



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Armando Quintero, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

024-23M



September 15, 2023

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
Clerk of the Board
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**RE: California Point of Historical Interest Nomination of
Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area Historic District Request for Removal**

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The State Historical Resources Commission (Commission) is scheduled to take action on this nomination at its next regular quarterly meeting. (Details regarding the meeting are on the enclosed notice.) At the meeting, any interested party, government entity, or member of the public may address the Commission regarding the nomination prior to the Commission taking action on the nomination. Any interested party, government entity, or member of the public may also submit to the Commission written comments regarding the nomination. Comments should be submitted to California State Parks, Attn: Office of Historic Preservation, Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer, Post Office Box 942896, Sacramento, California 92496-0001. So that the Commission may have adequate time to consider such comments, it is requested, but not required, that such comments be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer 15 days before the meeting.

California Points of Historical Interest (Points) are properties of local interest recognized for their historical significance. The criteria governing the historical designation of a property is that the property must be the first, last, only, or most significant of its kind in a local geographical area. If the property has lost its historic integrity it can be listed as a site. Points designated after December 1997 and recommended by the Commission are also listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. Resources listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register must be given consideration in the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") review process.

If you have questions, please contact the Registration Unit at (916) 445-7008.

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A
PERIOD COMMENCING 10/16 2023
AND ENDING 11/15 2023



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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Clerk of the Board
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**RE: California Point of Historical Interest Nomination of
Site of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area**

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The State Historical Resources Commission (Commission) is scheduled to take action on this nomination at its next regular quarterly meeting. (Details regarding the meeting are on the enclosed notice.) At the meeting, any interested party, government entity, or member of the public may address the Commission regarding the nomination prior to the Commission taking action on the nomination. Any interested party, government entity, or member of the public may also submit to the Commission written comments regarding the nomination. Comments should be submitted to California State Parks, Attn: Office of Historic Preservation, Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer, Post Office Box 942896, Sacramento, California 92496-0001. So that the Commission may have adequate time to consider such comments, it is requested, but not required, that such comments be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer 15 days before the meeting.

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Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL LANDMARK
(Results in Automatic listing in the California Register)

CALIFORNIA POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

NAME OF HISTORIC PROPERTY

Site of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area

ADDRESS

Sky Meadow Lane, Big Basin State Historic Park

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

Boulder Creek / California / 95006

COUNTY

Santa Cruz

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.

N/A

NAME OF OWNER OF HISTORIC PROPERTY

California State Parks

ADDRESS

715 P Street

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

Sacramento, CA 95814

NAME OF APPLICANT

Kathleen Kennedy [Kathleen.Kennedy@parks.ca.gov]

APPLICANT TELEPHONE NO.

916-952-2579

ADDRESS

Cultural Resources Division, 715 P Street

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

Sacramento, CA 95814

RECOMMENDED BY CHAIR, STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

DATE

APPROVED BY DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DATE

DESIGNATION NO.

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 18

*Resource Name or #: Site of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area
DRAFT

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*a. County: Santa Cruz

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Big Basin, CA

Date: 1997 T 9S; R 3W; SW¼ of NW¼ of Sec 4; Mount Diablo B.M.

c. Address: Sky Meadow Lane

City: Boulder Creek

Zip: 95006

d. UTM: Zone: 10; 570450 mE/ 4115368 mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: Big Basin Redwoods State Park Elevation:

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

Located in the only naturally open and sunny area in the dense redwood forest park, the National Register-listed district contained seven single-story, wood frame standard plan houses and three shared garages in the Minimal Traditional style of architecture. After the 2020 CZU Lighting Complex Fire destroyed most of the district in Big Basin Redwoods State Park, one building (Residence 10) and one structure (the tree-lined Lower Sky Meadow Lane) remained. Most of the foundations, retaining walls, and walkways of the other buildings were removed as part of the fire cleanup. A request for removal from the National Register of Historic Places is under review, with this Point of Historical Interest nomination intended to capture the history and significance associated with development in Big Basin Redwoods State Park and in California State Parks.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a.



