complex, and it was constructed with the same type of roof, support beams, doors, light fixtures, windows and decorative features. The building is 2576 square feet, is 20' wide and 127' long, and contains eight guest rooms. It is single-story, with a concrete shake roof (reminiscent of terra cotta tile), concrete block walls and a concrete slab floor. The shed roof is supported by 6" x 6" posts; the roof overhang creates a porch that runs along the length of the building. One lamp post stands at the north end of the structure. Seven wall mounted electric lamps are positioned along the exterior wall. Seven bathroom windows have been covered with a unique grid pattern created by horizontal and vertical concrete bricks set into the wall. The grids have been painted blue to emphasize the feature against the white exterior walls. The main room windows are eight-paned and steel framed. The annex has no landscaping—it is surrounded by creosote-bursage scrub.

Integrity:

The building retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It was built thirteen years after the other three lodge buildings but within the period of significance. The building may have originally been used for employee housing, but to the best of our knowledge, no structural modifications were necessary to convert it to guest rooms. The building is largely in its original condition, and thus possesses integrity of workmanship, design and materials. It retains its integrity of feeling and association; the building's design still relates to the other, older structures, and it is still used as guest accommodations.

¹⁴ Stevens, "Limited Appraisal Assignment Summary Appraisal Report." Stevens reports that the building was constructed in 1954, though a 1957 NPS assessment states that only three lodge buildings exist. The annex may have initially been used as employee housing, and was thus not counted as a lodge building. Archival photos prove that it was built before 1960. LAME Archives; Aerial Photograph #5595, LAME Archives.

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Swimming Pool

The 30,000 gallon pool lies to the east of the lodge buildings, across the parking lot from the administration building. The pool was added in 1954, after initial construction but within the historic period.¹⁵ It has long, straight sides and scalloped ends. There are two palms within the pool enclosure; pines and palm trees dot the landscaped area outside of the fence. To the north of the pool, there was a smaller, round wading pool that was filled with concrete in the early 1980s. Three benches surround the former wading pool. The pool is surrounded by a wood slat fence, about 4.5' high, and five lampposts, which were built about 1981.

Integrity:

The pool retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Its location and setting remain the same. To the best of our knowledge, the pool itself has not been significantly altered since its construction, thus the design, materials, workmanship retain integrity. The pool has been used by tourists at the lodge since it was built, and so it retains integrity of feeling and association. The original brick patio surface surrounding the pool has been replaced with concrete.

Lake Mead Lodge Historic District Non-Contributing Features

Landscaping

The landscaping around the four lodge buildings is a non-contributing feature. Most of the hardscape elements, such as the gazebos, the rope fences, and the lamp posts, were added after the period of significance. The extant palm trees were also planted after the period of significance. While grass and some trees and shrubs were planted in 1951, during the period of significance, there are considerable differences between the existing and original plantings.

¹⁵ *Boulder City News*, "New Pool Opened at Lake Lodge," 1 October 1954.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Lake Mead Lodge Complex Eligibility

Lake Mead Lodge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its association with the development of recreation at Lake Mead National Recreation Area and in southern Nevada between 1941 and 1955. The lodge became the first hotel on Lake Mead when it was built in 1941, and as of June 2008, it was the oldest accommodation operating on the lake. The lodge’s history reflects the growth of tourism and outdoor recreation at Lake Mead National Recreation Area and in southern Nevada. Lake Mead Lodge, along with the campground and harbor at Boulder Beach, was one of the first tourist facilities constructed inside of the recreation area. The four contributing lodge buildings and the one contributing structure all possess substantial physical integrity to the period of significance, 1941 to 1955. This represents the early period of tourism at Lake Mead, before Mission 66 development ushered in a new era of development at the recreation area.

Lake Mead Lodge and the Nation’s First National Recreation Area: Historic Context

Lake Mead National Recreation Area, originally called Boulder Dam Recreation Area, was the first recreation area in the nation. During the New Deal, National Park Service leaders sought to expand and diversify the agency’s holdings. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed two executive orders that expanded National Park Service (NPS) holdings to include monuments and sites previously owned by other government agencies such as the National Forest Service and the War Department. In the early 1930s, Congress authorized the NPS to study the potential of Lake Mead for recreational opportunities, and the study surmised that the new reservoir’s potential was very high. Lake Mead National Recreation Area was created after the Bureau of Reclamation turned over management of most of its Lake Mead area holdings to the NPS in 1936 (though it was not until 1964 that Congress officially designated the recreation area a National Park Service unit). Lake Mead NRA was the first of a number of new recreation areas established in the 1930s and 1940s; units encompassing reservoirs were called national recreation areas. Unlike national parks that had been founded to preserve natural or historic resources, these areas were intended for intensive public use, and the NPS allowed the public to engage in many types of recreational activities that were forbidden at national parks. National Park Service leaders hoped that these changes would make its holdings more popular and accessible, but many conservationists expressed concern that the NPS had joined forces with the Bureau of Reclamation to manage the waters created by the Bureau’s large dams. The National Park Service managed activities on the 115-mile long Lake Mead, and, after 1952, the 67-mile long Lake Mojave.¹

¹ National Park Service, *The National Parks: Shaping the System*, (Harpers Ferry, WV: National Park Service, 1991), 54-57; Richard Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999), 131-147.

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During the 1930s and 1940s, the recreation area had little infrastructure or tourist facilities, and since the National Park Service considered these areas inferior to national parks, development at Lake Mead remained a low priority.² Many early visitors came only to see Hoover Dam, not Lake Mead. Still, newspaper and magazines publicized the new reservoir and its recreational opportunities, and visitors came by air, Union Pacific train and by automobile to see the lake and the famous dam. These print publications characterized the lake as a “desert playground,” and they emphasized the lake’s fishing potential in particular. One publicity stunt included former president Herbert Hoover dining on a large bass that had been caught just behind his namesake dam.³ Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam Tours, Inc.(GCBTD) operated a group of tent cabins, a dining room, a dock and an airstrip at Pearce’s Ferry, at the reservoir’s eastern end (at the western edge of the Grand Canyon) during this time, and that facility represented the only tourist accommodations on the lake before 1941. Despite the lack of tourist facilities, visitation climbed during the late 1930s. In 1936, the year that the NPS took over management of Lake Mead, 389,294 tourists visited the reservoir or Hoover Dam; by 1940, that number had grown to 655,910.⁴

