



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Memorandum

To: John Chisum, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2012-044 Valley Admin Building Temporary Stair Installation and Geotech Borings (44532)

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

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- Will not be any effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- Will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

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

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

- No mitigations identified.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 44532.

//Don L. Neubacher//

Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 11/13/2012

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2012-044 Valley Admin Building Temporary Stair Installation and Geotech Borings

PEPC Project Number: 44532

Project Description:

This project is needed in response to an Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) violation issued July 27, 2012 which referenced the need for the building to have a secondary egress stair and a fire alarm system. The nature of the violation was "serious" and immediate action was required to avoid an evacuation requirement. Through a petition process the NPS was successful in separating the requirements into an immediate interim solution and a long term solution. The immediate solution required construction of a second story stair on the north side of the building. The stair is wood construction framed on pier blocks and has a 48" by 48" by 3.5" deep concrete landing pad on the ground level. The stairs are painted Wosky brown and are predominately self-standing. The stairs connect to the existing building at the second story deck which is centered on the north gable end of the building. This deck was constructed in the early 1990s and is not part of the historic structure. This interim construction configuration is not fully code compliant and is only allowed by OSHA through spring of 2014. The final requirement of the interim solution requires a two-step stair and grab bar to be installed at the second story exit window for emergency access to the deck and stairs. The long term solution will be evaluated under a separate design and compliance process. Design will evaluate three alternatives including a fully code compliant second story stair and alarm system, a three story stair, and an internal stair. Construction for the long term solution is targeted for fall of 2013, with compliance beginning in January 2013 and completed by mid-spring of 2013.

Stair design for the long-term solution needs to be informed by a soil investigation. This will be accomplished by drilling three bore holes near the building to determine the soil profile. The results of the boring will be evaluated by a geotechnical engineer to inform the foundation design for the alternatives that propose an exterior stair. More specifically, the borings will be accomplished using a drill rig mounted on a freightliner chassis (28' long by 10' wide), having a mast height of 27 feet. Up to a 9" diameter hollow stem auger will be drilled. Soil cuttings produced by auguring would generally fill 2 to 3 wheelbarrow loads if the 50 foot depth is achieved, and are typically used for backfilling the excavated boring after drilling is completed. Disturbance will be limited to the 9" diameter boring, with care taken moving the rig into and out of position. Area #1 (see Geotech Map) is the preferred drill location and may be the only area affected. However, if refusal is encountered prior to reaching the required depth, the drill rig will move to the other areas to achieve the deepest possible boring (up to 50').

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- No mitigations identified.

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

C.18 Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

//Don L. Neubacher//
Don L. Neubacher

12/20/12
Date

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 11/13/2012

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 11/13/2012

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

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2012-044 Valley Admin Building Temporary Stair Installation and Geotech Borings
PEPC Project Number: 44532
Project Type: OSHA Upgrade (OTHER)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California **District:** Valley
Project Leader: John Chisum

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

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			Up to three geotech borings will be conducted with a nine inch auger to a maximum depth of 50 feet.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Borings will produce temporary dust in the immediate vicinity of the

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
					investigation area.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			The drill rig will produce temporary drilling noises.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			Visitor experience will be temporarily impacted during the drilling.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Yosemite Valley Archeological District.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				List of Classified Structures #5778
20. Cultural landscapes	No				Yosemite Valley Historic District Yosemite Village Historic District
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?				
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
(Executive Order 12898)?				
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		No		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		No		

D. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? No
5. Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (*e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project*) Long-term egress solution.

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Woody Smeck	Deputy Superintendent
Michael Gauthier	Chief of Staff
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Teri Austin	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Kris Kirby	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education

Charles Cuvelier John Chisum Madelyn Ruffner Renea Kennec	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection Project Leader Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager NEPA Specialist
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F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

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

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>12/18/12</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>12/19/12</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>12/20/12</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>12/20/12</u>

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U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 11/13/2012

