



Reply to: 2360

Date: August 19, 1983

Mr. Ron Leonard  
P.O. Box 33783  
Phoenix, AZ 85067

Dear Mr. Leonard:

As per your recent telephone conversation with our Cultural Resources Staff, please find enclosed a number of items relating to our current efforts to prepare a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Tuttle Creek Ashram. These items include: 1.) a copy of the standard criteria which all properties must meet; 2.) a copy of the exceptional criteria which properties under 50 years of age must meet (applicable in this case because of the Ashrams age); and 3.) a draft copy of the actual nomination, including rough draft of the 'Significance' section. In addition, there is a list of questions and topics for which we need additional information.

As you are aware, our deadline for submission of the final nomination is September 30, 1983. We would sincerely appreciate any information that you may be able to supply on such short notice.

If you have any questions, please contact Renee Giansanti or Rich Weaver at the above listed address or telephone number.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. RUOPP  
Recreation Staff Officer

Enclosure



## Forests, and Public Property

lecture, archeology, engineering, is present in districts, sites, structures, and objects that possity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and associ-

are associated with events that a significant contribution to the erns of our history; or are associated with the lives of nificant in our past; or embody the distinctive character-type, period, or method of con-or that represent the work of a that possess high artistic values, present a significant and distin- entity whose components may dual distinction; or have yielded, or may be likely to rmation important in prehistory

considerations. Ordinarily ceme- thplaces, or graves of historical roperties owned by religious insti- used for religious purposes, struc- t have been moved from their locations, reconstructed historic properties primarily commemora- ture, and properties that have significance within the past 50 ll not be considered eligible for the Register. However, such properties fy if they are integral parts of dis- t do meet the criteria of if they n the following categories:

eligious property deriving primary ce from architectural or artistic n or historical importance; or ulding or structure removed from al location but which is significant for architectural value, or which riving structure most importantly d with a historic person or event;

irthplace or grave of a historical outstanding importance if there is priate site or building directly asso- th his productive life.

emetery which derives its primary nce from graves of persons of tran- importance, from age, from dis- design features, or from association oric events; or reconstructed building when accu- xecuted in a suitable environment ed in a dignified manner as part oration master plan, and when no ulding or structure with the same on has survived; or property primarily commemorative i if design, age, tradition, or symbol- has invested it with its own excep- gnificance; or

property achieving significance he past 50 years if it is of exception- tance.

This exception is described further in NPS "How To" #2, entitled "How to Evaluate and Nominate Potential National Register Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last 50 Years" which is available from the National Register of Historic Places Division, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## § 60.5 Nomination forms and information collection.

(a) All nominations to the National Register are to be made on standard National Register forms. These forms are provided upon request to the State Historic Preservation Officer, participating Federal agencies and others by the NPS. For archival reasons, no other forms, photocopied or otherwise, will be accepted.

(b) The information collection requirements contained in this part have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3507 and assigned clearance number 1024-0018. The information is being collected as part of the nomination of properties to the National Register. This information will be used to evaluate the eligibility of properties for inclusion in the National Register under established criteria. The obligation to respond is required to obtain a benefit.

## § 60.6 Nominations by the State Historic Preservation Officer under approved State Historic Preservation programs.

(a) The State Historic Preservation Officer is responsible for identifying and nominating eligible properties to the National Register. Nomination forms are prepared under the supervision of the State Historic Preservation Officer. The State Historic Preservation Officer establishes statewide priorities for preparation and submittal of nominations for all properties meeting National Register criteria for evaluation within the State. All nominations from the State shall be submitted in accord with the State priorities, which shall be consistent with an approved State historic preservation plan.

(b) The State shall consult with local authorities in the nomination process. The State provides notice of the intent to nominate a property and solicits written comments especially on

the significance of the property and whether or not it meets the National Register criteria for evaluation. The State notice also gives owners of private property an opportunity to concur in or object to listing. The notice is carried out as specified in the subsections below.

(c) As part of the nomination process, each State is required to notify in writing the property owner(s), except as specified in paragraph (d) of this section, of the State's intent to bring the nomination before the State Review Board. The list of owners shall be obtained from either official land recordation records or tax records, whichever is more appropriate, within 90 days prior to the notification of intent to nominate. If in any State the land recordation or tax records is not the most appropriate list from which to obtain owners that State shall notify the Keeper in writing and request approval that an alternative source of owners may be used.

The State is responsible for notifying only those owners whose names appear on the list consulted. Where there is more than one owner on the list, each separate owner shall be notified. The State shall send the written notification at least 30 but not more than 75 days before the State Review Board meeting. Required notices may vary in some details of wording as the States prefer, but the content of notices must be approved by the National Register. The notice shall give the owner(s) at least 30 but not more than 75 days to submit written comments and concur in or object in writing to the nomination of such property. At least 30 but not more than 75 days before the State Review Board meeting, the States are also required to notify by the above mentioned National Register approved notice the applicable chief elected official of the county (or equivalent governmental unit) and municipal political jurisdiction in which the property is located. The National Register nomination shall be on file with the State Historic Preservation Program during the comment period and a copy made available by mail when requested by the public, or made available at a location of rea-

(p) *Structure*. A structure is a work made up of interdependent and inter-related parts in a definite pattern of organization. Constructed by man, it is often an engineering project large in scale.

*Examples*

Swanton Covered Railroad Bridge (Swanton vicinity, VT)  
Old Point Loma Lighthouse (San Diego, CA)  
North Point Water Tower (Milwaukee, WI)  
Reber Radio Telescope (Green Bay vicinity, WI)

(q) *Thematic Group Format submission*. A Thematic Group Format submission for nominating properties to the National Register is one which includes a finite group of resources related to one another in a clearly distinguishable way. They may be related to a single historic person, event, or developmental force; of one building type or use, or designed by a single architect; of a single archeological site form, or related to a particular set of archeological research problems.

(r) *To nominate*. To nominate is to propose that a district, site, building, structure, or object be listed in the National Register of Historic Places by preparing a nomination form, with accompanying maps and photographs which adequately document the property and are technically and professionally correct and sufficient.

§ 60.4 Criteria for evaluation.

The criteria applied to evaluate properties (other than areas of the National Park System and National Historic Landmarks) for the National Register are listed below. These criteria are worded in a manner to provide for a wide diversity of resources. The following criteria shall be used in evaluating properties for nomination to the National Register, by NPS in reviewing nominations, and for evaluating National Register eligibility of properties. Guidance in applying the criteria is further discussed in the "How To" publications, Standards & Guidelines sheets and Keeper's opinions of the National Register. Such materials as available upon request.

*National Register criteria for evaluation.*  
The quality of significance in American his-

tory, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

(a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

(b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

(c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

(d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

*Criteria considerations*. Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria of if they fall within the following categories:

(a) A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or

(b) A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or

(c) A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life.

(d) A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or

(e) A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

(f) A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or

(g) A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

Regular  
National Register  
Criteria

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Washington, DC 20243

## EVALUATE AND NOMINATE POTENTIAL NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTIES THAT HAVE ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE LAST 50 YEARS

by Marcella Sherfy and  
W. Ray Luce, Historians  
National Register

The National Register criteria for evaluation accept the nomination of properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years only if they are exceptionally important or if they are integral parts of districts that are eligible for listing in the Register. That principle serves as a safeguard against listing properties of contemporary, faddish value and ensures that the Register will be a Register of Historic Places. The criteria are not designed to prohibit the consideration of properties whose unusual contribution to the development of American history, architecture, archeology, and culture can be clearly demonstrated. The following discussion outlines the National Register's understanding and application of the criteria to properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years.

It is important to remember throughout the discussion that the criteria provide general guidance on Register eligibility, but do not constitute fixed standards or rules. The sponsors of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act did not assume that significance could be a matter of rigid, objective measurement. They specifically encouraged the recognition of locally significant historic resources that by appearance or as-

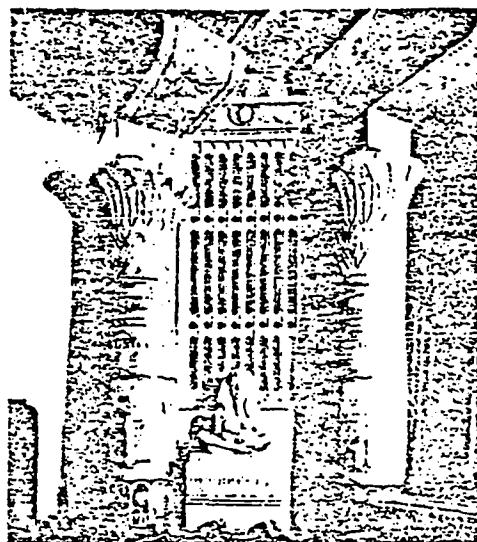


Photo: Duane Garrett for HABS

*Stage of Ada Theatre (1927). Boise, Idaho, is flanked by colorful papyrus columns copied from the Hall of Karnak and seated deities in the style of the Memnon statues of Thebes. The theater is an outstanding example of the Second Egyptian Revival in architecture which was inspired by the excavation of many Egyptian tombs during the 1920s.*

sociation provide communities with a sense of past and place. The historical value of those resources will always be a matter of public sentiment and directed, rigorous, but still subjective, professional assessment. Hence the criteria, including the discussion of properties of recent significance, were written to offer broad guidance based on the practical and philosophical intent of the 1966 act.

