



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: James N. Vandenberg, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-105 Ahwahnee Hotel, Ground Floor Exterior Door Replication Test (27916)

The Management 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.

//Nikki Stephanie Nicholas// (acting)
David V. Uberuaga

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.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2009-105 Ahwahnee Hotel, Ground Floor Exterior Door Replication Test

PEPC Project Number: 27916

Project Description: The National Park Service (NPS) would replace one set of exterior doors on the ground floor of The Ahwahnee. This door would serve as a design model to inform The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan for other deteriorated exterior doors on the ground floor. The scope of work includes design and replacement of the Great Lounge exterior door, GL7.

Design: The National Park Service would retain a historical architect to provide design drawings, which would include specifications for reproducing the original hardware. The reproduced set of doors would closely match the original wood grain, glass, stain, and hardware; however, opportunities to include sustainability and accessibility would be considered.

Replacement: The original doors would be retained for study. The park curator would provide specifications to properly package, label, and store the original doors in the NPS archives. If requested, the original doors could be referred to the wood craftsman before being stored. The set of replacement doors would be constructed following historic design specifications. After installation, NPS subject-matter experts would meet to review, comment, and make recommendations on the design, which would be considered for future exterior door rehabilitation or replacements on the ground floor of The Ahwahnee.

Other Considerations: During the anticipated five-day construction period, the GL7 exit would be unusable. Interpretive signs would inform visitors of the temporary closure. Visitors to The Ahwahnee may exit the hotel through other nearby doors that would remain open. Former NPS exhibit specialist, Craig Struble, recommended rehabilitation of most ground floor doors in the *75% Draft Historic Structure Report for The Ahwahnee* and in the *2007 Interiors Report for The Ahwahnee*. In the *2007 Interiors Report*, the condition of doors GL7 and GL9 were assessed as poor, and replacement was recommended.

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.

Acting Park Superintendent //Nikki Stephanie Nicholas// (acting)

Date 2/17/10

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 02/01/2010

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: 2009-105 Ahwahnee Hotel, Ground Floor Exterior Door Replication Test
PEPC Project Number: 27916
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location: **County, State:** Mariposa, California
Project Leader: James Vandenberg

Preliminary drawings attached? Yes

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

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical 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	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
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				

Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
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			Visitors to The Ahwahnee would be unable to use the GL7 exit for five days. Many other exits would be available.
18. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)		Negligible			The original doors would be retained and stored in a secure location.
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				
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

Identify potential effects to the following cultural resources	No Historic Properties Affected	No Adverse Effect	Adverse Effect		Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Archeological resources	X				
2. Prehistoric/historic structure		X			The Ahwahnee National Historical Landmark.
3. Cultural landscapes	X				
4. Ethnographic resources	X				

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No		Mitigated; the assessment of effect is No Adverse Effect.
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		

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

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the National Park Service, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the 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? Yes

Did personnel conduct a site visit? No

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No, but this project will inform the The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan

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>
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Katariina Tuovinen	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kristina Rylands	Acting Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Paul Laymon	Acting Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Jim Vandenberg	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kenec	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 Kenec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kenec	<u>2/2/10</u>
<u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>2/11/10</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>2/16/10</u>

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>//Nikki Stephanie Nicholas// (acting)</u> David V. Uberuaga	<u>2/17/10</u>

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PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **February 1, 2010**