Visitation at Lake Mead skyrocketed after World War II, as it did at national parks across the nation, due to a combination of increased leisure time, rising automobile ownership, and a rapidly growing population. In 1951, 2,051,000 million people visited Lake Mead, more than triple the amount that visited eleven years earlier. By 1958, the number had increased to 4,597,000. In southern Nevada, transportation improvements and thousands of new residents boosted visitation at Lake Mead. Transcontinental drivers could access the lake by detouring from Route 66. California tourists followed the newly constructed U.S. 91 from Los Angeles to Las Vegas and then took local roads to the lake. Las Vegas experienced huge population increases during the war due to the defense industries that attracted large numbers of workers, and these new residents flocked to Lake Mead. Only 8,422 people lived in Las Vegas in 1940, but ten years later, that number had grown to 48,283. By 1960, 127,016 lived in the metropolitan area, which sprawled east toward the lake. The city of Phoenix, 250 miles from the recreation area, grew tremendously after the war, and this city’s residents also flocked to the lake.⁵

Lake Mead’s newfound popularity was also the result of changing recreation patterns. Americans increasingly sought recreational opportunities in their national parks after World War II, and Lake Mead represented a new kind of park service unit, one that placed primary importance on outdoor recreation and that catered to recreational users. Unlike Yellowstone and Yosemite, parks that figured large in the American imagination and drew visitors for long stays, Lake Mead drew regional visitors for day and weekend visits.⁶ The popularity of water sports rose rapidly after the war. Americans who could not afford to live on lakes or other bodies of water headed to government administered

² Hal Rothman, *Balancing the Mandates: Administrative History of Lake Mead National Recreation Area* (draft), 56-58.

³ *Los Angeles Times*, “New Desert Playground,” 3 January 1938; *Arizona Wildlife Sportsman*, “Lake Mead: Water Playground of the West,” November, 1958; *Los Angeles Times*, “Lake Mead Bass Lunch Serves Hoover,” 19 March 1939; Paul Fredrix, “Dam Opens Play Area,” *New York Times*, 1 May 1938.

⁴ National Park Service, “History of Total Attendance, Lake Mead NRA,; online resource accessed on 8 January 2008 at <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/NPstats/dspAnnualVisits.cfm>

⁵ Rothman, 83.

⁶ Ethan Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007, 29; Rothman, 56-58; 68.

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reservoirs such as Lake Mead, and much of visitors' time was spent boating, fishing or swimming in what they considered to be a desert oasis.⁷ For the tourist without a car, Las Vegas casinos offered excursions to the lake during this time. Still, little development occurred in the park until 1955, when the Mission 66 program—a new National Park Service initiative—allowed the park to obtain funding for much needed facilities, such as campgrounds, visitors' centers, and boat launches.

Lake Mead Lodge was the first hotel on the lake, and it was an integral part of one company's plan to develop and monopolize tourism in southern Nevada. Glover E. Ruxtell, founder of Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam Tours, Inc. (GCBDT), anticipated the boom in tourism to the Lake Mead area. He sought to create a tourism empire, by initiating services and acquiring existing tourist companies, in the region. He founded the company in 1935 and expanded rapidly. In May of 1937, GCBDT was granted an exclusive twenty year contract to operate all accommodations, transportation services and tourist facilities within twelve miles of Boulder City. The company's operations were subject to strict scrutiny and regulation by the National Park Service. All building plans had to be approved by the NPS, and GCBDT was required to pay the agency \$250 per year, plus 22.5% of profits earned over 6% of their investment. The company operated boat tours of Lake Mead, scenic airline flights over southern Nevada, Lake Mead and the Grand Canyon from the Boulder City airport, and limousine rides from Boulder City to Hoover Dam and Lake Mead. In 1938, the company even spent \$50,000 to improve the Boulder City airport, in order to lure Trans-World Airlines (TWA) to the region (the airline needed to stop in southern Nevada between San Francisco and Chicago). TWA proved enthusiastic about promoting tourism in southern Nevada, which one airline public relations executive called "the finest playground in the entire West," and the new airline service enabled tourists from other parts of the United States and Europe to visit the reservoir.⁸

While GCBDT had purchased Boulder City's Boulder Dam Hotel and also operated rustic tent cabins at Pearce Ferry, where Lake Mead met the Grand Canyon, there was no hotel on the lake, and no accommodations of any kind on the western part of Lake Mead. As a result, the company built a new hotel on the shores of the newly created reservoir—Lake Mead Lodge (originally called Hualapai Lodge).⁹

Lake Mead superintendent Guy Edwards also had big plans for Lake Mead's development. He believed that vacationers would visit the new recreation area, particularly the Boulder Beach area, if there were tourist facilities, and he instigated plans to develop the site shortly after becoming superintendent. Boulder Beach was a logical location for development, since it was convenient to Las Vegas and Boulder City and contained a long, sandy beach. Its wide expanse and gently sloping topography also enabled large-scale development.¹⁰ By 1938, NPS planners proposed a deluxe lodge, a golf course, campground, picnic areas and cabins at the site. In 1939, the NPS regional office produced plans for a one-story, motel-style lodge.¹¹ When Patterson proposed that his company build a lodge at

⁷ Rothman, 115.

⁸ Dennis McBride. "Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam Tours, Inc: Southern Nevada's First Venture into Commercial Tourism," *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* (Summer 1984), 92-104. Rothman, 88.

⁹ McBride, 104. In late 1941 or early 1942, Ruxtell sold GCBDT to Fred Patterson.

¹⁰ Paul Thomas, Design Analysis, Boulder Beach, 1963, National Park Service, Pacific West Regional Office-Oakland files.

¹¹ "Hemenway Wash, General Development Schemes," 1 September 1937; National Park Service, "Hemenway Wash Area," 1 January 1938, National Park Service, Technical Information Center, etic.nps.gov (etic).