As a general rule, properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years are not eligible for National Register listing because the Register is intrinsically a compilation of the nation's historic resources worthy of preservation. The program does not encompass properties important solely for their contemporary use

or impact. The passage of some time is necessary in order to apply the adjective "historic" and to insure adequate perspective. Society rarely has the objectivity or the professional knowledge necessary to evaluate historical impact, role, or relative value immediately after an event occurs or a building is constructed. If the Register is to be a useful tool over a length of time, it cannot include properties of only transient value or interest. The passage of time allows our perceptions to be influenced by education, the judgments of previous decades, and the dispassion of distance. We are thus better prepared to weigh the presence of enduring interest and value.

Fifty years is obviously not the only length of time that defines historic or makes objective judgment possible. It was chosen as a reasonable, perhaps popularly understood, span that makes professional evaluation of historical value feasible. Additionally, properties of some architectural or historical merit will usually survive in active use for a period of 50 years before being popularly considered historic.

Nevertheless, the criteria encourage Register consideration of recently significant property if it is of exceptional importance to a community, a state, a region, or the nation. The criteria do not describe *exceptional*, nor should they. *Exceptional* cannot by its own definition be fully catalogued or anticipated. It may reflect the extraordinary impact of a political or social event. It may exist because an entire category of resources is so fragile that survivors of any age are unusual. It may be a function of the relative age of a community and its perceptions of

old and new. It may be represented by a building or structure whose developmental or design value is quickly recognized as historically significant by the architectural profession. It may reside in a range of resources for which a community has an unusually strong associative attachment.

Thus while a complete list of exceptionally significant resources cannot be prepared or precise indicators of exceptional value prescribed, factors to consider while evaluating property that may have achieved significance in the last 50 years are discussed here. Some of the elements for consideration overlap, and as a whole they do not constitute a

checklist which every property in question must meet. The factors discussed are, instead, written to inform those who need to make recommendations of exceptional significance.

### Level of Significance

\*Exceptional importance does not mean national significance. The degree of a property's historical significance should be measured within the realm of its use, impact, or influence, whether that be a community, a state, a region, or the country.

Hence a recent building may be of exceptional significance in one state because that building type is very scarce there while the

same building might not be of exceptional importance to another state or community. For example, the General Laundry Building in New Orleans, one of the few remaining Art Deco structures in that city was listed in the National Register when it was 45 years old. Although it was clearly of exceptional importance in its own community, it was not judged to be of national significance and it might not have been found exceptionally important in a city such as Miami where there are many Art Deco buildings.

### Property and Significance Age

The criteria do not discuss a property's physical age, but the time from which it achieved prominence or significance. The significance of an architecturally important resource can be charted from the time of its construction, but the significance of properties important for historical associations should be dated from the significant event or the period of association with a historically important individual. The significance of Upton Sinclair's house in Monrovia, California, because of its association with Sinclair, obviously begins in 1942 when he purchased the house rather than in 1923 when the house was built. But if a building like the Sinclair property is also architecturally significant, it can be nominated for both areas of significance and might not need to be justified as exceptionally important.

### Perspective

Fifty years was not selected for use in the criteria because it is the only point in time at which a property achieves historical significance. The criteria were written rather to ensure the passage of enough time so that time itself could serve as a historical filter, helping to separate the significant from the briefly interesting. Fifty years was chosen as the approximate time needed to gain such perspective.

In 1975 for example, the National Register encouraged states and federal agencies to consider nominating some Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration structures, all of which were built during the 1930s,

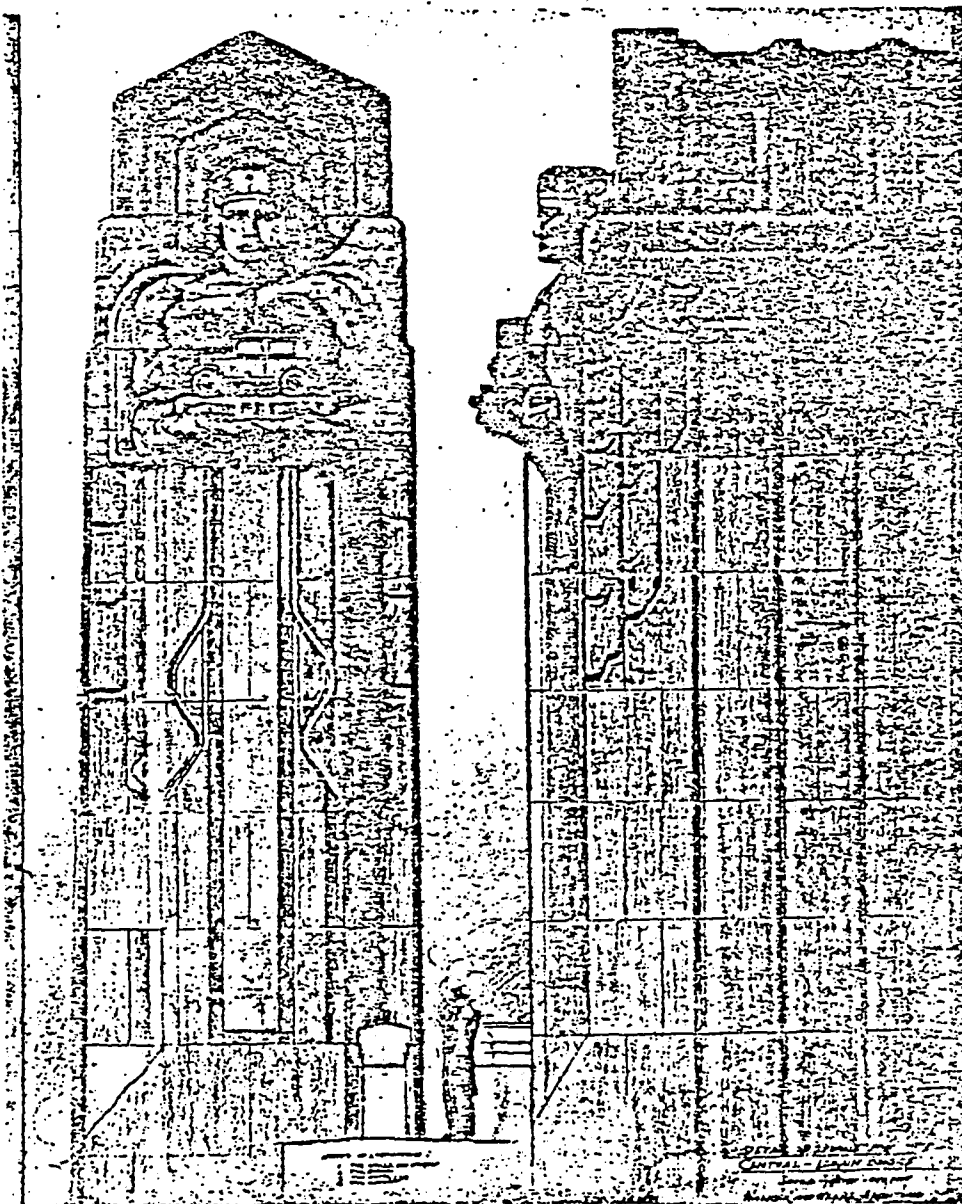


Photo: Elvay Sanford, Western Reserve Historical Society

Original drawing for sculptured pylon, Lorain-Carnegie Bridge (1927-1932), Cleveland, Ohio. Because its pylons in the Modernistic style dynamically symbolized the development of American transportation, the bridge qualified as exceptionally significant and was entered on the National Register in 1976.

because, "the perspective of time now begins to permit us an objective assessment of the works of the WPA and CCC of the Depression era."

### Recent Structures

Correspondingly, the more recently a property has achieved significance, the more justification will be required to demonstrate its value as an exceptionally important historic resource in the field of architecture, history, archeology, or culture. A property listed 10 or 15 years after it has achieved significance requires clear, widespread recognition of its importance while a property that has been significant for almost 50 years can more easily be justified as exceptionally important in a more limited context.

