

# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L7615(YOSE-PM)

### Memorandum

To: Bill Rust, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: Wawona Hotel, Refinish Sunroom Floor and Wood Paneling (29992)

The Management Team has reviewed the proposed project 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 or project implementation can commence.

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

- No mitigations identified.

//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.*



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## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2010-018 Wawona Hotel: Refinish Sunroom Floor and Wood Paneling

**PEPC Project Number:** 29992

**Project Description:** The concessioner proposes to refinish the wood floor and wood paneling in the Wawona Hotel Sunroom. The finish on both the floor and the side paneling is worn and deteriorated in some areas; cyclic maintenance and refinishing are due. The concessioner will refer to the condition assessment written by Carey & Co. for general information about finishes and treatment, but will consult with the park's Historical Architect and Historic Preservation Crew. They would also be guided by the recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior's *Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. All work would conform to park-approved specifications. The sunroom will be closed during the refinishing work.

### Wood Floor

The wood floor in the sunroom consists of 2-inch tongue and groove floorboards. The floor is darker than the wood paneling, likely from several applications of varnish to the floor throughout the years. In many areas, the floor needs refinishing (see photos). The scope of work is as follows: 1) Sand the wood floor with mechanical belt sander to remove existing finish. 2) Thoroughly vacuum floor and clean with a damp cloth. 3) Repair or patch worn areas with wood filler; sand until smooth. 4) Evenly apply a clear lacquer or varnish according to manufacturer's instruction. The finish should not be tinted.

### Wood Paneling

Oak wood paneling covers three-quarters of the sunroom's walls. A thin oak veneer forms the base of the paneling (with each panel having a unique wood grain). The oak relief wood that separates the panels is approximately one centimeter thick by 5.08 centimeters wide. The vertically-cut relief wood runs consistently horizontal. Steam radiators next to the delicate panels have caused significant water and heat damage. Recently, an entire wall panel was replaced with incompatible wood, which resulted in a visual separation from the rest of the room. Additionally, several random panels exhibit various levels of wear or water damage.

The scope of work is as follows: 1) Prepare the wood paneled walls for new varnish by applying a wood cleaner to remove dirt, oils, and excess varnish. 2) Lightly hand-sand rough areas or places with varnish build-up. 3) Hand-sand baseboards. 4) Remove radiators and the damaged wood paneling around them, retaining any paneling in good condition. 5) Remove the incompatible wood paneling. 6) Selectively remove additional panels and relief wood that can not be repaired. 7) Replace in-kind the wood paneling that has been removed. Match the relief pattern and select an oak veneer that varies in pattern. 8) Test the new varnish on extra materials to match the color of the existing wood. 9) Apply new varnish to all wood paneling for a consistent finish. The varnish color would be determined in consultation with the park Historical Architect. 10) Replace radiators and redirect steam-release valves

away from the wood surfaces. If this is not possible, consult with the park Historical Architect on an appropriate design for a removable heat barrier that would protect the wood between the radiator and the paneled wall.

**Project Location:**

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

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

**Park Superintendent** //Stan Austin// (acting)

**Date** 5/5/10

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the Environmental Planning and Compliance  
Office in Yosemite National Park.*



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 03/22/2010

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

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** Wawona Hotel, Refinish Sunroom Floor and Wood Paneling  
**PEPC Project Number:** 29992  
**Project Type:** Facility Maintenance (FM)  
**Project Location:** County, State: Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Bill Rust

Preliminary drawings attached? **Yes**

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

### B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.	No				
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			This project would include some temporary air emissions during the refinish work.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Work would be completed during non-quiet hours and would not last longer than five days.
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				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			The sunroom would be closed for five days during the refinishing work. Upon completion the visitor experience would be enhanced by an updated facility.
18. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
21. Energy resources	No				
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources</b>	<b>No Historic Properties Affected</b>	<b>No Adverse Effect</b>	<b>Adverse Effect</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
1. Archeological resources	X			
2. Prehistoric/historic structure		X		Wawona Hotel National Historic Landmark.
3. Cultural landscapes		X		Wawona Historic District.
4. Ethnographic resources	X			

### C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		No		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		No		

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

#### **D. OTHER INFORMATION**

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **No**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **No**

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **No**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **No**

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)? **No**

**E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES**

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Stan Austin	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Acting Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Bill Rust	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennece	NEPA Specialist

**F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY**

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

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennece//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennece	<u>4/21/10</u>
<u>//Madelyn Rufner// (acting)</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>4/23/10</u>
<u>//Michael R. Wichmann// (acting)</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>4/23/10</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>4/27/10</u>