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Lake Mead, Edwards proved supportive, and he sited the lodge near Boulder Beach due to the park's larger development plans for the area. Furthermore, water and sewer mains already existed in the area by 1941. GCBBDT had hoped to site the lodge "more closely related to the overnight accommodation area" (probably closer to the main road to Boulder City) but the park service denied that request, and insisted on the Boulder Beach location.¹²

Despite the enthusiasm of park management for accommodations at the lake, the park service's regional director expressed uncertainty. He worried that GCBBDT was creating, rather than fulfilling, a need, and that people would not want to stay in an area with such temperature extremes (the area was cold in winter but hot in summer). GCBBDT's William Irwin assured acting park superintendent Robert Rose in 1940 that the lodge would become "a popular resort almost overnight."¹³ Rose proved enthusiastic, and he pointed out to the regional director that Boulder City hotels were busy or full much of the year. He also explained that the units would have cooling systems to mitigate the summer heat.¹⁴ The company's initial plans included individual cottages and employee housing, but they decided to build three larger lodge units instead in order to save on construction and utility operating costs.¹⁵

The park service approved the company's architectural drawings for the lodge, from San Francisco architect W.D. Peugh, in April of 1941.¹⁶ NPS architects judged the initial design to be monotonous, so they asked for changes that broke the roof lines and used floor level changes to make the structures fit in with the topography.¹⁷ The three one-story buildings, constructed with concrete block walls, concrete floors, and steel framed windows, were finished by October.¹⁸ The interior and exterior were whitewashed, and each room had heating and cooling. Lodge buildings A and B each contained eighteen guestrooms, and the lodge administration building included a dining room, kitchen, lounge, lecture room (for park service presentations), staff housing, office space, lobby, gift shop and outdoor patio.¹⁹ The buildings were eclectic, containing elements of Spanish-style architecture, with terra cotta tile rooms and decorative motifs, as well as features associated with International style (as evidenced by the buildings' corner windows). The National Park Service assumed responsibility for landscaping, and they planned to create an oasis-like area in the desert. However, their initial plan was never implemented, and NPS staff planted only a small number of shrubs and trees in the early 1940s.²⁰ The company successfully publicized the new lodge across the nation, and the opening of the hotel made news as far away as New York City. In newspaper and magazine articles that extolled the

¹² Alfred Kuehl to Chief of Planning, WASO, 2 March 1941, RG 79, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-Laguna Niguel (CA) Branch.

¹³ William Irwin to Robert Rose, 28 August 1940, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

¹⁴ Robert Rose, Comments on Director's Memo of 29 July 1940, 19 August 1940, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

¹⁵ Newton Drury to the Secretary of the Interior, 21 August 1940, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

¹⁶ W.D. Peugh, "Lodge Buildings, Hualapai," etc. The architectural firm Lescher and Mahoney may have revised Peugh's drawings in May of 1941

¹⁷ Kuehl to Chief of Planning, 2 March 1941, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

¹⁸ Douglas to Guy Edwards, 23 April 1941, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

¹⁹ "Hualapai Lodge, on Lake Mead, \$90,000 Project," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, 11 October 1941.

²⁰ The NPS finished a detailed planting plan in 1942, but more extensive landscaping (including a grassy lawn and numerous trees and shrubs) was not completed until 1949. National Park Service, Branch of Planning and Design, "Hualapai Lodge Planting Plan, 1942," etc.nps.gov.

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recreational opportunities on Lake Mead, the lodge was often mentioned as the logical place to stay.²¹ The facility was renamed Lake Mead Lodge in September of 1945, since the name better reflected its lakeside location and was easier to spell and pronounce than Hualapai.²²

World War II prevented Lake Mead Lodge from becoming a popular resort in the early 1940s, yet the lodge managed to attract some business. The facility opened less than two months before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the outbreak of war prevented European tourists, who had represented a large proportion of tourists to the park, from travelling to the area.²³ Wartime restrictions also hindered American tourist travel and stymied the growth of southern Nevada tourism in general. Workers in defense related industries, such as employees of Basic Magnesium, Inc., were sometimes housed in the lodge. Other visitors were defense workers who had moved to the Las Vegas area.²⁴ The lodge became a popular gathering spot for Boulder City locals, who came to drink and dance at the area's only bar. The new hotel had obtained permission to sell liquor, a privilege denied to Boulder City hotels.²⁵ The bar continued to draw local residents after the war. The lounge had one of the few televisions in the 1950s, and local residents gathered to watch boxing matches on Wednesdays and Fridays. Hollywood celebrities were rumored to come for illicit weekends.²⁶

The NPS still hoped to have a full scale resort in the Boulder Beach area, and they encouraged GCBDT to expand the lodge. Park Service staff had correctly predicted the popularity of Boulder Beach, and it had become the park's most visited area. In 1945, the company developed plans to enlarge the hotel facilities to include a golf course, riding stables, and extensive boat facilities.²⁷ In 1947, an investment group led by singer Bing Crosby was rumored to be interested in expanding facilities at Lake Mead, including the lodge.²⁸ However, to the frustration of park management, neither of these plans came to fruition. GCBDT probably lacked the capital to invest in the lodge, since other aspects of their operations (such as the scenic flights) continually lost money. In an attempt to stem the loss of money, the company sold or subcontracted many of its services during the 1940s and 1950s. For example, it subcontracted management of Lake Mead Lodge to Continental Hotel Systems, Inc, of Glendale, California, in 1948.²⁹ The agreement stipulated that Continental pay 25% revenue from rooms, 7% from bar, and 7% from food and souvenirs to GCBDT. In 1949, the NPS approved a \$10,000 dining room addition despite its fears that the expenditure would prevent other improvements, and that "architecturally, it will detract to some extent from the present satisfactory appearance" of the lodge. The addition was built in the International style, with a flat roof and prominent

²¹ Diana Rice, "New Lake Mead Lodge," *New York Times*, 17 August 1941; Jack Goodman, "Desert Attractions," 16 March 1947; Ward Allen Howe, "Boulder City Awaiting the Races," *New York Times*, 23 October 1960.

²² *Boulder City News*, 20 September 1945, Boulder City Historical Society Archives, Boulder City, Nevada.

²³ McBride, 107.

²⁴ Robert Rose to War Protection Board, 15 June 1942, Buildings File, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

²⁵ *Boulder City News*, 13 December 1956, Boulder City Historical Society Archives.

²⁶ *Boulder City News*, 13 May 1953; "Lake Mead Lodge was favored by celebrities," 23 March 1972, Boulder City News.

²⁷ *Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal*, 6 October 1945, Boulder City Historical Society Archives; GCBDT prospectus, 2 January 1945.

²⁸ McBride, 107.

²⁹ *Boulder City News*, "Lake Mead Lodge Deal is Final," 14 January 1948. GCBDT subcontracted management of the marina to a separate party.

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use of windows.³⁰ In 1950, park inspectors appeared happy with the lodge, which they described as in “excellent” condition.³¹ They also planted lawn and additional trees and shrubs by 1951, though the NPS never fully implemented the planting plan developed in 1941.