For example, at this writing Dulles Airport, constructed in 1962, is the most recent property individually listed in or determined eligible for the National Register. The airport was immediately recognized as one of the most important post-World War II American architectural masterpieces and as one of the most innovative in airport design. A 1976 American Institute of Architects poll selected the building as the third most significant building in the nation's first 200 years. The building has been widely recognized as exceptionally important in the history of American architecture.

### Scholarly Evaluation

A case can more readily be presented and accepted for a property that has achieved significance within the last 50 years if the style of architecture or the historic circumstances in question have become a matter of scholarly interest and evaluation, as opposed to being considered solely in the context of popular, social commentary. For example, the significance of the 43-year-old Ash Mountain Sign in Sequoia National Park was not clearly recognized or defensible until a recent study, "National Park Service Rustic Architecture" (San Francisco, 1968), established the design and associative context in which the importance of such resources could be evaluated.

### Fragile or Short-lived Resources

Exceptional importance should consider not only the relative scarcity of a kind of resource, but also the degree to which that type of resource is generally or inherently fragile. This consideration is wholly different than evaluating whether a specific property is threatened by a specific project. A specific threat does not render a property more or less historically important. But resources that are intrinsically fragile or short-lived by virtue of the climate in which they exist, the nature of their construction, or the duration of the life intended for them may take on greater historic value earlier than resources that are structurally more sound, or they may simply require more rapid evaluation if their preservation is to be encouraged.

### Comparative Value

In evaluating and justifying exceptional importance, it is especially critical to identify all the properties, in a geographical context, that portray the same values or associations and determine those that best illustrate or represent the architectural, cultural, or historical values in question.

For example, in some communities World War II military activity had such an enormous impact on area business, housing, and development that properties associated with the War may be judged to be exceptionally important. But before nominating properties to the Register for that association, interested preservationists should identify all the surviving World War II resources and determine which ones best or most strongly illustrate the significance being considered. Although several properties associated with the War may be found to be exceptionally important, it is unlikely that all related resources could be defended as such.

### Properties in Historic Districts

Buildings less than 50 years old may be eligible for National Register listing if they are integral parts of districts that are eligible for National Register listing. The

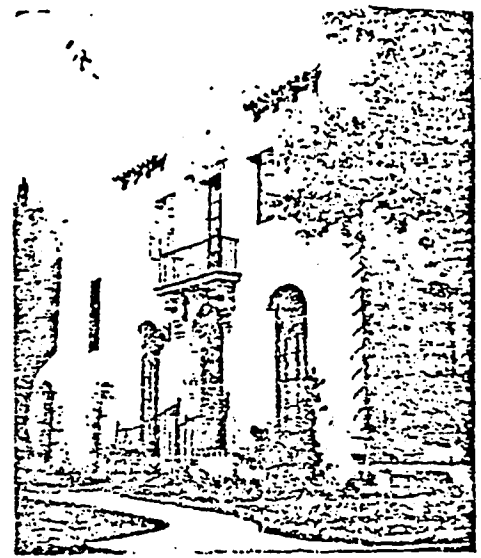


Photo: National Park Service

*The Upton Sinclair House, Monrovia, California, achieved significance in 1942 when the renowned writer and social critic purchased it. Built in 1923, the house is also a fine example of Spanish Colonial Revival Architecture.*

San Francisco Civic Center Historic District, for instance, includes the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building completed in 1932 and the Federal Building completed 4 years later. The newer structures are judged to contribute directly to the associative values of the entire district and indirectly to the architectural values of the area.

Entire districts that have achieved significance in the last 50 years may themselves be eligible for the Register as being exceptionally important. For example, Radburn, New Jersey, an unusually important planned community designed in 1929 to be the "town of the motor age" with an innovative separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, was listed before it had been significant for 50 years.

### Justification

As discussed in *How To Complete National Register Forms* (available for \$1.35 from US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; stock number 024-005-00666-4), the nomination form for a property that has achieved significance within the last 50 years must contain an explicit justification or explanation of the property's exceptional value. The rationale should not be an implicit part of the statement of significance or treated as self-evident, but should be explicit



and direct. In short, the nomination form must make a persuasive case that the grounds for evaluating a property's exceptional importance exist and that the property being nominated meets the qualifications identified.

The following recent properties have been listed in or determined eligible for the National Register. The list is not exhaustive either in terms of themes listed or all properties falling within a theme, but it is intended to illustrate the range of such Register properties.

- X I. Criterion A. Properties "that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." Many of these properties relate to major themes in 20th-century American history.

#### Transportation

*Delta Queen* (1924), Cincinnati, OH. Listed 1970. A well-preserved sternwheel steamboat, which, when listed, was the last sternwheeler engaged in overnight passenger trade on an American river.

✓ *Shell Service Station* (1930), Winston-Salem, NC. Listed 1976. A small, concrete, shell-shaped building significant as a vestige of the literalism of 1930s advertising, an example of the vernacular roots from which pop architecture grew, and "an architectural object of direct and almost universal appeal."

*Cincinnati Union Terminal* (1933), Cincinnati, OH. Listed 1972; NHL 1977. One of the finest American railroad terminals. Fine Example of Art Deco architecture.

*Douglas Municipal Airport* (1928), Douglas, AZ. Listed 1975. One of the first international airports. A stop on the first transcontinental air-rail route and on the first transcontinental airmail route.

*Pan American Sea Plane Base and Terminal Building* (1930-1938), Miami, FL. Listed 1975. Pan American airway's central facility for flights to South America. Significant for historical association with the Company and the development of air travel with South America and as one of the last remaining 1930s seaplane facilities in nearly original condition.

*Lighter-than-Air Ship Hangers* (1943), Santa Ana, CA. Listed 1975. Two hangers built to house six airships each, as part of the US antisubmarine defense. In addition to the historical associations, the hangers, which are 178 feet high and over 1,000 feet long, are among the largest wood-supported structures in the world.

#### Nuclear Development, and Space Exploration

*Reber Radio Telescope* (1937), Green Bank vicinity, WV. Listed 1972. First radio telescope designed and built to do radio astronomical research.

*U.S. National Arboretum* (1927), Washington, DC. Listed 1973. One of the largest arboreta in the US. Through its research and education programs it breeds plants for localities throughout the country and is the repository for international gifts.

*Experimental Breeder Reactor Number 1* (1949), Arco, ID. NHL 1965. This reactor was the first to use plutonium rather than uranium as a fuel, and was the first reactor built by the Atomic Energy Commission to provide electricity for civilian use.

*Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory* (1943), Los Alamos, NM. NHL 1965. One of the world's most important laboratories. Discoveries at the center range from the development of the atomic and hydrogen bombs and the development of several new nuclear reactors to experiments with rocket propulsion.

#### World War II

*Quonset Point Naval Air Station* (1939-1940), North Kingston, RI. Determined eligible 1978. One of three new naval air stations created under recommendations of the Hepburn Board to aid Ameri-

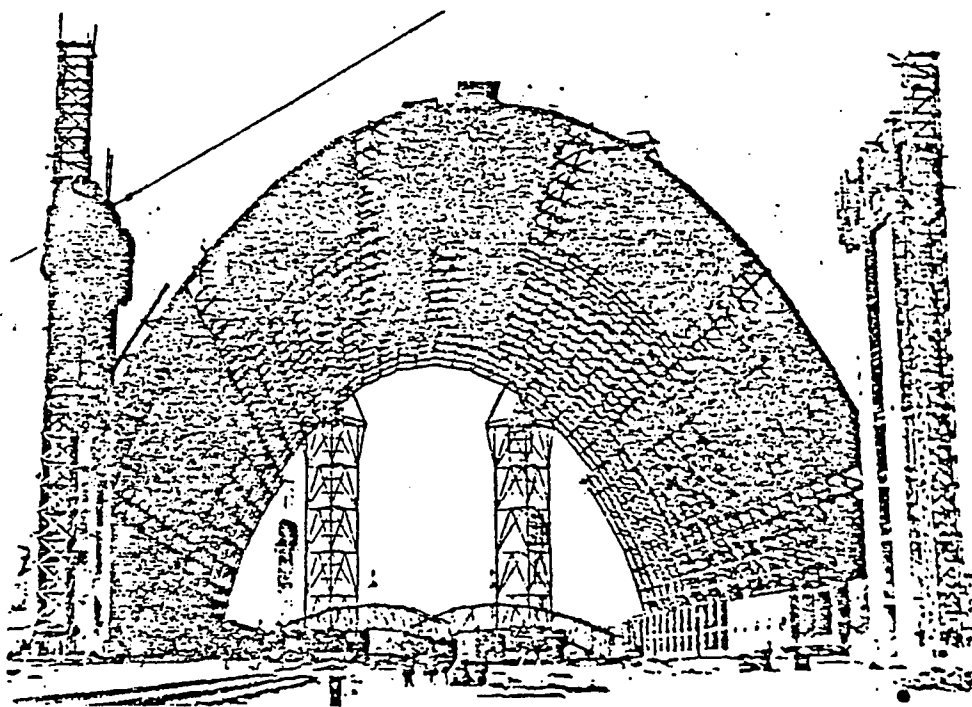


Photo: US Navy

A photograph of the first Lighter-than-Air Ship Hangar, Santa Ana, California, under construction in 1943, revealed one of the world's largest wood-supported structures. Its immense size and its historic role in housing an entire squadron of airships for US antisubmarine defense mark the hangar's exceptional importance.

