

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Headquarters Administration Building
Name of Property
Santa Cruz, California
County and State
15000914
NR Reference Number

Request to Delist the Headquarters Administration Building (NPS #15000914)

Historic Context

DRAFT

The Headquarters Administration Building was listed on the National Register in 2015 at the state level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The property met the registration requirements of *The National-State Park Cooperative Program and the Civilian Conservation Corps in California State Parks 1933-1942 Multiple Property Submission*. Constructed in 1936, its period of significance, the building was one of the best examples of an administrative facility constructed during this period and demonstrated an association with the public works programs that oversaw and administratively controlled the development of facilities within state parks during the period of 1933 to 1942. More specifically, it exhibited all the essential elements of planning style that were advocated by the designs and agencies that developed these programs. The Headquarters Administration Building had all the major design characteristics of the Park Rustic style including the use of native materials that show hand craftsmanship, a low horizontal massing, and unobtrusive siting. Park Rustic architecture was developed by the National Park Service to complement the nation’s natural preserves and wilderness areas by blending the natural and built environments. The property also met the registration requirements of the *Historic Resources of Big Basin Redwoods State Park Multiple Property Submission*, its secondary association.

Current Physical Description

Due to the 2020 CZU Lightening Complex wildfire, the building was destroyed leaving only the original fireplace, chimney, and stone steps. These remaining features do not convey the Administration Building’s association with the CCC for which it was listed under Criterion A. The building no longer possesses the Park Rustic character defining features that made it eligible for listing under Criterion C.

Request

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 60.15 (a) (1), the property owner, California State Parks, requests the removal of the Headquarters Administration Building from the National Register of Historic Places on the grounds that, “The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed.”

Evidence of demolition is included in the accompanying correspondence from the property owner. The patio and foundation will be retained as a monument to the contributions of the CCC and the building remains, re-categorized as a site, will be locally designated as a California Point of Historical Interest.

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State Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ additional documentation ___ additional documentation: name change
___ move ___ removal ___ other
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.

Signature of Certifying Official/Title

Date of Action

Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ additional documentation ___ additional documentation: name change
___ move ___ removal ___ other
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.

Signature of Certifying Official/Title

Date of Action

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ additional documentation accepted
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action



March 2, 2023

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Re: Delisting Headquarters Administration Building (NR# 15000914), Santa Cruz County

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) is requesting the Big Basin Redwoods State Park Headquarters Administration Building be removed from the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Places. On August 16, 2020, the CZU Lightening Complex tore through Big Basin Redwoods State Park destroying almost all the facilities within the park, including the Headquarters Administration Building. The stone and brick fireplace and chimney, stone foundation and patio are all that remains of the CCC constructed log and stone building (see attached photographs).

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed the administration building in 1936 as the first facility that would welcome visitors to the park. The log and stone building sited on a curve of the highway with a backdrop of ancient redwoods, provided a dramatic entrance to the park. By architectural design, materials, and siting, the Administration Building met the tenets of the CCC Park Rustic style and was listed on the National Register on December 22, 2015 under Criteria A and C in the areas of Politics/Government and Architectural at the state level of significance under the Multiple Property Submissions (MPS) *National-State Park Cooperative Program and the Civilian Conservation Corps in California State Parks 1933-1942* (primary) and *Historic Resources of Big Basin Redwoods State Park* (secondary).

Established by President Roosevelt's New Deal legislation and approved by Congress on March 31, 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), provided young unemployed men jobs during the Great Depression. Over nine years, the CCC employed about three million men nationwide in forest management, flood control, conservation projects, and the development of state and national parks, forests, and historic sites. The enrollees received the benefits of education, health care, food, job training, a small paycheck, and the dignity of honest work. Big Basin Redwoods Park, like many of the California state parks, benefited from the CCC program with new infrastructure, trails, and facilities. The Administration Building was an iconic example of the facilities designed and constructed as part of the

CCC program. It was significant at the state level under National Register Criterion A for its association with the CCC.

Listed on the National Register under Criterion C, the Administration Building was an excellent example of Park Rustic style architecture. It exhibited all the character defining features of the architectural style which include a low horizontal form with gable or cross-gable roof, use of local rustic materials that varied depending on the local setting, handcrafted detailing of some architectural features, natural paint tones, and integration with the surrounding setting. The building was one-story and featuring a low horizontal form with gable and cross-gable ell, open eaves with exposed wood rafters. Building materials used in the construction include peeled redwood logs, flattened timber, natural color board and batten siding, wood shingle roof, cut masonry stone foundation, patio, and steps. The interior was paneled with knotty pine, had open beam ceilings, and featured a massive double stone fireplace. These character defining features made it an excellent example of the Park Rustic style and eligible under Criterion C at the state level of significance. For a property to be eligible at the state level, the CCC MPS states it should exhibit a high degree of artistry and craftsmanship, should exemplify all the characteristics of the Park Rustic style, and should also represent facilities within the broader property type that are unique or unusual in their scale, craftsmanship, and/or design. Visitor facilities are the most likely to meet these requirements. The Administration Building met the requirements for eligibility at the state level and was an exceptional example of Park Rustic style, exhibiting a high level of craftsmanship and all the character defining features of the style.

Parks is saddened to report that due to the 2020 wildfire, the building was destroyed leaving only the original fireplace, chimney, and stone steps (Photograph 1). These remaining features do not convey the Administration Building's association with the CCC for which it was listed under Criterion A on the National Register of Historical Places. Furthermore, it no longer possesses the Park Rustic character defining features that qualified it for listing under Criterion C on the National Register of Historic Places.

California State Parks is not considering reconstructing the Administration Building as it would not be possible to restore its association with the CCC nor would it be possible to reconstruct with old growth redwood and local stone which is no longer available. Although the building will not be reconstructed due to the fragile nature of the ancient redwood forest under increasing pressure from climate change, the lack of materials, and the need to provide greater accessibility to millions of park visitors, the remaining patio and foundation will be retained as a monument to the contributions of the CCC, environmental preservationists, and staff that came before the fire. It will continue to remind visitors of the long history of Big Basin Redwoods State Park within in the conservation movement, as well as the development of state parks in California.

Please let us know if you require any further documentation to complete the removal of the Headquarters Administration Building from the National and California Registers. For questions concerning this request, please contact or Kathleen Kennedy at Kathleen.Kennedy@parks.ca.gov.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie L. Northcott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie Hartzell, Ph.D.
Department Preservation Officer and Tribal Liaison
Cultural Resources Division Chief

Attachments: Photographs

Cc: Chris Spohrer, District Superintendent, Santa Cruz District
Martin Rizzo, State Historian II, Santa Cruz District
Kathleen Kennedy, State Historian II, CRD

Figures



Figure 1. Administration Building, camera facing southeast. September 28, 2020.



Figure 2. Administration Building, aerial. September 3, 2020.



Figure 3. Administration Building, camera facing northeast. May 20, 2008.