In the early 1950s, concessionaires built other accommodations in the recreation area, but these facilities were usually primitive (the NPS characterized some of them as “fishing camps”) and lacked the amenities associated with a full scale hotel. Rustic “fishermen’s cabins” were built at Temple Bar on Lake Mead in 1952, and other simple cabins were built on Lake Mojave at Searchlight Ferry and Eldorado Canyon in the recreation area during the decade as well. These Lake Mojave developments evolved out of fishing camps that had been set on the Colorado River, before the Bureau of Reclamation constructed Davis Dam. In 1952, an eight-room guest unit was built at Katherine Landing on Lake Mojave, though this facility lacked the size and amenities of Lake Mead Lodge.³²

Visitation to Lake Mead surpassed Park Service calculations during the postwar rise travel boom. By the mid-1950s, Boulder Beach drew almost two million visitors per year. Despite the growth in tourism to the lake, the hotel lost money in the early 1950s. GCBDT had suffered from overregulation and poor business decisions from the company’s incorporation. The company’s contract with the National Park Service hindered their attempts to run a profitable business, since every price change and employee hire had to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The hotel was also required to provide Interior department employees with free accommodation while on government business, but “government business” was loosely defined. Company head Patterson also blamed the hotel’s location for its troubles, since it was located two miles north of the highway that ran between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, and thus not visible to passing motorists.³³ Furthermore, the company’s air tours were highly unprofitable and represented a drain on the company’s finances.³⁴

The lease between the NPS and GCBDT was set to expire in 1957, and the NPS sought improvements at Lake Mead Lodge before it would negotiate a new contract. It is likely that the concessionaire did not have the capital to make substantial improvements, and in 1954, GCBDT sold Lake Mead Lodge to their subcontractor, Continental Hotel Systems, Inc.³⁵ With the enthusiastic support of the National Park Service, who had sought an owner that would expand lodge facilities, Continental President W.A. Porter paid GCBDT \$262, 000 for the buildings. The NPS had long considered the facility inadequate, and they urged Porter to build a new central lodge building and to begin other improvements.³⁶ In response to NPS demands, Porter constructed a 30,000 gallon pool and a small, round wading pool. A fourth lodge building (the annex) was built, probably in 1954. Employee housing had always been scarce, and

³⁰ M.R. Tillotson to Director, National Park Service, 13 April, 1949, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

³¹ Report of Inspection of Concession Facilities, 1950, Concessions File, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

³² National Park Service, Master Plan Development Outline, Lake Mead, 1952, NPS PWRO-Oakland files; National Park Service, Temple Bar Vicinity Development, 1 December 1952, NPS PWRO-Oakland files; National Park Service, Lake Mojave Master Plan, 1952; National Park Service, Mission 66 Prospectus, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, May 23, 1956, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

³³ Frederick Patterson, 4 December 1950, to M.R. Tillotson, Regional Director, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

³⁴ McBride, 105-107.

³⁵ McBride, 105-107.

³⁶ Memo to Director from Regional Director, 8 December 1953, Concession Contracts File, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel.

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the company planned to use the building as an eight room employee dormitory. The structure was designed to fit in to the existing complex, and like the other eclectic buildings, displayed elements of Spanish-style architecture, with the same type of roof, support beams, porch, and fixtures as the other three buildings. It is unclear whether the building was initially used to house staff, or if management decided to use the annex as guest rooms from the start.³⁷

Significant development occurred at Lake Mead National Recreation Area during the Mission 66 period. National parks had suffered from low funding levels throughout World War II and into the 1950s, and parks had too few campgrounds, roads, accommodations, restrooms, parking lots and other facilities to meet the demands of postwar travelers. In 1955, NPS director Conrad Wirth proposed the Mission 66 program, and the next year Congress approved funding for the \$700 million program. Mission 66 was the most recent period of park expansion and development, by 1966, \$1 billion had been spent on land acquisitions, staffing and new or improved facilities. At Lake Mead, concessionaires built accommodations at a number of locations on Lake Mead and Lake Mojave. Furthermore, a number of other new hotels had been built in the region as tourism in southern Nevada grew in the 1950s and 1960s, and competition for the tourist dollar grew among area hotels.

By 1959, Continental Hotels sought to sell the lodge. Evidence suggests that no buyer appeared until October of 1961, when McCulloch Corporation took over operations. The corporation also bought Lake Mead Marina, and it installed the world's largest floating restaurant at the site. Uninterested in operating two restaurants, the company closed the lodge's dining room and bar. Though the lodge was no longer the only hotel on the lake, it continued to attract boaters and fisherman who used the nearby marina facilities. The lodge was also a favored weekend getaway of Las Vegas-based celebrities such as Andy Williams, Don Rickles and Harry Belafonte, who chartered boats from the marina. In 1974, the NPS issued a contract for lodge operations to the Plunkett Family's Leisurama, Inc. Leisurama changed its name to Lake Mead Enterprises, and they sold their assets to Lake Mead resort. The company made a number of minor modifications to the lodge grounds, including the gazebos, the rope fences, the lamp posts, and the palm trees. The wading pool was filled in during the early 1980s. In 1987 Lake Mead Resort became Seven Crowns Resorts, the current concessionaire. In the early 1990s, the NPS moved the main lodge entrance north of the complex, in an attempt to reduce auto accidents.³⁸

Lake Mead National Recreation Area has become one of the most popular National Park Service sites, attracting over eight million visitors per year. Lake Mead Lodge served the needs of the growing demands of postwar tourists, and it has provided reasonably priced lodging to vacationers since 1941. Its history reflects the establishment and popularity of Lake Mead National Recreation area, and the growth of outdoor recreation in the latter half of the twentieth

³⁷ "Negotiations Underway for sale of Lake Mead Lodge, boat facilities," Boulder City News, 28 January 1954; Memo to Director from Regional Director, 8 December 1953, Concessions, RG 79, NARA-Laguna Niguel; National Park Service, "Eight Unit Employees Dormitory," 1 May 1953, NPS Technical Information Center, etc.nps.gov; Kent Stevens, "Limited Appraisal Assignment Summary Appraisal Report," Lake Mead Lodge, 6 October 1998, LAME archives; Aerial Photograph #5595, LAME Archives. Kent Stevens reports that the building was constructed in 1954, though a 1957 NPS assessment states that only three lodge buildings exist. The annex may have initially been used as employee housing, and was thus not counted as a lodge building. Archival photos prove that it was built before 1960.

³⁸ Interview with former lodge manager Paul Chandler, Jr., by author, 24 January 2008.

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century. As of June 2008, it is the oldest operating accommodation in the recreation area. The National Park Service expects to take possessory interest of the lodge in 2009.

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The four lodge buildings and the one structure retain their integrity, and the lodge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its association with the development of tourism in southern Nevada.