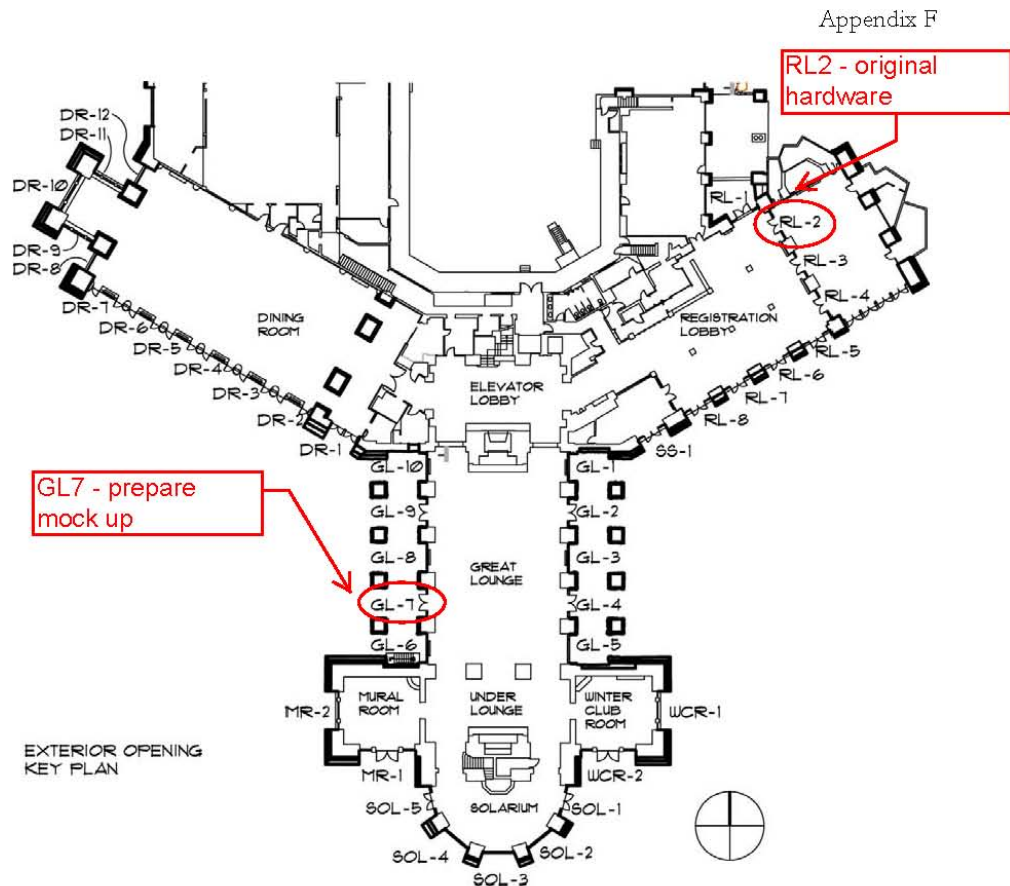
PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2009-105 Ahwahnee Hotel, Ground Floor Exterior Door Replication Test
PEPC Project Number: 27916
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: James Vandenberg

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
5. Entail ground disturbance?		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			This project includes the replacement of one set of exterior ground floor doors; the assessment of effect is No Adverse Effect.
8. Has a National Register form been completed?	No			

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	No			The Ahwahnee #55943.
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
10. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? (Name the river corridor)		No		Merced River.
11. Fall within the bed and banks AND will effect the free-flow of the river?		No		
12. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
13. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			N/A	
14. Protect and enhance river ORVs?			N/A	
15. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
16. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
17. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
18. Within designated Wilderness?		No		
19. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		