*Horton Test Sphere* (1951), Fort Detrick, MD. Determined eligible 1977. This large, one-million-liter test sphere, claimed to be the largest such structure in the world, was used by the army to study infectious diseases and toxic substances. Experiments here helped make the comparatively recent study of aerobiology a quantitative science.

can preparation for World War II. The base, designed primarily by Albert Kahn Inc., was completed six months prior to Pearl Harbor. The base is significant as an early, intact example of American mobilization for World War II, for its role in the War, and as one of the largest complexes of early-20th-century buildings in Rhode Island.

including U.S.S. MISSOURI (1944). Bremerton, WA. Listed 1971. Significant as location of the Japanese surrender ending World War II, and for service during World War II and the Korean War. Also listed is the U.S.S. SILVERSIDES (1941), Chicago, IL. Listed 1972. One of the most significant American World War II submarines. The vessel played a particularly important role in combat engagements in the Pacific.

Three Japanese relocation center sites in Utah, California, and Alabama.

Wendover Air Force Base, Utah, where the crew of the "Enola Gay" prepared to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Eight sites in Guam ranging from invasion beaches to coastal defense guns.

Suicide Cliff on Saipan.

#### Federal Response to the Depression

A number of WPA and CCC projects have been listed including: Massive Timberline Lodge (1936-1938), Government Camp vicinity, OR. Listed 1973; NHL 1978. It was a major example of 1930s "mountain architecture," and one of the finest WPA projects. Later it became a major winter recreation center. Price Municipal Building (1938-1939), Price, UT. Listed 1978. Judged of "exceptional importance" to the state partially on the basis of an important WPA mural in the building.

A few public housing projects have been listed in or determined eligible for the Register including: Techwood Home District (1935-1936), Atlanta, GA. Listed 1976. This was "the first federally funded public housing in the United States to reach actual construction stage and represents the federal and local government's first attempts, in a social/humanitarian way, to eradicate slum housing on a grand scale.

Rising Hail Colony (authorized 1938), Greenwood vicinity, SD. Listed 1975. The remaining building from a federally funded project to stimulate recovery among the Yankton Sioux by establishing

a community development association, headed by C. R. Whitlock who wanted to establish a pre-1858 Indian lifestyle.

II. Criterion B. Allows the listing of properties "that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past." This criterion has too often been limited to sites associated with politicians, military figures, and business leaders. Evaluation should be made for sites associated with individuals significant in all aspects of our past, including science and the arts. Homes of literary figures judged of "exceptional significance" and listed before they had achieved significance for 50 years, range from those of nationally prominent individuals like Eugene O'Neill (NHL) near Danville, CA, and Ernest Hemingway (NHL), at Key West, FL, to the study of author William Hervey Allen in South Miami, FL.

✱ It is particularly difficult to have proper perspective in evaluating sites associated with living individuals. This realization, combined with the Register's concern that it not be used to endorse the work of a living individual, has led to a rather firm reluctance to

list buildings associated with living individuals unless sufficient time has elapsed to fully evaluate their contribution.

III. Criterion C. A greater number of recent properties are justified as being of "exceptional" significance under Criterion C than under any other criterion.

✱ This criterion allows the listing of properties "that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction."

Chrysler Building (1928-1930), New York City, NY. NHL 1976. Perhaps the classic expression of "Style Moderne" architecture, and, for a few months, the tallest building in the world.

Ada Theatre (1927), Boise, ID. Listed 1974. An excellent example of Second Egyptian Revival architecture.

Majestic Theatre (1929), San Antonio, TX. Listed 1975. The theatre, part of a 18-story office building, is among the state's few remain-

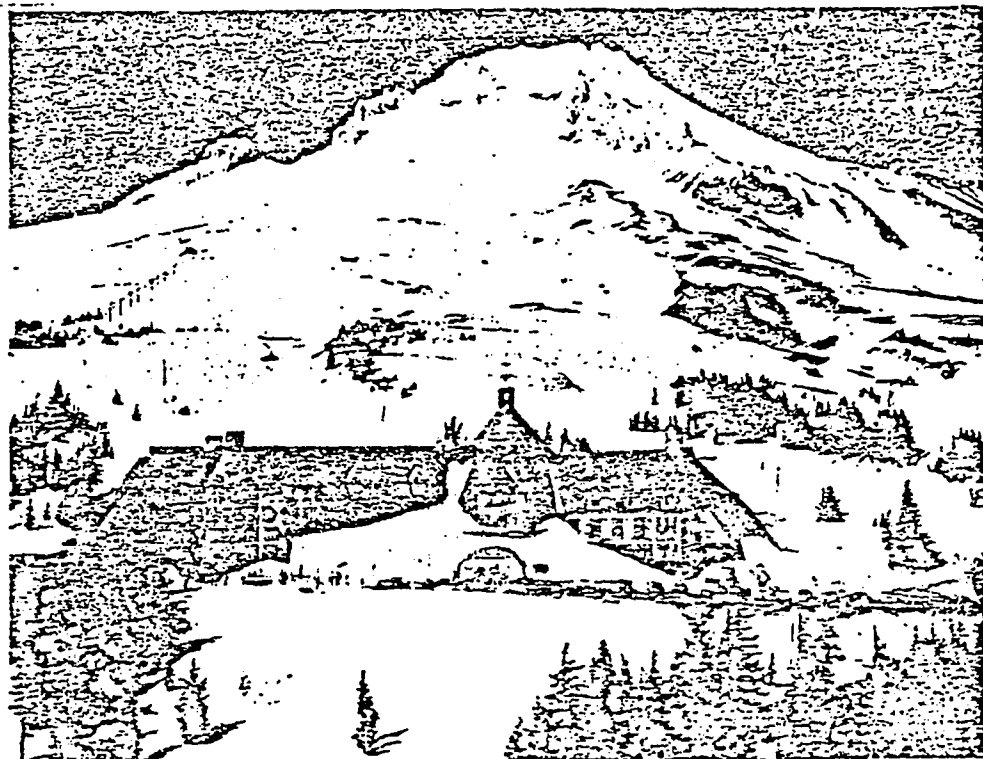


Photo: Oregon State Highway Division

Timberline Lodge (1936-1938) on the southern slope of Mount Hood, Oregon, is an outstanding WPA project and a good example of "mountain architecture." The winter resort's social purpose, artistic design, fine craftsmanship, and use of natural materials distinguish its exceptional significance.



