

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	19000 Caves Hwy Cave Junction vcty, Josephine County	historic name:	Oregon Caves Historic District (Boundary Increase)
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	
location descr:		block/lot/tax lot:	
		tnwshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	39S 7W 24
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	district	height (stories):	
elig evaluation:	eligible/contributing	total elig resources:	4
prim constr date:	c.1945	NR Status:	Listed in Historic District
	second date:	date indiv listed:	01/12/2012
primary orig use:	RECR/CULTURE: General	orig use comments:	
second orig use:		prim style comments:	
primary style:	Rustic	sec style comments:	
secondary style:		siding comments:	Wood
primary siding:	Earth	architect:	
secondary siding:	Stone:Other/Undefined	builder:	
plan type:			
comments/notes:			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:	Type of Grouping	Date Listed	Date Compiled
Oregon Caves Historic District	Listed Historic District	02/25/1992	
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	01/12/2012	106 Project(s):	None
ILS survey date:		Special Assess Project(s):	None
RLS survey date:		Federal Tax Project(s):	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
<p>Oregon Caves National Monument consists of 480 acres and lies deep within the Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon. Complex geology, steep topography, and a diverse flora are characteristic of the monument and adjacent national forest land. The monument is drained by Cave Creek and two of its tributaries (No Name Creek and Panther Creek), with the main stream flowing through the cave and emerges at the main entrance, around which the developed area of the monument was planned. Keystone tree species found in this vicinity and along trails include mature Douglas fir, young white fir, Port Orford cedar, sugar pine, Pacific madrone, and big leaf maple. Elevation, aspect, and rock type account for most of the differences in vegetation at the monument, which contains some 400 different plant species. The purpose of this amended nomination is to extend the boundary of the original Oregon Caves Historic District, listed in 1992, to include much of the monument's trail system. The four trails proposed for inclusion in the Oregon Caves Historic District boundary effectively create three loops: the Big Tree Loop, the Cliff Nature Trail Loop, and the No Name Loop, that collectively cover approximately 5.6 linear miles of terrain and range in elevation from 3,680 feet to 5,280 feet. In addition, there are two nominated sections of the system that are spurs on the Big Tree Loop, so the nominated system total is 6.7 miles. These trails feature rustic design principles consistent with National Park Service (NPS) standards of the 1930s and include character-defining features such as earthen tread ranging in width from 2 ½ to 4 feet, average vertical clearance of 10 feet, varied gradient ranging from 2 to 16 percent, sweeping curves, slope treatments such as rounding, as well as some original stone features including steps, recessed benches, and retaining walls. Only minor alterations have been made along the loops and the two spurs since 1941.</p>			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
<p>Trails are important circulation devices on public lands in Oregon and are sometimes part of designed landscapes, like that of Oregon Caves National Monument. While there is mention of both trails and walkways as pedestrian circulation devices in the original nomination for the Oregon Caves Historic District as a designed landscape, all five resources described in this amendment were not counted individually as contributing or noncontributing. Additional information about each has since come to light through the monument's historic resource study of 2006 and a trails inventory conducted in 2008. An amended boundary will more logically reflect the scope and effect of National Park Service efforts to develop the monument through the Civilian Conservation Corps by adding four trails as contributing resources. Note that Criteria Consideration G does not currently apply to this amendment, but it did previously for the district when it was listed in 1992. The four structures, along with other individual trail features pertaining to their original design and construction, are eligible under Criterion A due to their association with the history and development of Oregon Caves National Monument. Each trail was an extension of the park's pedestrian circulation system that emanated from development of the cave tour and the area around its main entrance, both of which expedited the growth of tourism in this part of southern Oregon. The four trails are also eligible under Criterion C as expressions of standards formulated for frontcountry trail construction within the larger framework of rustic architecture that largely governed development in national parks before World War II. Their association with trail standards developed by National Park Service engineers mirrored rustic architecture principles used for designing facilities and landscape features at Oregon Caves during the interwar years. These resources have statewide significance in the areas of Recreation and Landscape Architecture, and have 1922 to 1942 as their period of significance.</p>			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
Title Records	Census Records	Property Tax Records	Local Histories
✓ Sanborn Maps	✓ Biographical Sources	✓ SHPO Files	✓ Interviews
Obituaries	Newspapers	✓ State Archives	Historic Photographs
City Directories	Building Permits	State Library	
Local Library:	University Library:		
Historical Society:	Other Respository:		
Bibliography:			