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: November 13, 2012

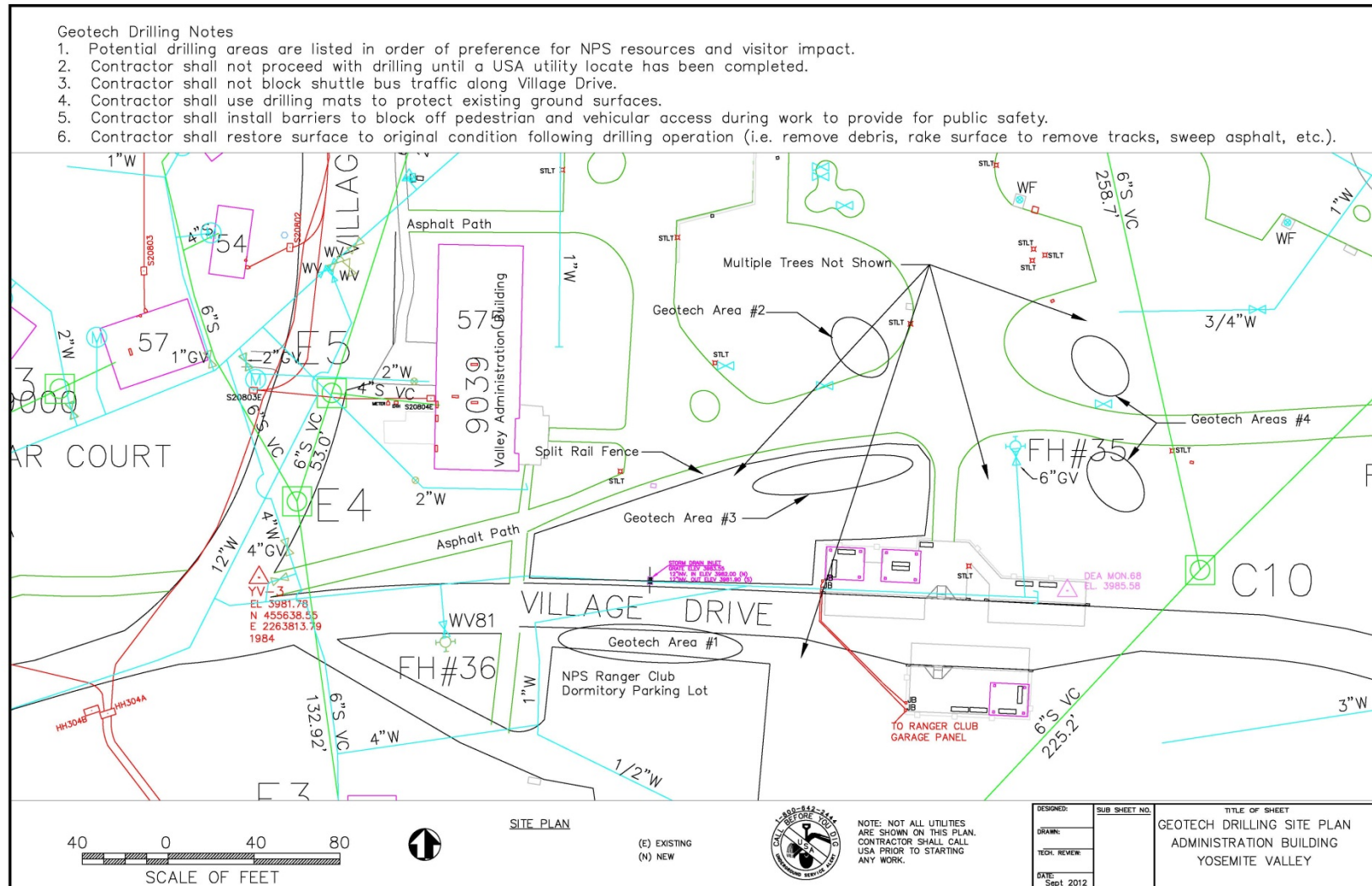
PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2012-044 Valley Admin Building Temporary Stair Installation and Geotech Borings
PEPC Project Number: 44532
Project Type: OSHA Upgrade (OTHER)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California **District:** Valley
Project Leader: John Chisum

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Up to three geotech borings will be conducted with a nine inch in diameter auger to a maximum depth of 50 feet.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Yosemite Valley Archeological District.
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		LCS #5778
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			Merced River
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	Yes			
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
Within designated Wilderness?		No		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		





Temporary Stair



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 11/13/2012

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2012-044 Valley Admin Building Temporary Stair Installation and Geotech Borings

Prepared by: Renea Kennec

Date Prepared: 11/13/2012

Telephone: 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 44532

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

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

 No

X Yes

Source or reference: **Yosemite Valley Archeological District; Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Village Historic District.**

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

X cultural deposits.)

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

None

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

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

 No Replace historic features/elements in kind

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

6. Supporting Study Data:

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

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

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

☒ [X] Archeologist
 Name: Laura Kirn
 Date: 11/13/2012

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐ []
 Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ [X] No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse
 Effect ☐ Streamlined Review
 Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:
 Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

☒ [X] Historical Architect
 Name: Shawn Lingo
 Date: 12/05/2012

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐ []
 Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ [X] No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse
 Effect ☐ Streamlined Review
 Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:
 Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Anthropologist
Name: Jennifer Hardin
Date: 12/06/2012

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Historical Landscape Architect

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Historic Properties	No Adverse	
Affected	Effect	Adverse Effect
<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

2. Documentation Method:

[] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION
Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

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

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

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

[] C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

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

[X] D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.
Specify: **1999 Programmatic Agreement**

☐ E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document

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

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

☐ G. Memo to SHPO/THPO

☐ H. Memo to ACHP

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and Conditions:

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

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

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

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Acting Historic Preservation Officer

//Kimball Koch//

Kimball Koch

Date: 12/17/12

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

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

Superintendent: //Don L. Neubacher//

Don L. Neubacher

Date: 12/20/12

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