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10. Geographical Data

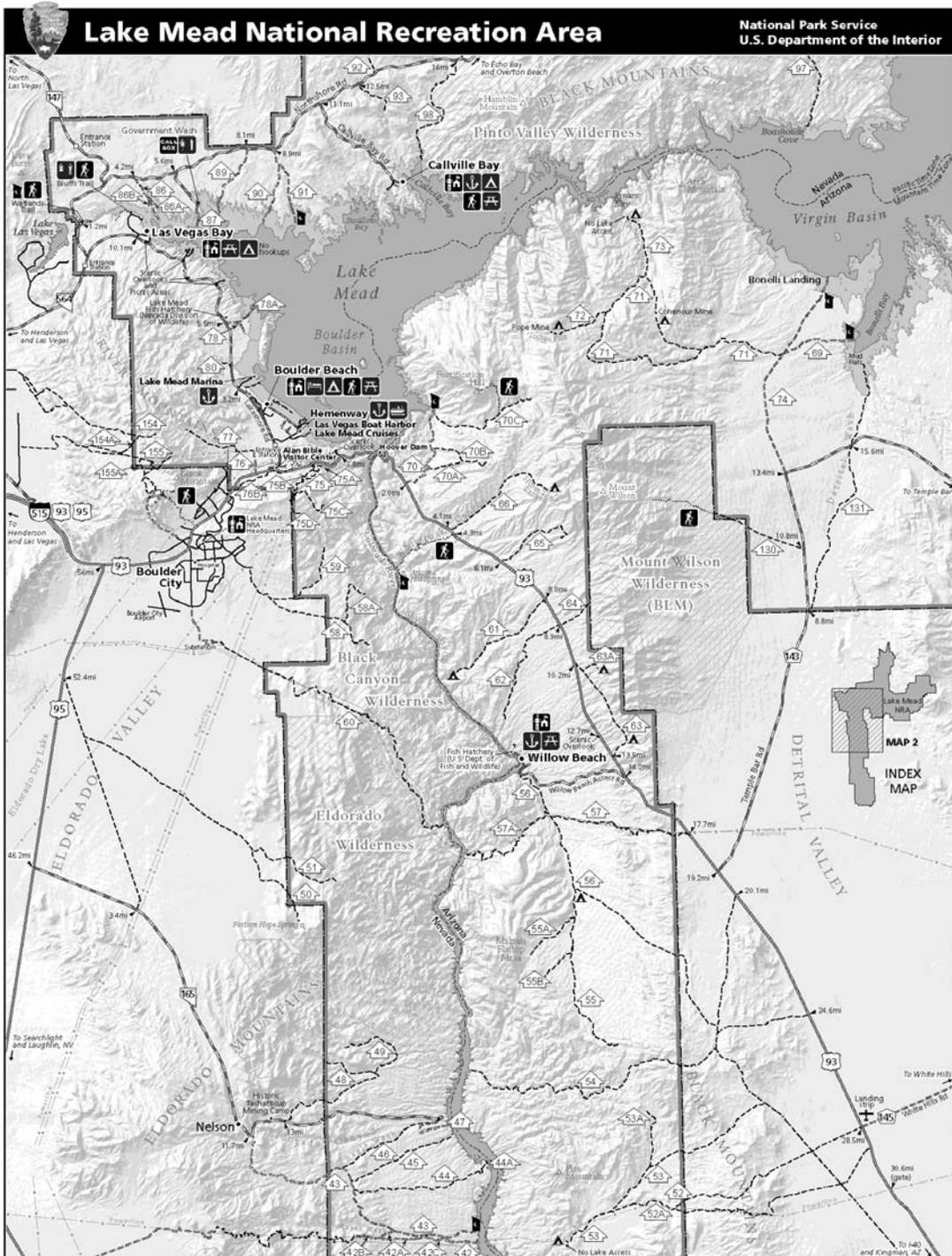
Boundary Description and Justification

Verbal Boundary Description

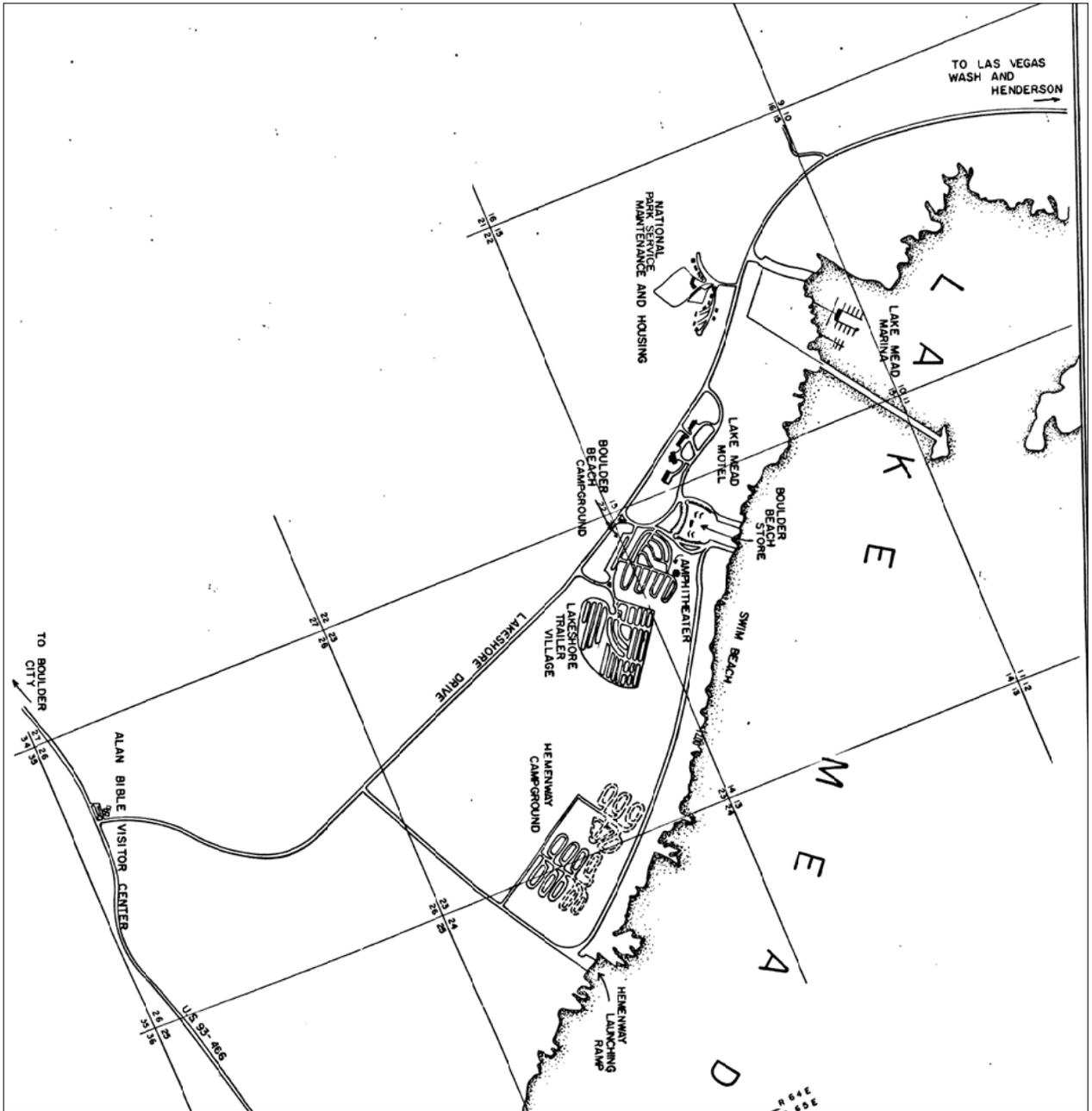
The boundaries, which include the four lodge buildings and the swimming pool, are indicated on the accompanying base map. The district is roughly rectangular. It is bounded by Lake Shore Road/Route 166 on the west, by the lodge entrance road to the north, and by the access road that lies to the east of the pool to the east. The southern boundary is a line that runs from Lakeshore Drive in a northwesterly directly to intersect with the access road that forms the eastern boundary.