P5b. Description of Photo:
(View, date, accession #)

Lower Sky Meadow, Residence
10, facing south

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and
Sources: Historic

Prehistoric Both

1941-1949, State Park records

*P7. Owner and Address:

California State Parks

PO Box 942896

Sacramento CA 94296

*P8. Recorded by: (Name,
affiliation, and address)

Michael Grone, CSP

Julia Hartman, California CSP

*P9. Date Recorded: 8/31/23

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intense

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") None.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object
Record Archaeological Site Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock
Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

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*Resource Name or #: Site of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area

*A1. Dimensions: a. Length: 160 m. b. Width: 60 m.

Method of Measurement: Paced Taped Visual estimate Other: District boundaries estimated, each individual resource taped

Method of Determination (Check any that apply.): Artifacts Features Soil Vegetation Topography
 Cut bank Animal burrow Excavation Property boundary Other (Explain):

Reliability of Determination: High Medium Low Explain:

Limitations (Check any that apply): Restricted access Paved/built over Site limits incompletely defined
 Disturbances Vegetation Other (Explain): Structures burned and removed

A2. Depth: None Unknown Method of Determination:

*A3. Human Remains: Present Absent Possible Unknown (Explain):

*A4. Features (Number, briefly describe, indicate size, list associated cultural constituents, and show location of each feature on sketch map.):

Of the original buildings, only Residence 10 remains extant. Walkways for Residences 14, 15, and 16, and concrete retaining walls between Residences 7 and 8, between 8 and 9, and east of 9 remain (see attached photos and Sketch Map). There are depressions for Residences 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16, as well as for garages 7, 8-10, and 14-16 with the following dimensions:

Residence 7: 11.5m x 10m; Residence 8: 11.5m x 10m; Residence 9: 11.5m x 10m

Residence 14: 13m x 8m; Residence 15: 13m x 10m; Residence 16: 14m x 6m

Garage 7: 12m x 6m; Garage 8-10: 12m x 6m; Garage 14-16: 14m x 6m

*A5. Cultural Constituents (Describe and quantify artifacts, ecofacts, cultural residues, etc., not associated with features.):

All residues from the resources, excepting Residence 10 and the aforementioned walkways and retaining walls, have been removed.

*A6. Were Specimens Collected? No Yes (If yes, attach Artifact Record or catalog and identify where specimens are curated.)

*A7. Site Condition: Good Fair Poor (Describe disturbances.): Most built environment resources burned during 2020 CZU fire and were subsequently removed.

*A8. Nearest Water (Type, distance, and direction.): Sempervirens Falls, 200 meters

*A9. Elevation: 1,246 feet

A10. Environmental Setting (Describe culturally relevant variables such as vegetation, fauna, soils, geology, landform, slope, aspect, exposure, etc.): Open level meadow edged by redwood forest.

A11. Historical Information:

California State Parks designed and constructed the neighborhood between 1941 and 1949 to provide staff housing within the park. Lower Sky Meadow was the first residential complex built in a California state park between 1941 and 1955, an era when the construction of employee housing in California State Parks became a priority and standardized plans were utilized in the parks for the first time. Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area was the largest and most intact example of a California State Parks housing development built during this period. The residences were occupied continuously by staff from completion of construction until the 2020 fire. Residence 10 remains vacant, disconnected from water and power.

Registration Status

Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area Historic District (NRHP #14000662) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014 at the state level of significance under Criterion A for its association with development in Big Basin Redwoods State Park and in California State Parks. The tree-lined Lower Sky Meadow Lane and Residence 10 are all that remain of the historic district. These limited resources do not convey the historic neighborhood that was, or its association with the development of Big Basin Redwoods State Park or the California State Parks system for which it was listed under Criterion A. The district no longer possesses the standardized minimal traditional character defining features that made it eligible for listing under Criterion C.

*A12. Age: Prehistoric Protohistoric 1542-1769 1769-1848 1848-1880 1880-1914
◆ 1914-1945 ◆ Post 1945 Undetermined

Describe position in regional prehistoric chronology or factual historic dates if known:

Constructed in two phases from 1941 to 1949.

A13. Interpretations (Discuss data potential, function[s], ethnic affiliation, and other interpretations):

While Residence 10 retains integrity of location, design, materials and craftsmanship, without the other residences and garages, it cannot by itself convey the sense of a staff community, standard plan design, and its connection to the overall development and management of the state park. Originally listed as a historic district on the National Register, the subsequent Point of Historical Interest is categorized as a site.

A14. Remarks: None

A15. References (Documents, informants, maps, and other references):

Christy Avery, Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area Historic District National Register Nomination, Santa Cruz County, California. 2010, revised 2014.