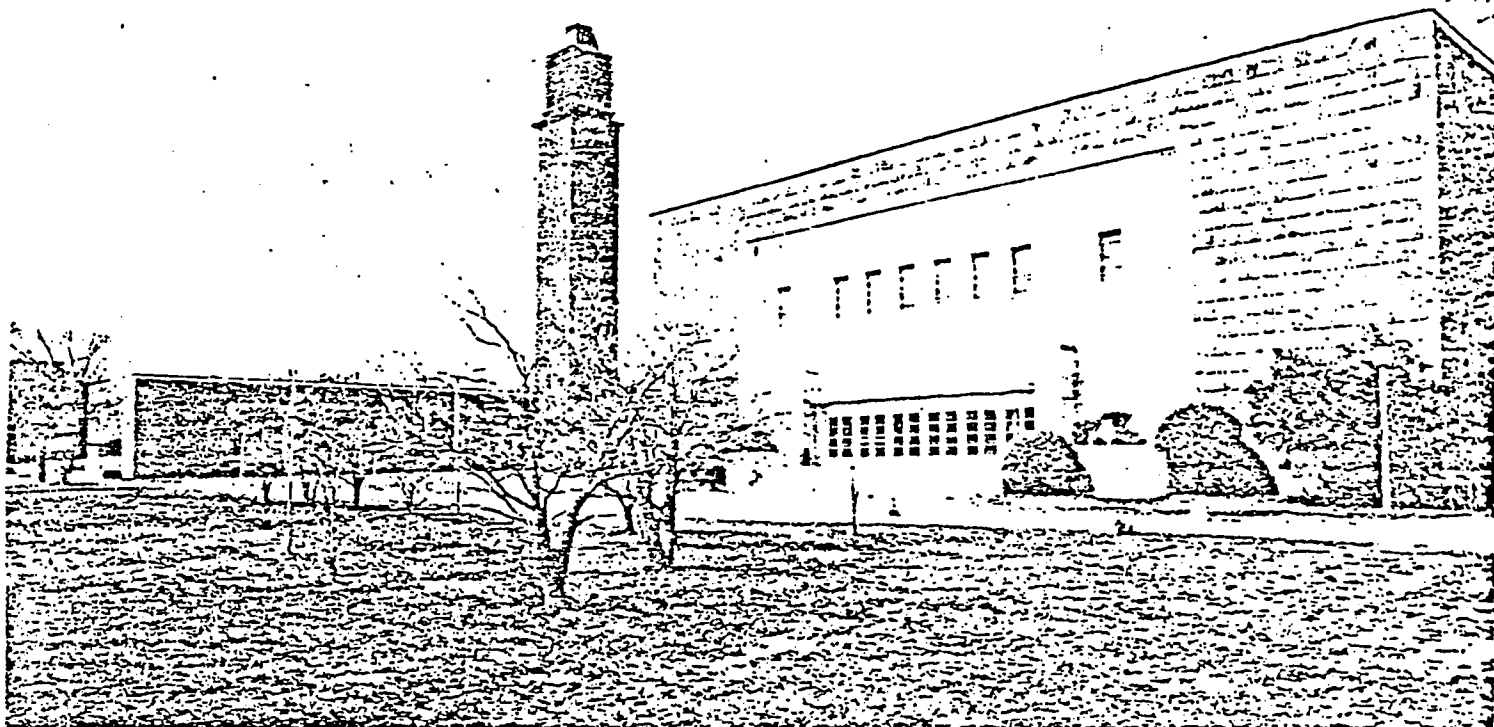


Photo: Walter Smalling, Jr., for the National Register

The Belgian Building at the 1939 New York World's Fair heralded the stark International Style. When World War II hindered its transport to Belgium in 1941, the building, by renowned European architects Victor Bourgeois and Leo Stijnen, was given to Virginia Union University. Representing a major international movement that has revolutionized contemporary architecture, the building was entered on the National Register in 1970.

ing intact examples of exuberant theatre architecture. The interior walls are particularly lavishly decorated with Moorish and Spanish motifs.

Belgian Building (William J. Clark Library and Barco-Stevens Hall) (1939), Richmond, VA. Listed 1970. Originally the Belgian Pavilion for the 1939 World's Fair, this important example of 1930s International School architecture was designed to be removed to a Belgian university after the fair, but World War II prevented the removal. The Belgian government presented the building to Virginia Union University which moved the building to its Richmond campus.

Forum Cafeteria (interior 1929-1930), Minneapolis, MN. Listed 1976. The interior is a rare example of early Art Deco in the Twin Cities.

#### Structures and Miscellaneous

Water Reclamation Plant (1926), Coconino County, AZ. Listed 1974. Built to reclaim water on the arid south rim of the Grand Canyon, this facility was one of the earliest water reclamation plants in the country.

Eastwood Park Bridge (1927), Minot, ND. Listed 1975. The canti-

lever bridge is an interesting example of the interaction of function and aesthetics. False arches were added to give the impression of a more visually pleasing arched bridge. The bridge is also an important entry into Eastwood Park, a residential community.

Ladew Topiary Gardens and House (ca. 1935), Taylor vicinity, MD. Listed 1976. An unusually fine topiary garden recognized by the Garden Club of America in 1971 as the outstanding topiary garden in the country.

#### Work of a Master

Several comparatively recent buildings are listed in the National Register as the work of a master. Ten of the more than 40 buildings on the Register designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, for example, were listed before they were 50 years old. These include not only such nationally significant structures as Falling Water (NHL) (1935) in Fayette County, PA, and the Johnson Wax Administration Building and Research Tower (NHL) (1936, 1944) in Racine, WI, but locally significant buildings like the Pope-Leighey House (1938) in Fairfax County, VA. It should

be noted, however, that not every building by Frank Lloyd Wright, or any prominent architect, is automatically eligible for National Register listing and certainly all are not of "exceptional importance," even at the local level.



Photo: Henry Pollard

USS Lionfish, launched in 1943 and now in Battleship Cove, Fall River, Massachusetts, represents the standard submarine used by the US Pacific Fleet during World War II. Since it is one of the last in almost original condition, the historic submarine qualified for listing in the National Register before it fulfilled the 50-year criterion.

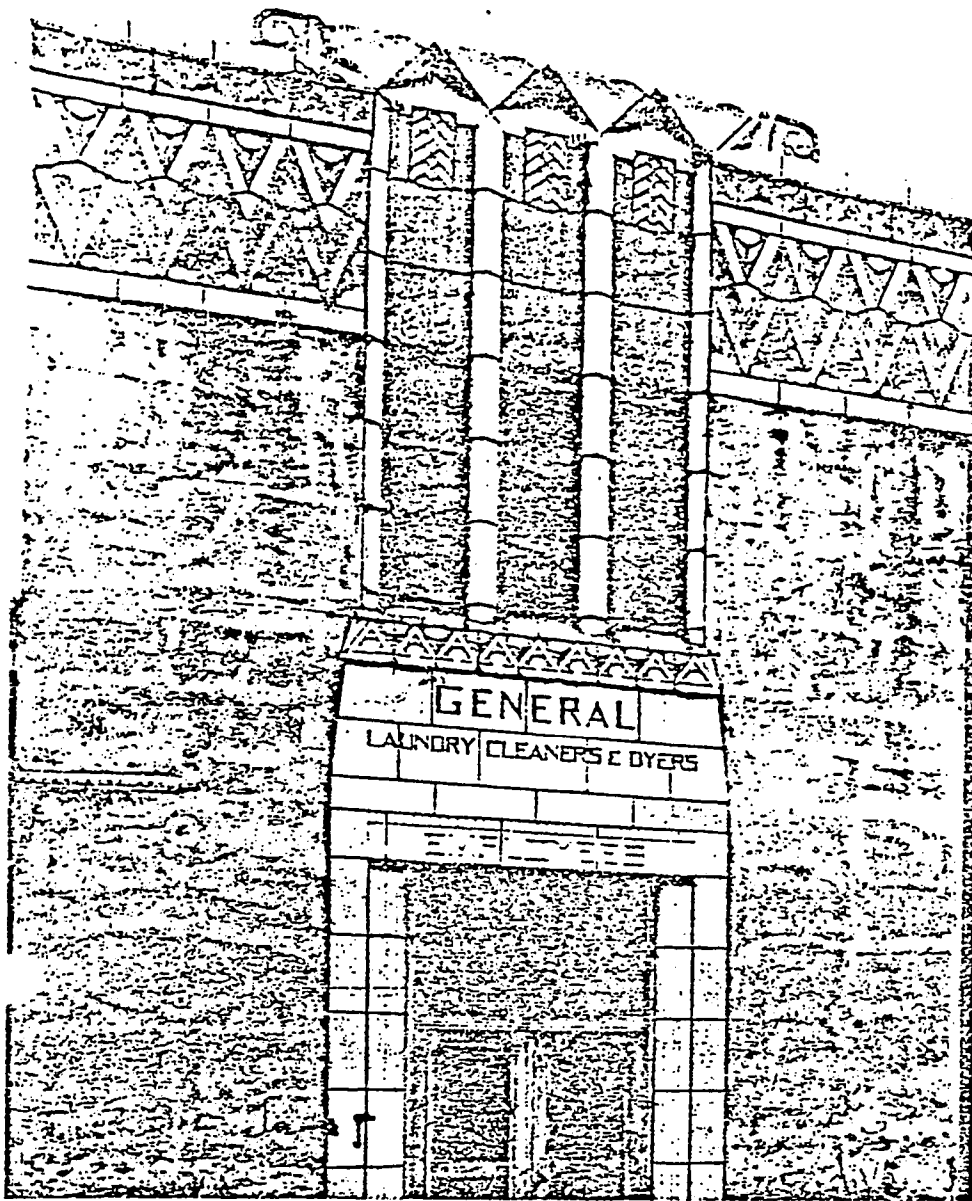


Photo: Jet Lowe for the National Register

Entrance to New Orleans's General Laundry Building (1929) vividly displays chevrons, sunbursts, and zigzags in polychromatic tiles and terra-cotta. The building was listed in the National Register in 1974 as one of the few surviving examples of Art Deco in New Orleans.