Boundary Justification

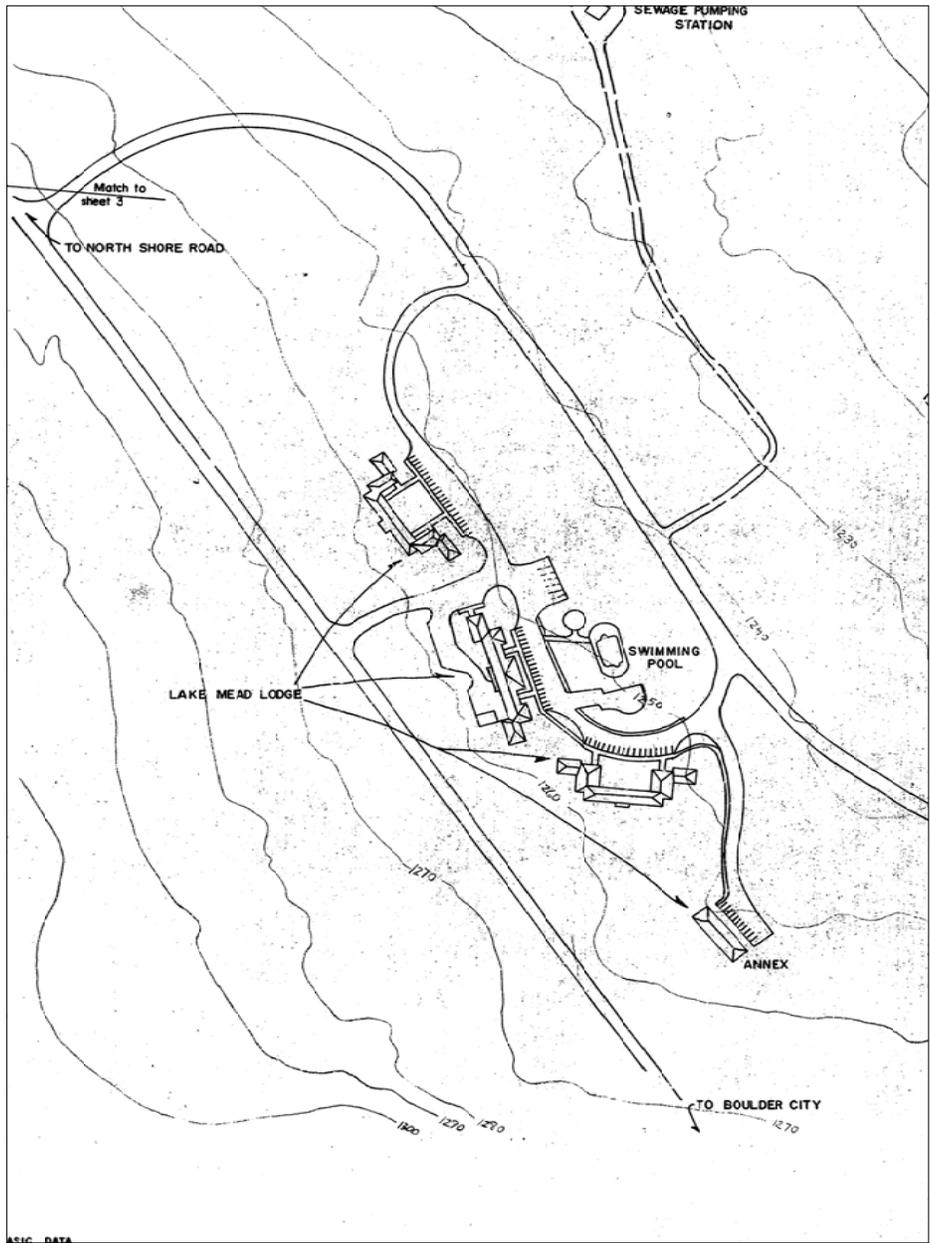
The boundary includes the four lodge buildings and the pool; all of these features retain integrity to the period of significance.



Lake Mead National Recreation Area map. Lake Mead Lodge is located in the Boulder Beach area.



Lake Mead Lodge and Boulder Beach.



Lake Mead Lodge. The driveway in the center of the photo is no longer in use.