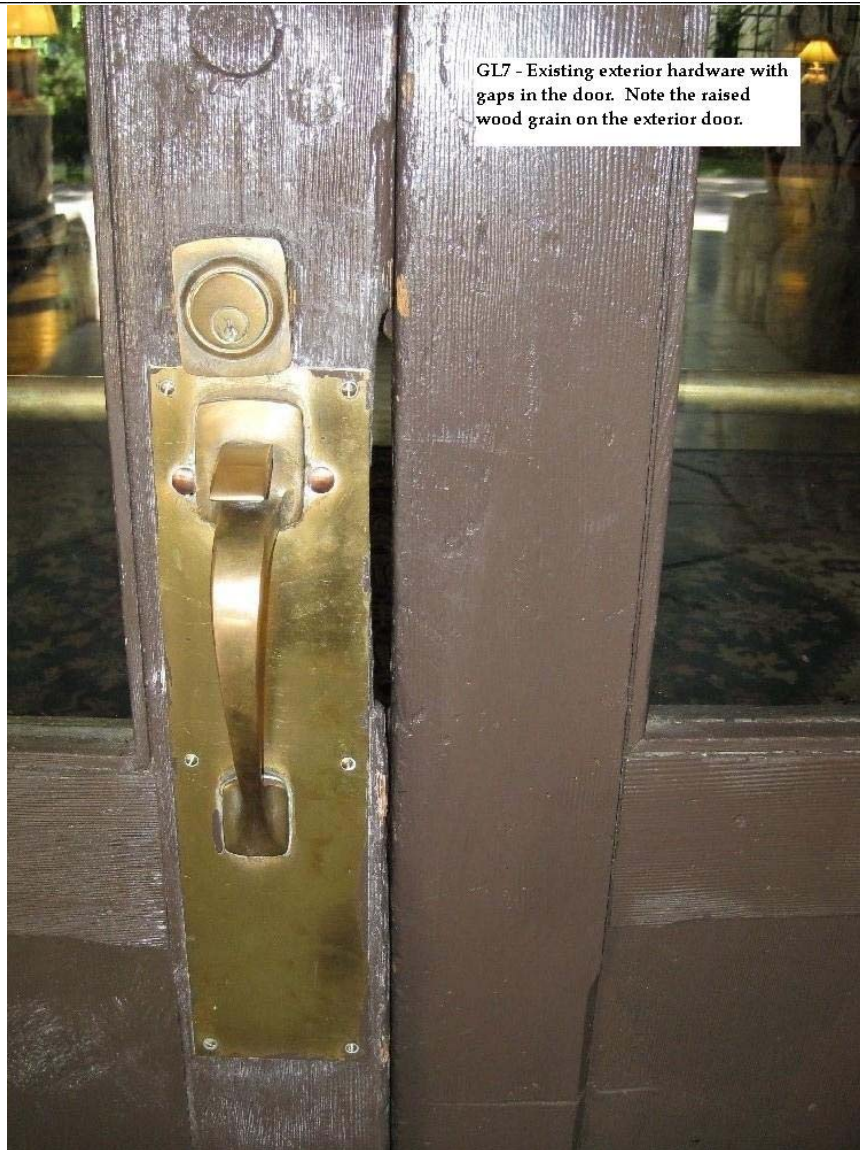


Registration Lobby

There are eight sets of exterior openings in the Registration Lobby. Three of them, which once opened to the original porte cochere, are now interior openings to the Ahwahnee Bar (RL-2, RL-3, RL-4). Two of the pairs of doors have been replaced (RL-1 and RL-5). These doors have insulated glass and the interior texture is smooth instead of having a raised-grain texture, like the original Doors. Two of the openings were originally part of the Sweet Shop and have more detailed carving on the interior frame (RL-7, RL-8). Four of the pairs of doors are continually kept locked (RL-2, RL-4, RL-6, and RL-7). The doors that are kept locked are in good condition, likely because they are not used. Three of the pairs of doors have been reversed so that the doors swing out instead of in (RL-1, RL-5, and RL-8). RL has the raised-grain texture of the door interior now on the exterior side of the door.