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





## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **April 20, 2010**

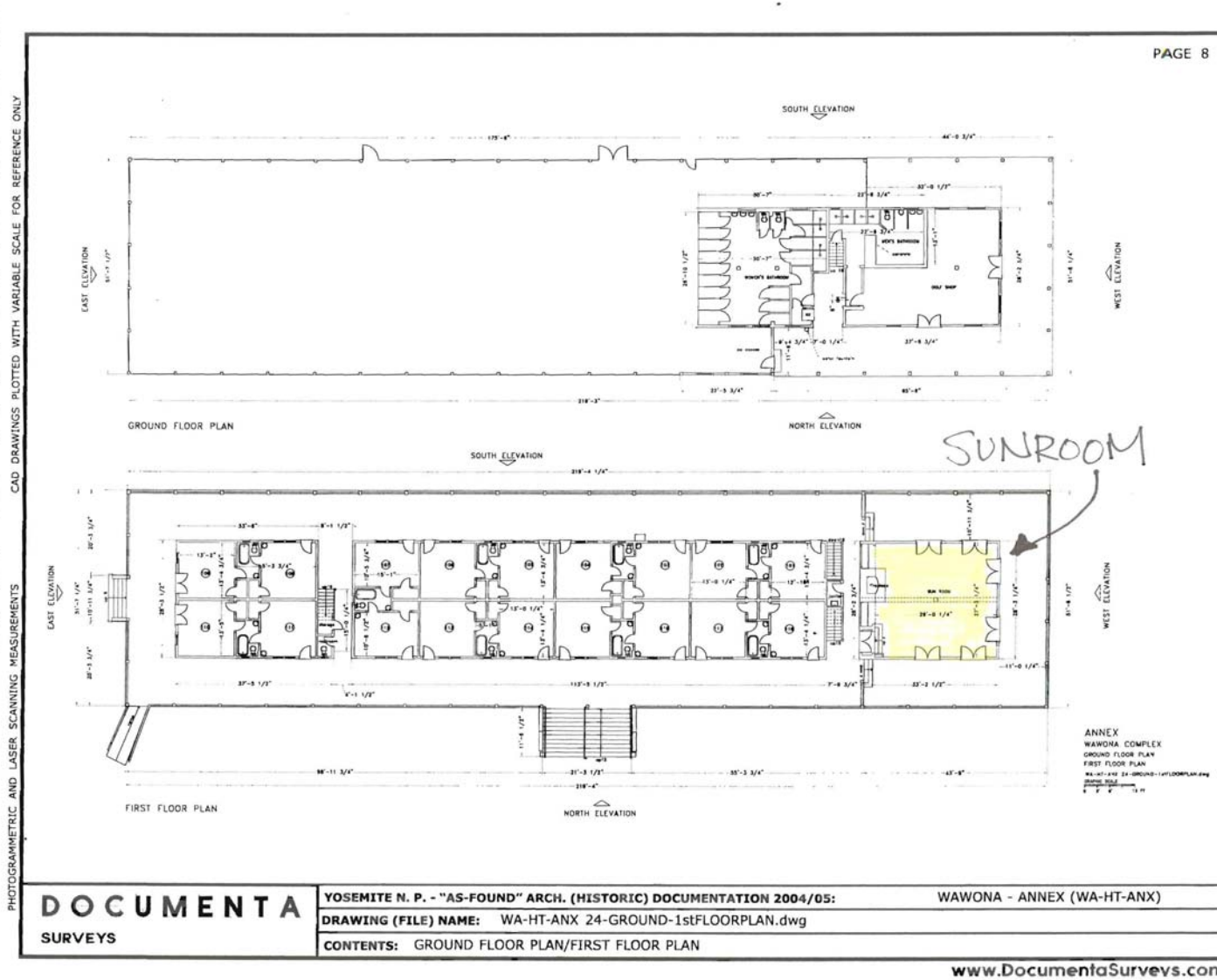
### PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2010-018 Wawona Hotel, Refinish Sunroom Floor and Wood Paneling  
**PEPC Project Number:** 29992  
**Project Type:** Facility Maintenance (FM)  
**Project Location:** County, State: Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Bill Rust

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST</b>				
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
5. Entail ground disturbance?		No		
6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
8. Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			National Historic Landmark #75000223.
9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in	Yes			List of Classified Structures #7158.

<b>ESF Addendum Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
the area of potential effect?				
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
11. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			South Fork of the Merced River.
12. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
13. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
19. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
20. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
21. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
50. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
22. Within designated Wilderness?		No		
23. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



**WAWONA – Refinish Sunroom Floor and Wood Paneling.  
Project Photographs**



Wawona Sunroom Oak Wood Wall Paneling. Note the unique wood grain pattern of each panel and the raised oak relief separating each panel.