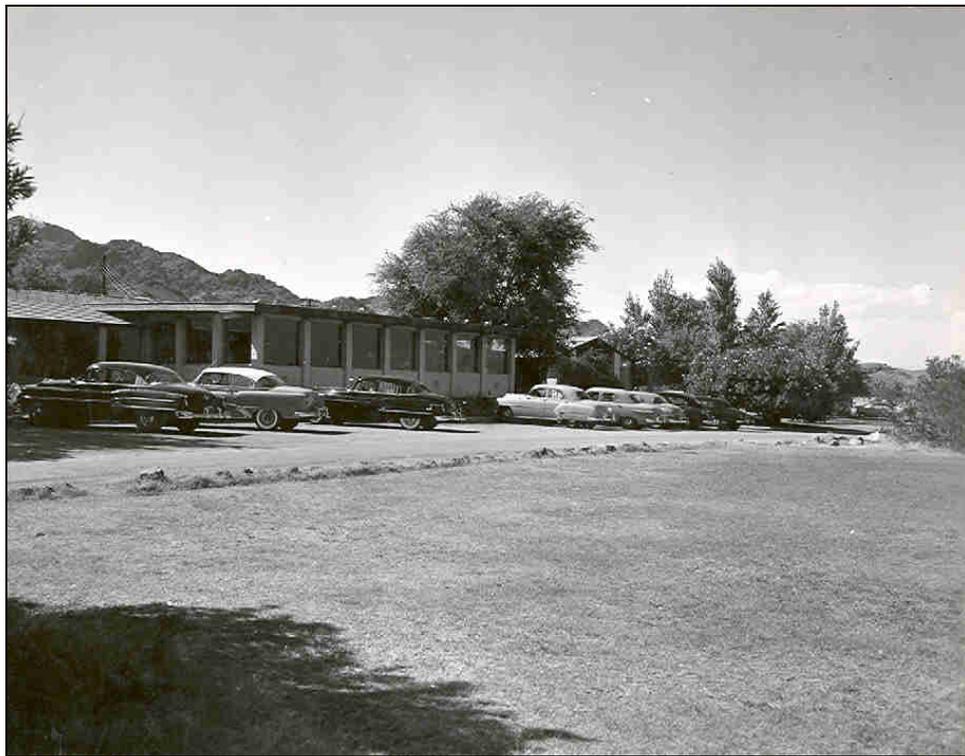
The future site of Lake Mead Lodge in 1941. The NPS had grand development schemes for Hemenway Wash, and they asked the concessionaire to build the lodge in that area.



An aerial view of Lake Mead Lodge in 1945. The driveway originally entered the complex between the administration building and the north wing. Courtesy of Boulder City Historical Society.



The administration building in 1945. The building contained offices, staff housing, a dining room and lounge, and a gift shop.



A larger restaurant was added to the administration building in 1949 (here, pictured in 1951).



Building B (the north wing) in 1945.



Building B in 1951, after the National Park Service landscaped the site.



Guests at the lodge in January 1942. Courtesy of the Boulder City Historical Society.



Lake Mead Lodge postcard, ca. 1950. Courtesy of the Boulder City Historical Society.



The lodge's lounge became a popular nightspot for local residents, since it was the only bar in the area. Bartender Henry Bradley was a well known Boulder City resident. Bradley had been the first African-American to buy a home in the town, and he also worked as a chauffeur for Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam Tours, Inc. Courtesy of the Boulder City Historical Society.

*Air Conditioned
By Refrigeration*

Always comfortable — Rooms are air-conditioned by the most modern refrigerating equipment. And there's electric heat for those winter nights! You will enjoy the quiet and comfort in the informal atmosphere of this desert oasis lodge.

**Authorized Concessioners
Operating under Contract with
The National Park Service**



DRIVE IN! Lake Mead is a perfect motorists' hotel . . . Car parking near your cottage and complete informality . . . Come as you are!

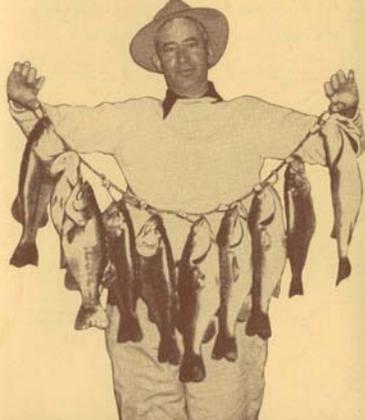
ENJOY MAXIMUM COMFORT

LAKE MEAD LODGE AND MOTEL

NEVADA'S WONDERFUL RESORT
IN LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATIONAL AREA
ANOTHER CONTINENTAL HOTEL

FISHING ALL YEAR — NO CLOSED SEASON!

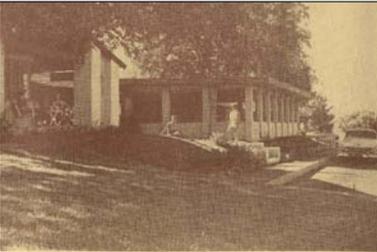
The world is full of good fishing grounds but nowhere will the sportsman find a better site for indulging his skill than in and around Lake Mead. Winter and summer, Lake Mead is a perfect place to fish . . . here there is no closed season!



LAKE MEAD LODGE AND MOTEL



ON BEAUTIFUL LAKE MEAD



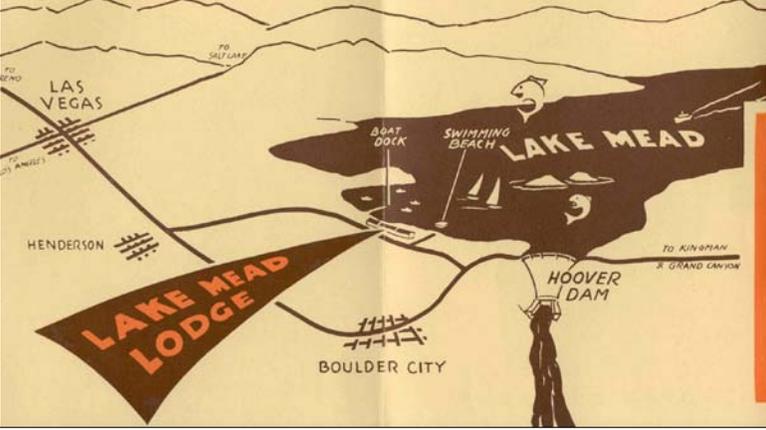
THE FOOD HERE is the very finest and is served in our Lake View dining room overlooking beautiful Lake Mead and its colorful mountainous shore. An inviting place to enjoy our wonderful meals, moderately priced. . . . For refreshments, there's the rustic, intimate Cocktail Lounge.



THERE'S FUN FOR all the family at Lake Mead lodge. A completely equipped playground is maintained for young children. Swim in Lake Mead. Relax! . . . Have Fun! Get a suntan while you're at it. Enjoy the year-round good weather.



RIGHT IN THE HEART of a recreation area that is unsurpassed! Cruising and boating on Lake Mead is exciting. Boats, cruisers and speed boats may be rented by hour or day. The lake offers tops in water sports and boating of every type the year 'round. And the best bass fishing found anywhere.