#### Traditional Building Forms

A few recent examples of traditional building forms were listed as significant under Criterion C. McCranie's Turpentine Still (1936) is the best-preserved wood-burning turpentine still known in Georgia, while the Waherak "Maihar" (1958) is a very recent example of a traditional sailing canoe in the Trust Territory of the Pacific, where, because of the rapid deterioration of materials, no working Micronesian canoes exist that are more than 20 years old.

IV. Criterion D. It is particularly difficult to assess the significance of properties that "have yielded or

may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history" if those properties are less than 50 years old. This is often because the information such properties may yield can be provided by the written record or other available materials. Moreover it is sometimes difficult to provide an objective scholarly framework to separate the enduring from current research interests in the information content of recent historic properties. Generally a certain amount of time has to pass before one can accurately assess the contribution of a particular study to the development of an entire discipline. However,

when a property is seen to make a significant contribution, the informational values the property contains should be presented with a precise discussion of how the property may provide an exceptional contribution to our understanding of history, architecture, archeology, or culture.

The National Register criteria for evaluation encourage the listing of a property that has achieved significance within the last 50 years only if it is of exceptional importance or if it is a contributing part of a Register eligible district. While that language sounds restrictive, the criteria are general principles, not rules. The criteria discussion of recently significant property was not intended to bar consideration of many resources that can be judged unusually important in the recent development of American history, architecture, archeology, or culture. However, the criteria and Register program require that nominations for such property demonstrate that sufficient historical perspective and scholarly, comparative analysis exist to justify the claim of exceptional importance.

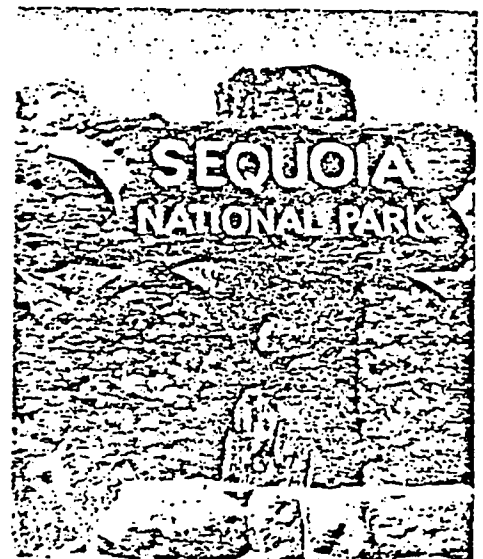


Photo: J. Howell, Sequoia Park Headquarters

Ash Mountain Entrance Sign (1935). Sequoia National Park, California, bears the carved profile of the Cherokee Indian, Sequoyah. A recent scholarship established the context for evaluating the artistic design, fine craftsmanship, and use of natural materials in pioneering examples of the National Park Service's rustic architecture.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC  
CA-INY-467

AND/OR COMMON

Tuttle Creek Ashram

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Lone Pine

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

18

STATE  
California

CODE  
06

COUNTY  
Inyo

CODE  
027

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Forest Supervisor's Office, Inyo National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

873 N. Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Bishop

VICINITY OF

STATE  
California 93514

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Forest Supervisor's Office, Inyo National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

873 N. Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Bishop

STATE  
California 93514

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
USFS Archaeological Reconnaissance Report 05-04-188

DATE  
8-18-80

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Forest Supervisor's Office, Inyo National Forest, 873 N. Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Bishop

STATE  
California 93514

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

—EXCELLENT  
—GOOD  
\*FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
—RUINS  
—UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

X UNALTERED  
—ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE  
—MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tuttle Creek Ashram is situated within a pinon pine forest in a glacially carved canyon in the granitic Sierra Nevada Mountains at an elevation of 7,600 feet. It sits on a steep ridge between the North and South Forks of Tuttle Creek, in the John Muir Wilderness, Inyo County, California. The land is located in the Inyo National Forest. The stonework of the main building and the numerous retaining walls blend so well into the ridge that they are hard to see from a distance of one-half mile when they first become visible from the Tuttle Creek Trail.

The Ashram is a detached, one story, gable roofed building in the shape of a balanced cross (see drawing). Each arm of the cross measures forty-nine feet four and one-half inches. It is ten feet in height (interior wall measurement), excluding a six foot high attic. The walls are constructed of randomly laid native granite stones set in mortar, much of which was blasted during construction of the terrace, on which the Ashram is built. A layer of large stones form the exterior facing, backed by concrete poured into forms. Smaller stones were inserted behind the large ones to reduce the amount of concrete required for the work. Wall thickness varies from thirteen to twenty inches. A large fireplace, also of randomly laid natural granite stones, was built on the southwest intersection of the two arms of the cross. At the other three points of intersection, large double doors penetrate the walls. There is a single door just south of the fireplace (see drawing). Eight windows open on the ground floor. The arrangement of windows is different in each wing. Three smaller windows on the end walls of the cross open into the attic (which was never floored). Only the northern wing does not have one of these windows.

Reflecting the exterior cross pattern, the interior has a large central octagonally shaped room with four, ten foot six inch long wings. The fireplace as mentioned above, is located in the southwest intersection of the two arms of the cross. The roof consists of two intersecting gable roofs with four triangular sections of roofing which form the centrally located octagonal pattern, with four wings extended on opposite sides which form the cruciform pattern (see drawing). The roof beaming is of milled lumber. The roof covering is composed of three-quarter inch by five and one-half inch boards covered by green composition paper. The interior framing of the roof was never completed. The floor and interior walls are concrete. A facing was to have been put on the walls but it was never installed (Wolff, personal communication, 1980). There is a three by five foot altar of randomly laid granite stones set in mortar. The top of the altar is covered by a smooth topping of mortar. Just south of the altar, in the concrete floor is a thirty-two inch square hole. This spot was called the "cornerstone" and people stood on it while speaking in the Ashram.

Fifty meters south of and uphill from the Ashram is a gable roofed corrugated galvanized steel shed used for storage. It is fourteen feet long, ten feet three inches wide, and seven feet high. Flooring is thin steel sheeting over three-quarter inch thick boards. The shed is in excellent condition.\*

\*see continuation sheet

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(continued from No. 7)

An aqueduct approximately 1500 feet long was excavated to the South Fork of Tuttle Creek. At its terminus on the ridge above the Ashram is a reservoir ten by twenty-three feet by six feet deep. This structure is mostly built above the surface with randomly laid native granite stones set in mortar. There is an outlet pipe at the base of the reservoir. The primary use of the water was for mixing the concrete and mortar used during construction. An access road five feet wide and approximately three-quarters of a mile in length was constructed to haul building materials to the site. It was made by widening an existing trail using a bulldozer and blasting materials. The road has since deteriorated into a foot path (Tuttle Creek Trail Number 35E210). A small bridge was also constructed over the South Fork of Tuttle Creek and is still intact.

Three camping areas with terraces supported by dry laid stone retaining walls were located. Tent pegs, old tent poles, and some domestic artifacts were located on these terraces. One privy with a homemade wood seat, is still in good condition. An extensive network of faint trails remains, along with a substantial system of terraces supported by dry laid stone walls concentrated around the Ashram and on the ridge between the Ashram and the reservoir. A decaying mortar and stone staircase approximately three feet wide and ten feet tall remains connecting Tuttle Creek Trail with the terrace the Ashram is built on.

The present condition of the Ashram is fair. The walls are intact. The roof is however in a state of deterioration. Several of the main support beams have broken and it may be on the point of collapse. Many of the shingles are gone. The shed, aqueduct, reservoir, bridge and terrace and trail systems are still intact. The environmental setting is as it was when the Ashram was constructed.

The property fully retains its integrity. The original design, location, and setting remain intact. Upon visiting the site, its original intent, that of providing solitude to a harried world is immediately felt. Gazing at the large terraces and high stone walls, one is impressed by the immense amount of labor, all done by hand, that went into the construction of the complex. As the site is quite secluded, visited only occasionally by wilderness users, it has retained its sense of design and feeling. The materials utilized in construction and the workmanship involved are also intact and lend a sense of place and technique to the complex. The rushing waters of Tuttle Creek form a constant background of sound at the Ashram, the whole environment combining to be a very peaceful, secluded, and beautiful place.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1930-1950

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Franklin Merrell-Wolff & The Assembly of Man

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tuttle Creek Ashram is significant under criterion 'a' of 36 CFR 60.4 as a representation of the broad patterns in the development of American philosophical thought and, in particular, of the growth of the school of American Idealism. It is also a representation of the broad patterns in the development of American religion and, in particular, of the theme of emergent and excurses religions in American history. In addition, this property is significant under criterion 'c' of 36 CFR 60.4 because it embodies a distinctive type, method, and aesthetic quality of construction.