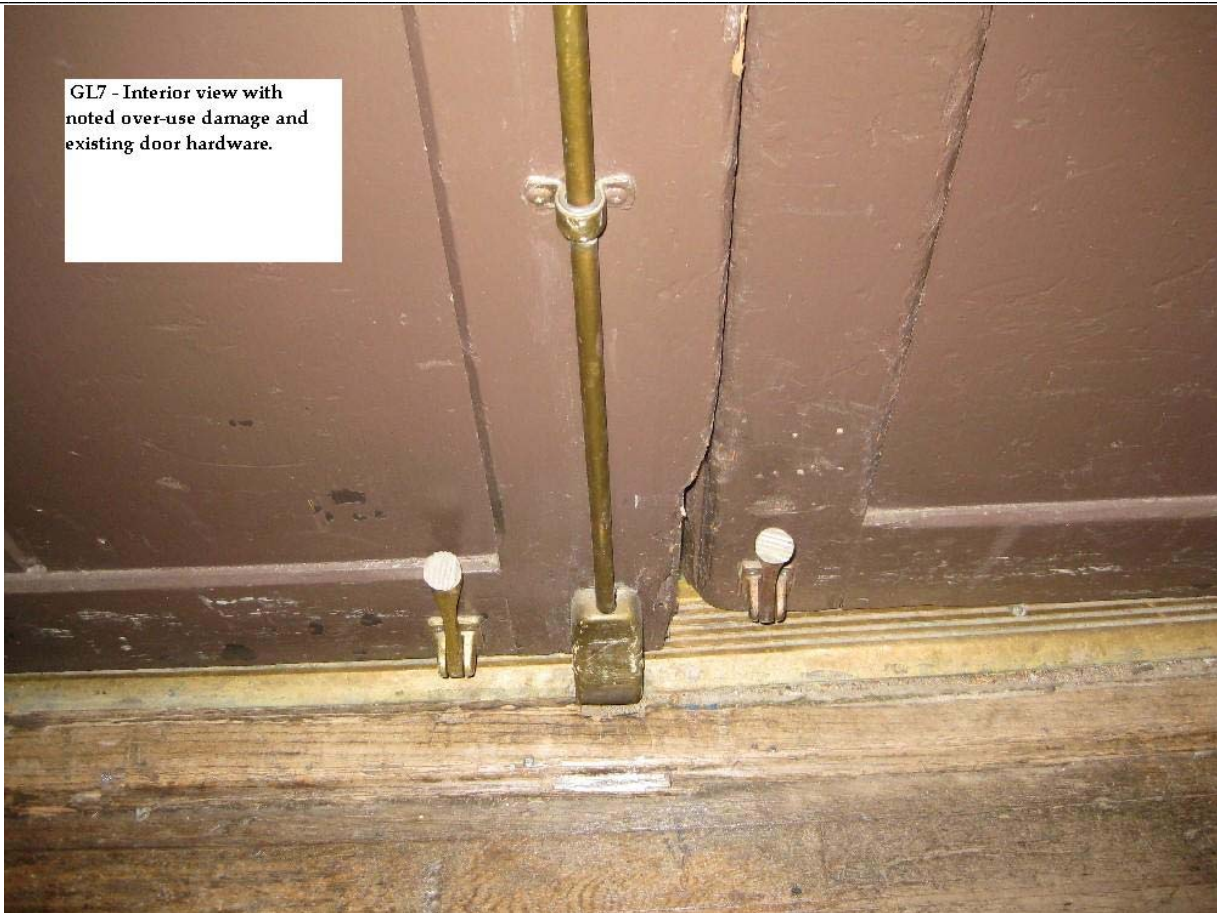
Recommendations:

- Maintain and repair doors as needed.
- Retain original hardware on doors in RL-2, RL-4, RL-5 and RL-6. Use the hardware on these doors as a guideline for replacement hardware on other doors.



GL7 - Existing exterior hardware with gaps in the door. Note the raised wood grain on the exterior door.







ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

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

2. Project Description:

a. **Project Name:** 2009-105 Ahwahnee Hotel, Ground Floor Exterior Door Replication Test

b. **Date:** November 24, 2009

c. **PEPC Project ID Number:** 27916

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

No

Yes, Source or reference: **Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Valley Archeological District; Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark**

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 numbers: Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark
NR status: 7 - A designated National Historic Landmark

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

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

Replace historic features/elements in kind

Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

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:** November 24, 2009 **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:

Archeologist
Name: Laura Kirn
Date: 10/13/2009
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:
No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

Historical Architect
Name: Sueann Brown
Date: 11/09/2009
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

Historical Landscape Architect
Name: David Humphrey
Date: 11/09/2009
Comments: None.

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:None.

Doc Method:
Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

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

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

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

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

C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

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

D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

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

Specify: _____

E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

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

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

G. STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS

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

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer //Renea Kennec// (acting)

Date: 2/2/10

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

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

Signature of Acting Superintendent //Nikki Stephanie Nicholas// (acting)

Date: 2/17/10

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Office in Yosemite National Park.*