LAKE MEAD LODGE

TO LAS VEGAS
TO SALT LAKE
TO ANGLETON
TO KUNIPMAN & GRAND CANYON
HOVER DAM
BOULDER CITY
HENDERSON

CLOSE TO EVERYTHING

On the quiet of the lake shore yet in the center of all types of activities to fill your days and nights. All the world famed attractions and places of interest for which Southern Nevada's playground is noted are readily accessible.

A few minutes' drive brings you to Las Vegas where there is fun and glamour galore. A visit to nearby Hoover Dam is interesting and educational. Within five miles is Boulder City, Nevada, convenient shopping center.

For information and reservations write—
Lake Mead Lodge, Boulder City, Nevada
TELEPHONE BOULDER CITY 12

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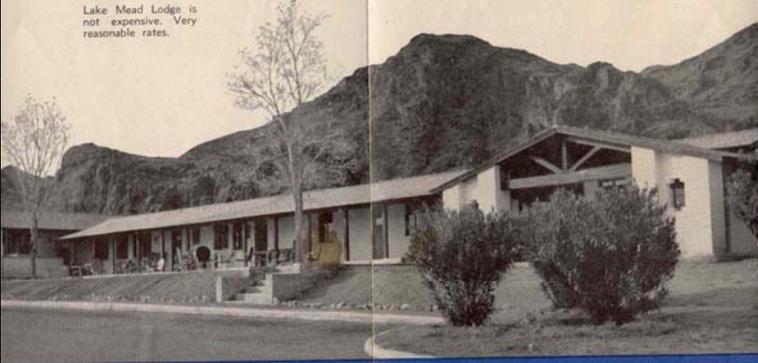
The lodge promoted the lake's scenic beauty and boating and fishing opportunities, as well as its modern amenities and proximity to Las Vegas, during the 1950s. Courtesy of the Boulder City Historical Society.

RIGHT AT YOUR DOORSTEP
MOTOR HOTEL

Get away from it all! Here at Lake Mead Lodge life is simple and comfortable . . . and all of the complicated problems are a long distance away. Leave your troubles and come to a place of extreme quiet and peace.

If you want entertainment and amusement, a few minutes' drive brings you to Las Vegas where there is fun galore. But Lake Mead Lodge will always be a place of rest and enchantment! The climate at Lake Mead is delightful the year 'round. Plan now for a care-free, fun-time vacation at Lake Mead Lodge!

Lake Mead Lodge is not expensive. Very reasonable rates.



LAKE MEAD LODGE IS RECOMMENDED BY DUNCAN HINES AND GOURMETS GUIDE



NEVADA'S WONDERFUL RESORT ON THE SHORE OF LAKE MEAD
Five Miles Northeast of Boulder City
ANOTHER CONTINENTAL HOTEL

FISHING ALL YEAR—no closed Season!
Boats, cruisers, and speed boats may be rented by hour or day. Tackle rented to boating parties. Enjoy your fun-time in Nature's astonishing wonderland!

LET'S GO
Fishin'

BOULDER CITY, NEVADA
LAKE MEAD LODGE




OPEN ALL YEAR **NO CLOSED SEASON**





COCKTAIL BAR For refreshment after a day of outdoor recreation . . . the Cocktail Lounge.

THE world is full of good fishing grounds but nowhere will the sportsman find a more unique site for indulging his skill than in and around Lake Mead. For here is a fisherman's delight, set in some of America's most unusual scenery. Winter and summer, Lake Mead is a perfect place to fish . . . here there is no closed season!



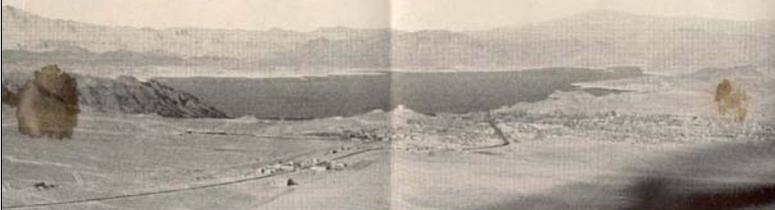
DINING ROOM An inviting place to enjoy some of our appetizing meals . . . prepared especially for sportsmen!

A Recreation Area that is unsurpassed! Here one will find plenty of things to do besides fish. Cruising and boating on Lake Mead is exciting. A visit to Hoover Dam is interesting and educational . . . just a short distance from Lake Mead Lodge. The National Park Service administers the Lake Mead Recreational Area and maintains a museum at Boulder City which is open to the public without charge.



DRIVE IN!

Lake Mead is a perfect motorists' hotel . . . Car parking near your cottage and complete informality . . . Come as you are!





LAKE MEAD Lake Mead Lodge overlooks a colorful panorama of mountains and water!

LAKE MEAD LODGE . . . just two jumps from the world's best fishing

Other brochures emphasized the fishing and the restaurant and bar facilities. Courtesy of the Boulder City Historical Society.



The NPS had pushed lodge owners to expand and upgrade facilities since the mid-1940s, and in 1954, the concessionaire installed a 30,000 gallon swimming pool.



Guests enjoying the lodge pool, ca. mid-1950s.



The lodge pool. The wading pool, which has since been filled in, is visible on the left.



The annex was built in 1954 and was designed with the same Spanish-style features and decorative details as the other three lodge buildings.



The view from Lake Mead Lodge, facing east toward Lake Mead.



Lodge building B (the north wing). This building has experienced the fewest changes of the three original buildings.



Building B. These shallow front gables are prominent features on both the north and south wings.



The interior of room 37 in building B. The concrete block walls and painted board ceiling are characteristic of rooms throughout the lodge. The corner windows can be found on a number of corner rooms.



The exterior of room 37 in building B. The grid pattern over the bathroom window is a feature found on buildings A, B and the annex.



The rear of building B.



6" x 6" beams support the roof and create a porch that runs the length of buildings A and B (the north and south wings).



A set of concrete block pillars and a kingpost open truss dominate each end of the administration building.



This 1949 International style addition first served as a restaurant, and is now utilized as a meeting room.



The entrance to the lobby. The lobby was originally set in the north end of the administration building.



Building A (the south wing). The room in the left foreground serves as the owner's suite.



Building A. The landscape features, such as the rope fence and lamppost, are not original.



Building A.



The swimming pool. The original brick patio surface has been replaced with concrete.



The swimming pool enclosure. The fence was built after the period of significance.



Detail of bathroom window.



The interior of the former dining room, which now serves as a meeting room.