Inasmuch as this property has achieved significance within the last 50 years, the exceptional criteria listed in How to Evaluate and Nominate Potential National Register Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last 50 Years (Sherfy and Luce 1979) are addressed following consideration under the National Register criteria listed in 36 CFR 60.4.

### PHILOSOPHICAL SIGNIFICANCE (criterion 'a')

#### Idealism in the History of American Philosophical Thought

The main thrust of American philosophical thought has been to strike an equilibrium between the conflicting forces of science and religion. The school of Idealism, although seemingly particularist with regards to religion, has been equally concerned with the nature of science. Proto-idealistic elements such as the conscience and archetypal idea theories, which owed their beginnings to Platonism (Plato, 427-347 B.C.) but more so to Peter Ramus (1515-1572) and Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), were integral to Puritanism. Thus, as early as the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1620), idealism (albeit in an immature form) arrived on the American scene. It was not until the "new science" of Issac Newton (1642-1727) and John Locke (1632-1704) was embraced in American thought that the idealistic tradition reached maturity.

This new maturity was reflected in the works of three contemporaneous individuals: Bishop George Berkeley (1685-1753), Samuel Johnson (1696-1772), and Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758). All three wrestled with Idealism which provided a palatable solution to the God vs. nature controversy. It was postulated that in an ideal world no contradiction between God and science could exist.

Idealism lay dormant, out of the mainstream of American thought, until the Transcendentalist movement of the 1830's resurrected it. This movement was



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

exemplified by the philosophy of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882). Although owing much to the Romanticists of Great Britain and the German Idealists, the Transcendentalists were able to nativize a form of absolute idealism within American thought. The German influence was significantly apparent in the effort of Josiah Royce (1855-1916) and Charles Sanders Pierce (1839-1914), as these individuals were especially drawn to the work of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804). Royce was also influenced by George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831) and Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling (1775-1854). Josiah Royce was typical of the American idealistic tradition in his time, and heavily influenced latter American philosophers such as Clarence Irving Lewis (1883-1964). But Royce's effect on the modern school of idealism was overshadowed by that attributed to Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947), who is thought to be responsible for the contemporary focus of Idealism. Through his expertise in mathematics and logic, Whitehead was able to reconcile his idealistic beliefs with formalistic scientific study and conceive of a highly creditable world view (Flower and Murphey 1977; Sahakian 1968).

The Tuttle Creek Ashram and Its Place in the Development of American Idealism

I. Biographical Sketch of the Ashram Designer and Architect. The Tuttle Creek Ashram was designed by Franklin Merrell-Wolff, whose contribution to the school of Idealism distinguished him as an important innovator in modern American philosophical thought. Dr. Wolff was born in Pasadena, California, in 1887. He is living in retirement in Lone Pine, California, although he still lectures and leads philosophical discussions at his home.

Dr. Wolff attended Stanford University. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1911. At Stanford, Dr. Wolff majored in mathematics, but a strong interest in philosophy (gained through minors in that subject and in psychology) led him to pursue graduate work in philosophy at Stanford and at Harvard University. In 1913, he completed his graduate studies and accepted a position as professor of mathematics at Stanford. Dr. Wolff left the academic scene in 1914 to pursue his personal search for an alternative means of cognition that would challenge Kant's contention of the impossibility of metaphysical thought. It was not until 1936, after many years of lecturing and touring in the United States, and the publication of two books under the pseudonym Yogagnani in 1930 (Yoga and Re-Embodiment), that Dr. Wolff was able to achieve a resolution of his philosophical inquiry.

In 1939, Dr. Wolff re-entered the academic community by publishing "Concept, Percept and Reality" in the Philosophical Review (Vol. 48). Due to the intellectual climate in America preceding the outbreak of the Second World War, the article had a minimal impact on philosophical thought at that time. Pathways Through to Space (1944), an autobiographical account of the development of Dr. Wolff's ideas,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

received a better reception although not of a magnitude to encourage Dr. Wolff to publish his two volume opus embodying his entire philosophical system. He waited until 1973 to publish the first volume, The Philosophy of Consciousness Without an Object: Reflections on the Nature of Transcendental Consciousness. The second volume, Introceptualism: The Philosophy of Consciousness Without an Object, appeared in 1980.

Following publication of Pathways Through to Space, Dr. Wolff continued to lecture and conduct philosophical workshops and discussion groups although he published infrequently. It is estimated that since 1950, Dr. Wolff has made at least 70 tape recordings of his lectures and thoughts during these meetings. Articles on the philosophy of Dr. Wolff have appeared in the Bulletin of the Assembly of Man and have also been distributed by the Phoenix Philosophical Press. (Leonard 1982;1983)

II. Franklin Merrell-Wolff's Noetic Thesis and Its Place in American Idealism. Given Dr. Wolff's academic background as a student of mathematics, psychology, and philosophy, in combination with his upbringing as the son of a Methodist minister, it was a natural progression in thought for his interests to focus on idealism.

Early in his life, Dr. Wolff left the Christian tradition and sought other forms of religious experience — those of the East with which he could reconcile his personal response to the old God vs. nature problem, which had been resolved over and over again within the American idealistic tradition. Dr. Wolff investigated Theosophy, Shankara's Advaita Vedanta, Buddhism, and Aurobindo. As the result of his exposure to Eastern thought, in which religion and philosophy are inseparable, Dr. Wolff was able to conceptualize his noetic thesis. This thesis is considered to be an important contribution to the American school of Idealism. Dr. Wolff's thesis centers on "Introception," which he defined as a "third cognitive function;" that is, "immediate knowledge resulting from the transcendence of subject-object structure by the light of consciousness turning back upon itself" (Leonard 1983:3). This represents "a penetration into non-dualistic consciousness, i.e., beyond even the pure subjectivity of a point-consciousness into absolute universal consciousness of 'Consciousness-without-an-object-and-without-a-subject'" (Leonard 1983:3). This then is the noetic thesis and it is regarded as Dr. Wolff's most important contribution to the field of philosophy. With the presentation of his thesis, Dr. Wolff challenged the work of Immanuel Kant by making conscience itself the focus of his philosophy — a revolutionary contribution to the school of Idealism.

III. The Scholarly Influence of Franklin Merrell-Wolff's Philosophy. The following is a list of academicians and professionals in various fields of endeavor who have been significantly influenced by Dr. Wolff's philosophy:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Philosophy: Vernon Katz, Ph.D., Professor, London, England  
Tobert Rein'l, Ph.D., Professor, Arizona State University  
David Long, Ph.D., Professor, California State University,  
Sacramento  
Joan Price, Ph.D., Professor, Mesa College  
Vasant Merchant, Ph.D., Professor, Northern Arizona  
University  
Ron Leonard, Ph.C., University of Waterloo, Waterloo,  
Ontario, Canada

Mathematics: Robert Holland, Ph.D., University of Chicago  
David O'Dell, Ph.D., Cornell University

Astrophysics: Mael Melvin, Ph.D., Temple University  
Mark Comings, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

Medicine: Scott Layne, M.D., New Mexico  
John Lilly, M.D., California  
Brugh Joy, M.D., California  
Richard Moss, M.D., California  
Robert Gerrard, M.D., California  
Dorian Schneidman, Ph.D., California

Religion. Rev. Obadiah Harrish, The Temple of Truth, Phoenix, Arizona

Dr. Wolff's books and teachings have also been distributed internationally, reaching Australia and even Nepal. The extent of his influence is further documented by the fact that Dr. Wolff and his works are the subject of the third segment of a film series ("Great Thinkers of Our Time") being produced by the Samadhi Tank Company of San Francisco, California (Leonard 1983).

RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE (criterion 'a')

Thematic Background

In order to view the Ashram and its founder in proper historic perspective, it is also necessary to examine the concept of religious "revitalization movements" in general and to present a synopsis of the theme of emergent/excurses religion (which is a particular type of religious revitalization) in American history. This synopsis will focus primarily on those "American" emergent/excurses religions that have been heavily influenced by Eastern thought and theology.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Although the occurrence of religious revitalization movements has long been noted in both the anthropological and historic literature, it has only been recently that such movements have been studied in any great detail. Whether they occur in complex Western societies or in non-Western tribal groups, such revitalization movements reflect a culture's (group's or individual's) attempts at self-help in response to socially disruptive culture change. Such attempts may either involve reversion to older, previously established, traditions, beliefs, and practices (Norbeck 1974:55-58; Wallace 1966), or involve what Robert Ellwood (1979) has termed emergent or excurses religions. He defines emergent religions as alternatives to traditionally established churches (e.g., Judeo-Christianity) (Ellwood 1970:20). By similar analogy, Ellwood (1979:20) defines excurses religion as a spiritual movement away from traditional social and psychic norms by group or individual participation in an emergent religion. Emergent religions, then, function in a culture as an alternative to traditional theological establishments for those groups and/or individuals who perceive themselves to be socially and/or spiritually alienated from the society's traditional religions (Ellwood 1979:7).