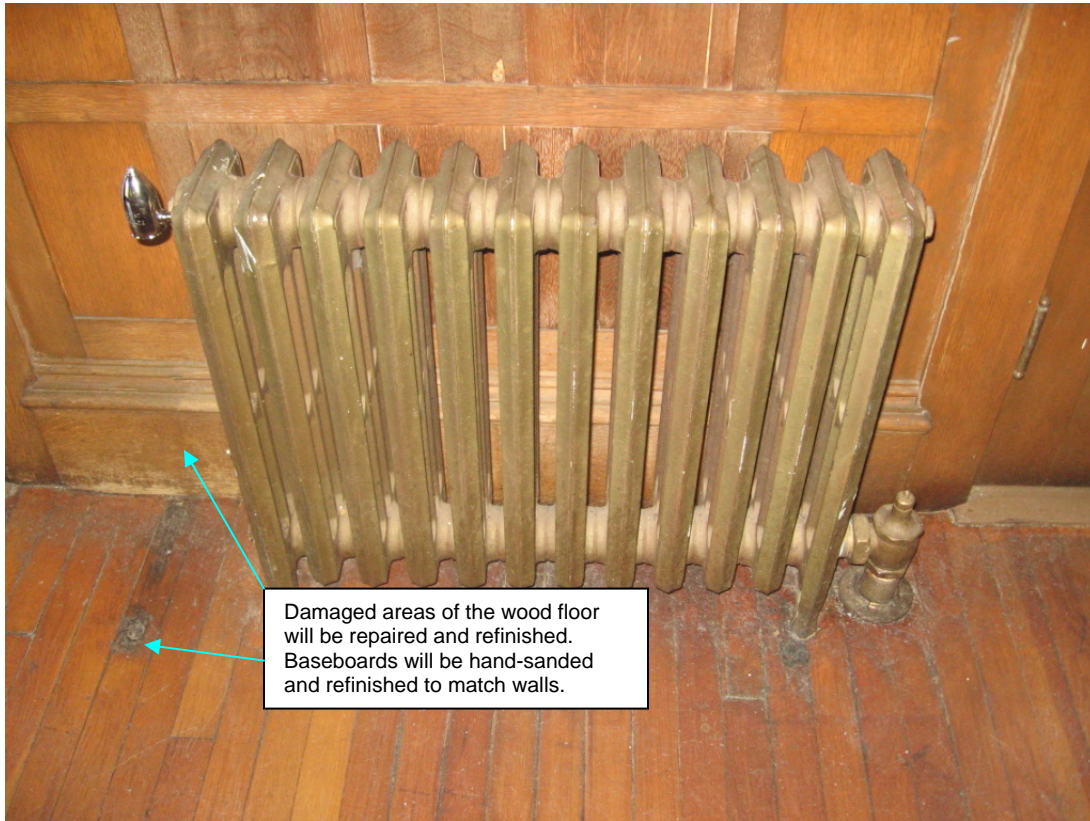


Wood paneling next to the two radiators in the sunroom is badly damaged and in some cases, requires replacement in-kind.



This is an example of a panel that requires minor repair and refinishing to match the rest of the wall.





Radiators will be removed to perform work and then replaced. It may be necessary to place a removable heat barrier between the radiator and the wood paneled wall to protect the wood finish. Wood floors will be refinished with clear lacquer as part of this project.



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## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

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

#### 2. Project Description:

a. **Project Name:** 2010-018 Wawona Hotel, Refinish Sunroom Floor and Wood Paneling

b. **Date:** April 14, 2010

c. **PEPC Project ID Number:** 29992

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

No

Yes, Source or reference: **Wawona Hotel National Historic Landmark; Wawona 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 cultural deposits.)

#### 4. Potentially Affected Resources:

Historical structures/resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Wawona Hotel National Historic Landmark**

NR status: **1 - Listed in Register and documented**

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

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

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

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

**No** Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

**No** Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

**No** Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

**No** Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

**No** Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

**No** Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

**No** Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

Other (please specify)

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

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

**7. Supporting Study Data:**

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

**8. Attachments:**

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

**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec **Date:** April 14, 2010 **Title:** Environmental Protection Specialist **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**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:

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Archeologist  
Name: Laura Kirn  
Date: 03/11/2010  
Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*   
Assessment of Effect:  No Historic Properties Affected  No Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect  Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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Historical Architect  
Name: Sueann Brown  
Date: 03/08/2010  
Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*   
Assessment of Effect:  No Historic Properties Affected  No Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect  Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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106 Advisor

Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 04/14/2010

Comments: This is an NHL and is covered under the 2008 NPS Nationwide PA

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PE)

Exclusion ID's: 1. Preservation Maintenance and Repair of Historic Properties

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Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 03/12/2010

Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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No Reviews From: Curator, Historian, Other Advisor, Anthropologist

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### **C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Historic Properties Affected  No Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

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

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

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria

(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

## 1) Preservation Maintenance and Repair of Historic Properties

Explanation: \_\_\_

### C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

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

Specify plan/EA/EIS: \_\_\_\_\_

### D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

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

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

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

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

### G. STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS

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

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer //Madelyn Rufner// (acting)

Date: 4/23/10

## D. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

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

Signature of Superintendent //Don L. Neubacher//

Date: 4/27/10

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