A16. Photographs (List subjects, direction of view, and accession numbers or attach a Photograph Record.):

See photo log and continuation sheets.

*A17. Form Prepared by: Michael Grone

Date: 09/10/2023

Affiliation and Address: Santa Cruz District of Parks and Recreation, Felton, CA 95018

*Required information

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*Resource Name or #: Site of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area

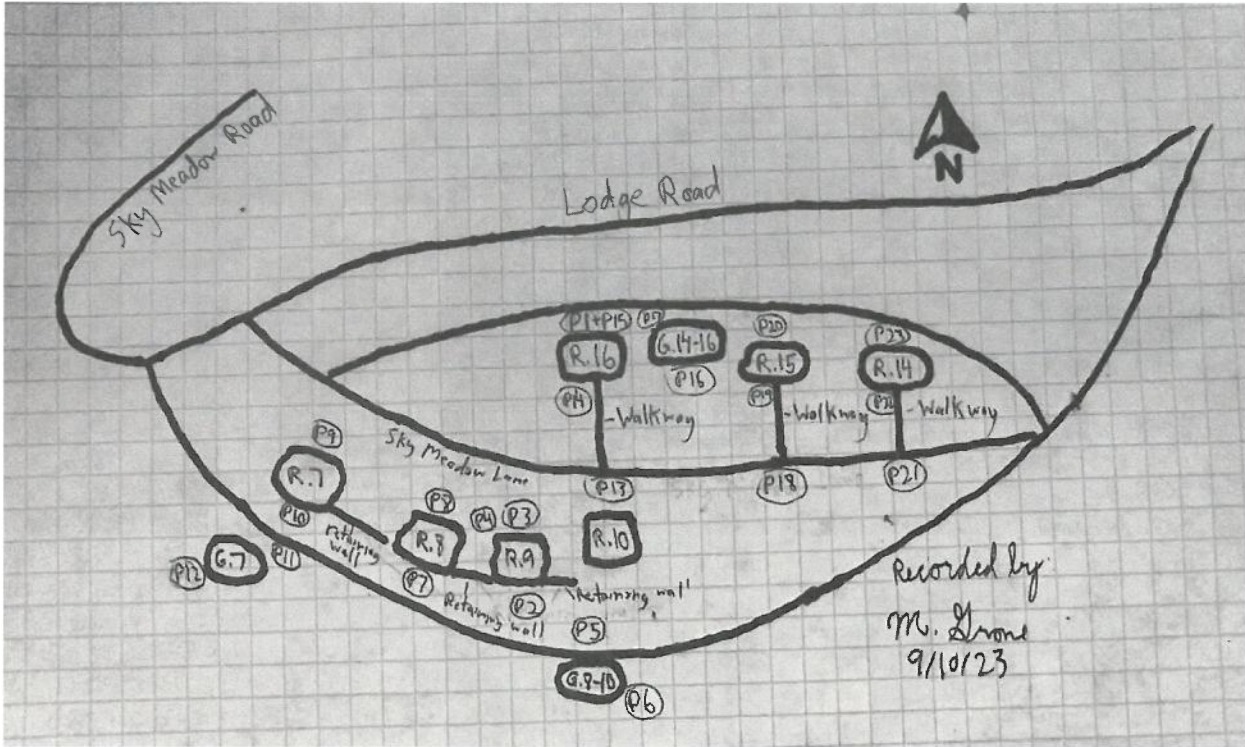
Name of Property: Site of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area
City or Vicinity: Boulder Creek
County: Santa Cruz State: California
Photographer: Michael Grone and Julia Hartman, using iPhone Pro Max
Date Photographed: August 31, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating camera direction:

- 1 of 23 Residence 10, facing south
- 2 of 23 Footprint of Residence 9, view north
- 3 of 23 Footprint of Residence 9, view south
- 4 of 23 Footprint of Residence 9, view southeast
- 5 of 23 Footprint of Garage 8-10, view south
- 6 of 23 Footprint of Garage 8-10, view northwest
- 7 of 23 Footprint of Residence 8, view north
- 8 of 23 Footprint of Residence 8, view south
- 9 of 23 Footprint of Residence 7, view south
- 10 of 23 Footprint of Residence 7, view north
- 11 of 23 Footprint of Garage 7, view south southwest
- 12 of 23 Footprint of Garage 7, view north northeast
- 13 of 23 Walkway for Residence 16, view north
- 14 of 23 Footprint of Residence 16, view north
- 15 of 23 Footprint of Residence 16, view south
- 16 of 23 Footprint of Garage 14-16, view north
- 17 of 23 Footprint of Garage 14-16, view southeast
- 18 of 23 Walkway for Residence 15, view north
- 19 of 23 Footprint of Residence 15, view north
- 20 of 23 Footprint of Residence 15, view south
- 21 of 23 Walkway for Residence 14, view north
- 22 of 23 Footprint for Residence 14, view north
- 23 of 23 Footprint for Residence 14, view south

*Drawn by: Michael Grone

*Date of map: 09/10/2023



DPR K (9/2013)

*Required information

CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 1 Residence 10, facing south



Photo 2 Footprint of Residence 9, view north



CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 3 Footprint of Residence 9, view south



Photo 4 Footprint of Residence 9, view southeast

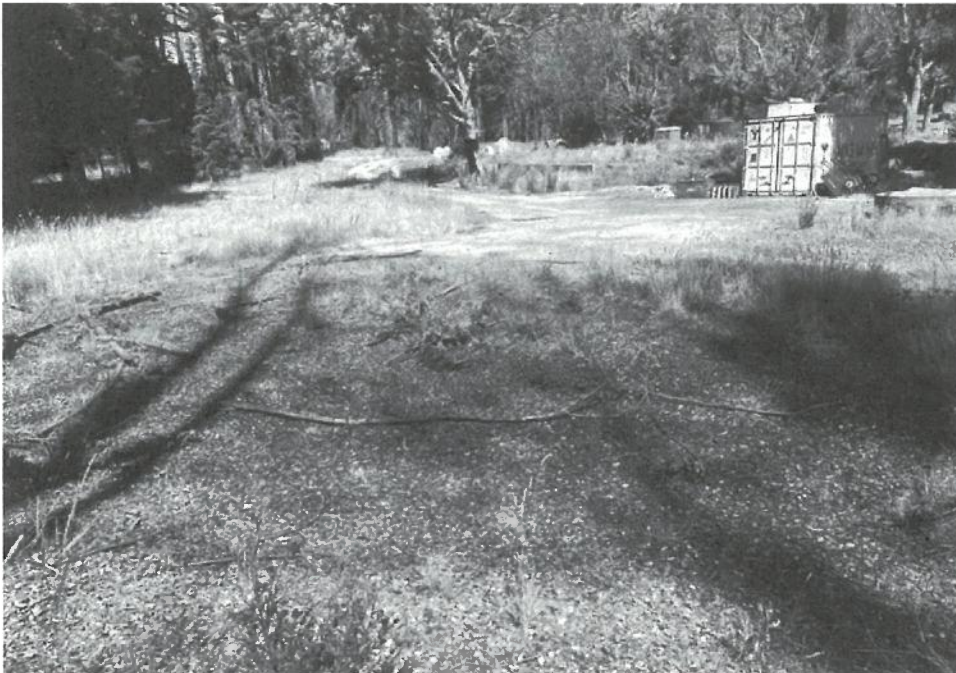


CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 5 Footprint of Garage 8-10, view south



Photo 6 Footprint of Garage 8-10, view northwest



CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 7 Footprint of Residence 8, view north



Photo 8 Footprint of Residence 8, view south



CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 9 Footprint of Residence 7, view south



Photo 10 Footprint of Residence 7, view north



CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 11 Footprint of Garage 7, view south southwest



Photo 12 Footprint of Garage 7, view north northeast



CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 13 of 18

Site of Lower Sky Meadow Residential Area

Photo 13 Walkway for Residence 16, view north



Photo 14 Footprint of Residence 16, view north



CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 15 Footprint of Residence 16, view south



Photo 16 Footprint of Garage 14-16, view north



CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 17 Footprint of Garage 14-16, view southeast



Photo 18 Walkway for Residence 15, view north



CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 19 Footprint of Residence 15, view north



Photo 20 Footprint of Residence 15, view south



CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 21 Walkway for Residence 14, view north



Photo 22 Footprint for Residence 14, view north



CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo 23 Footprint for Residence 14, view south