Given the forgoing parameters, it is readily apparent that the themes of religious revitalization and emergent religion have played major roles throughout American history as exemplified by the settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1620) and of Maryland (1634) by colonists desiring freedom of religious practice. More germane to the evaluation at hand, however, are those emergent religions which reflect the influence of Eastern religious theology.

One of the first notable movements away from established Christian religions and toward Eastern mysticism occurred in 1836 when Ralph Waldo Emerson and several others founded the American Transcendental Movement. In Emerson's famous address to the Harvard Divinity School in 1838, he stated that the basic philosophy of Transcendentalism involved the belief that the world was of one mind, that the mind permeated the whole of nature, and that all things proceeded out of that spirit (oneness) (Ahlstrom 1972:601).

This movement contributed substantially to the appearance and growth of later emergent/excurses religious movements, such as Theosophy and Western Zen, in several ways. First of all, it established an American style of contemplative and mystical thought rooted in Indic metaphysics. Secondly, this movement popularized Eastern religious philosophy to a broader segment of the mainstream American populous. Finally, through example (e.g., Thoreau at Walden Pond), members of the movement made a significant social statement.

Theosophy was the next major organized emergent religion to appear with a pre-dominantly Eastern philosophy. It was founded in 1875 as the Theosophical Society

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

by Madame Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and Colonel Henry S. Olcott. Its constitution stated that the purpose of modern Theosophy was threefold: 1) to establish a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity; 2) to promote the study of comparative religion and philosophy; and 3) to make a systematic investigation of the mystic potentials of man and nature (Ahlstrom 1972:1041). In 1878, the two founders of the Society travelled to India to establish a Theosophical chapter. Their journey established (in America) the symbolic role of India or Tibet as sources of liberating wisdom (Ellwood 1979:135).

In 1893, a World Parliament of Religions was held in Chicago. Several major Eastern religions were introduced to the West at that time. One, among several, that was to take the form of an emergent religion in America was the Vedanta Society. It was founded in 1897 by Swami Vivekananda, a disciple of the great mystic theologian Ramakrishna. Since that time the society has founded centers in many American cities and has given many Americans an appreciation of Indian religion (Ahlstrom 1972:1048).

Another major influence from the East was the Zen Buddhist D.T. Suzuki, who translated books and essays on Zen into English during his stay in the United States from 1897 to 1909. Suzuki returned to America in 1950 and lectured at various universities until 1958. The intense intellectual interest in Zen of those days can be attributed to his lecturing activities (Ellwood 1979:154). Such great American figures as Jack Kerouac, author of On the Road, Gary Snyder, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in poetry for his book Turtle Island, Allan Watts, and Allen Ginsberg were all followers of an emergent form of Zen resulting from Suzuki's influence.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, various Indian mystics have travelled to America to establish emergent religions. Several examples include Swami Yogananda of the Self Realization Fellowship, Swami Bhakti Vedanta of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, and Maharishi Mahesh Yogi of the International Meditation Society (Ahlstrom 1972:1049).

The Assembly of Man View as an Emergent/Excurses Religion

Organized by Dr. Wolff, the Assembly of Man is an association of his students, followers, and philosophical compatriots. This group is a continuation of the pattern of Eastern-influenced emergent/excurses religions in American history.

In his books, Dr. Wolff discusses periods of alienation he experienced common to one entering an excurses religion. In the following example he states "...as time rolled on, progressive exhaustion of the world desire developed, while concomitantly there grew a greater willingness to abandon all that had been

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

reserved" (Merrell-Wolff 1973:22). He further examines the failure of established religions to lead people to ultimate truth, and the importance of abandoning those religions and seeking a new path;

"...as we look upon the record of traditional religion it must be judged that traditional forms of religion have failed egregiously. This applies to all the religions that we know, less to some than others, but so far the record of traditionalistic religion is one of essential failure. As it appears to me, that which is needed is a seeking for the ultimate Attainment (Transcendental Consciousness) on the part of as many people as possible" (Merrell-Wolff 1973:xii).

This attitude, of feeling a sense of failure on the part of established religions, is common to individuals who have adopted an emergent form of religion. Such an attitude was what inspired Franklin Merrell-Wolff to form an alternate religion.

## EXCEPTIONAL CRITERIA CONSIDERATION (criteria 'a' and 'c')

The Tuttle Creek Ashram is of exceptional significance, both locally and nationally, within the history of the development of American philosophical thought. It served as the site or workshop in which Franklin Merrell-Wolff arrived at his noetic thesis, a profound contribution to the school of Idealism. The abandonment of the Ashram, ca. 1950, as a discussion place coincided approximately with the culmination of Dr. Wolff's personal philosophical development.

The structure itself was constructed at its present location because of its proximity to the then highest point in the United States, Mt. Whitney. Spiritually, this association was intended to serve as a source of power and guidance. The form and configuration of the structure, as a balanced cross, further exemplify Dr. Wolff's philosophical precepts: all thoughts, religions, and philosophies existing in equilibrium. This reconciliation has been the main goal of American Idealism. Even the construction materials, randomly laid natural stones and wooden beams, were intentionally used to emphasize the harmony between man and nature.

The physical characteristics and setting of the Ashram were undoubtedly essential elements in the development and refinement of Dr. Wolff's philosophy. Sufficient time (33 years) has passed to ascertain that Dr. Wolff's philosophical contribution was not transitory. It has been demonstrated that his thought has influenced academic philosophers in the traditional mode whereby a discipline evolves and progresses. Dr. Wolff's philosophy has also been applied in areas of academic endeavor other than philosophy. This is a reasonable expectation owing to the



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

7

nature of idealistic thought. Finally, Franklin Merrell-Wolff's philosophy has undergone scholarly evaluation, and is presently the subject of a doctoral dissertation in philosophy at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. It is therefore evident that the Tuttle Creek Ashram meets the "National Register criteria for evaluation to accept the nomination of properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years." Specifically, the Ashram meets criteria 'a' and 'c' under the themes of philosophy, religion, and architecture.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Ahlstrom, Sydney E.

1972 A Religious History of the American People. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Ellwood, Robert S., Jr.

1979 Alternative Alters, Unconventional and Eastern Spirituality. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Flower, Elizabeth and Murry G. Murphey

1977 A History of Philosophy in America, Volumes I and II. New York: Capricorn Books.

Hutchison, John A.

1969 Paths of Faith. San Francisco: McGraw-Hill Book Company.

Leonard, Ron

1982 The Transcendental Philosophy of Franklin Merrell-Wolff. Thesis proposal, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Leonard, Ron

1983 Personal Communication. (Phoenix Philosophical Press, Phoenix, Arizona).

Merrell-Wolff, Franklin

1973 The Philosophy of Consciousness Without Object: Reflections on the Nature of Transcendental Consciousness. New York: Julian Press.

Merrell-Wolff, Franklin

1980 Personal Communication (Lone Pine, California).

Merrell-Wolff, Franklin

1983 Personal Communication (Lone Pine, California).

Norbeck, Edward

1974 Religion in Human Life: Anthropological Views. San Francisco: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Inc.

Sahakian, William S.

1968 History of Philosophy. New York: Harper and Row Publishers.

Sherfy, Marcella and W. Ray Luce

1979 How to Evaluate and Nominate Potential National Register Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last 50 Years. Washington, D.C.: USDI, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (National Park Service).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Woods, Richard

1980 Understanding Mysticism. New York: Image Books.

Young, Dorthy

1980 Personal Communication (Phoenix Philosophical Press, Phoenix, Arizona).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

(continued from No. 10)

meters south of the North Fork of Tuttle Creek. Thence 200 meters WSW following the abrupt edge of a terrace over the gorge of Tuttle Creek. The boundary then turns south 200 meters to the top of the prominent ridge, then ESE 125 meters rejoining the starting point.

# List of questions

What date was the Ashram constructed?

When was it started and when completed?

What was the intent of the Ashram?

Why was it built on a north axis?

Why was it built in the form of a balanced cross?

What is the significance of the cornerstone inside the Ashram?

How many years was it used?

Why did Wolff discontinue using it?

Was there any special reason Wolff chose to lay the stone in a random pattern?

Wolff mentions lecturing ; in his first book, where did he lecture and in what capacity?

How did he get his following? and when?

How many people follow his teachings?, are they limited to local area or are there other gyps (spinoff) in

How many people attend the yearly get togethers at his ranch in Lone Pine? other areas?

We need any data we can get on the extent of influence Wolff has had to date on theological or philosophical thought either here or abroad?

We need a reference for his third book.

Please give us a reference for your dissertation.