

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEMS,
MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 ICEHOUSE
Mill Creek
Yucaipa vicinity
San Bernardino County
California

HAER No. CA-2272-W

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1111 Jackson Street
Oakland, California 94607

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEMS, MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 ICE HOUSE

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Location: The Mill Creek 2 and 3 Ice House (MC 2 and 3 Ice House) is located on the east side of the Mill Creek 2 and 3 Powerhouse site (MC 2 and 3 Powerhouse), southeast of California State Route 38 (SR 38), immediately west and downhill from the penstocks. The site is located within Mill Creek Canyon in San Bernardino County, California. (USGS topographic map Yucaipa, Section 13; T. 1S., R. 1W.).

Significance: The MC 2 and 3 Ice House aids in the maintenance of the MC 2 and 3 Powerhouse site. The Mill Creek 2 and 3 Hydroelectric Systems are some of the earliest examples of a high-head hydroelectric system within the United States and are early examples of the first commercial three-phase alternating current stations in California. Three-phase alternating later became the industry standard.

Description: The MC 2 and 3 Ice House is located on the east side of the property. It may have originally been the gunpowder room. This one-story building has a rectangular plan. The west façade is symmetrical and the building sits on what is likely a concrete foundation. The exterior walls are made of rough cut stone with cementitious mortar. The moderately pitched pyramidal hipped roof is clad with wood shingles. The shingles on the north side of the roof are in turn clad with deteriorating asphalt shingles. The roof has moderate overhanging eaves with a few exposed rafters. The west façade has a single wood plank door with prominent hinges. There is one single wood-framed window opening with no sash located at the north and south elevations. The openings have metal screens. There is a weeping willow tree located directly to the east elevation that shelters much of the building. The building is nestled into the side of a hill, with rubble stone retaining walls on either side. The interior consists of one open space with exposed stone walls and some built-in wood shelving units.

History: The MC 2 and 3 Ice House was one of the earliest buildings constructed on the MC 2 and 3 Powerhouse site that aided in the maintenance and operation of the MC 2 and 3 systems. The MC 2 system was constructed between 1889 and 1899, and the MC 3 system was constructed between 1899 and 1903. Both systems were originally built by the Redlands Electric Light and Power Company, which was later absorbed by the Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles in 1901. MC 2 has not been in operation since 1992, when it was damaged in a flood and MC 3 is still in operation today. Please see the Historic Context section in the general Historic American Engineering Record for the Mill Creek 2 and 3 Hydroelectric Systems (HAER No. CA-2272) for additional information.

Sources:

Fowler, Frederick Hall. *Hydroelectric Power Systems of California and Their Extensions into Oregon and Nevada, Water-Supply Paper 493*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1923;

White, David R. M. "Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Southern California Edison Company Mill Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1934) San Bernardino County, California," June 1993.

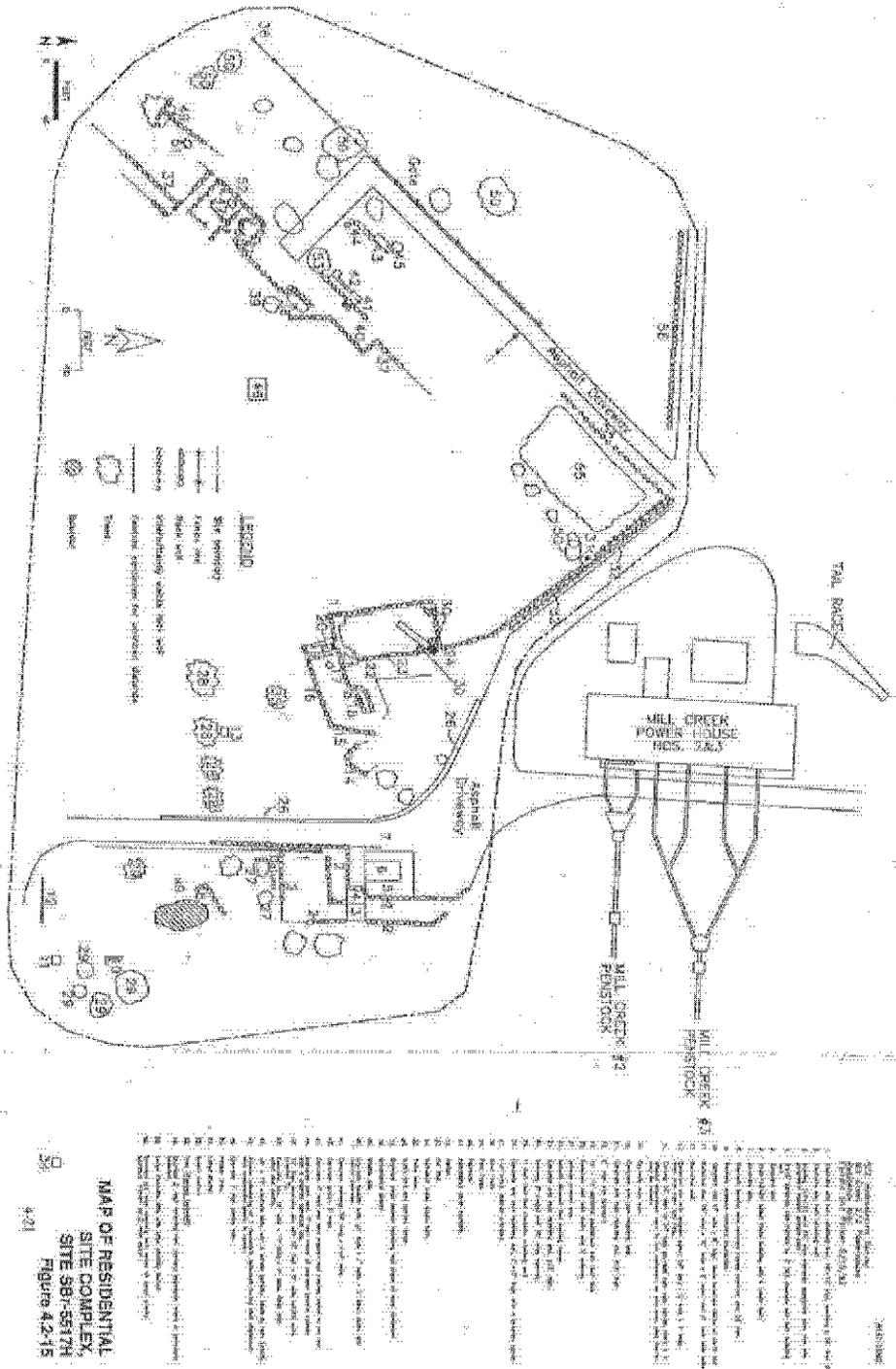
Low, George P. "The Generating, Transmission and Distribution Systems of The Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles, Cal.," *The Journal of Electricity, Power and Gas*. vol. XIII, no. 1. January, 1903.

"Means Much to Redlands: Big Light and Power Deal Closed," *Los Angeles Times*. May 25, 1901, 8.

"Redlands Electric Light & Power Co., Edition Electric Co. of Los Angeles, Mill Creek Powerhouses," *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form*, April 30, 1985, item number 7, 10.

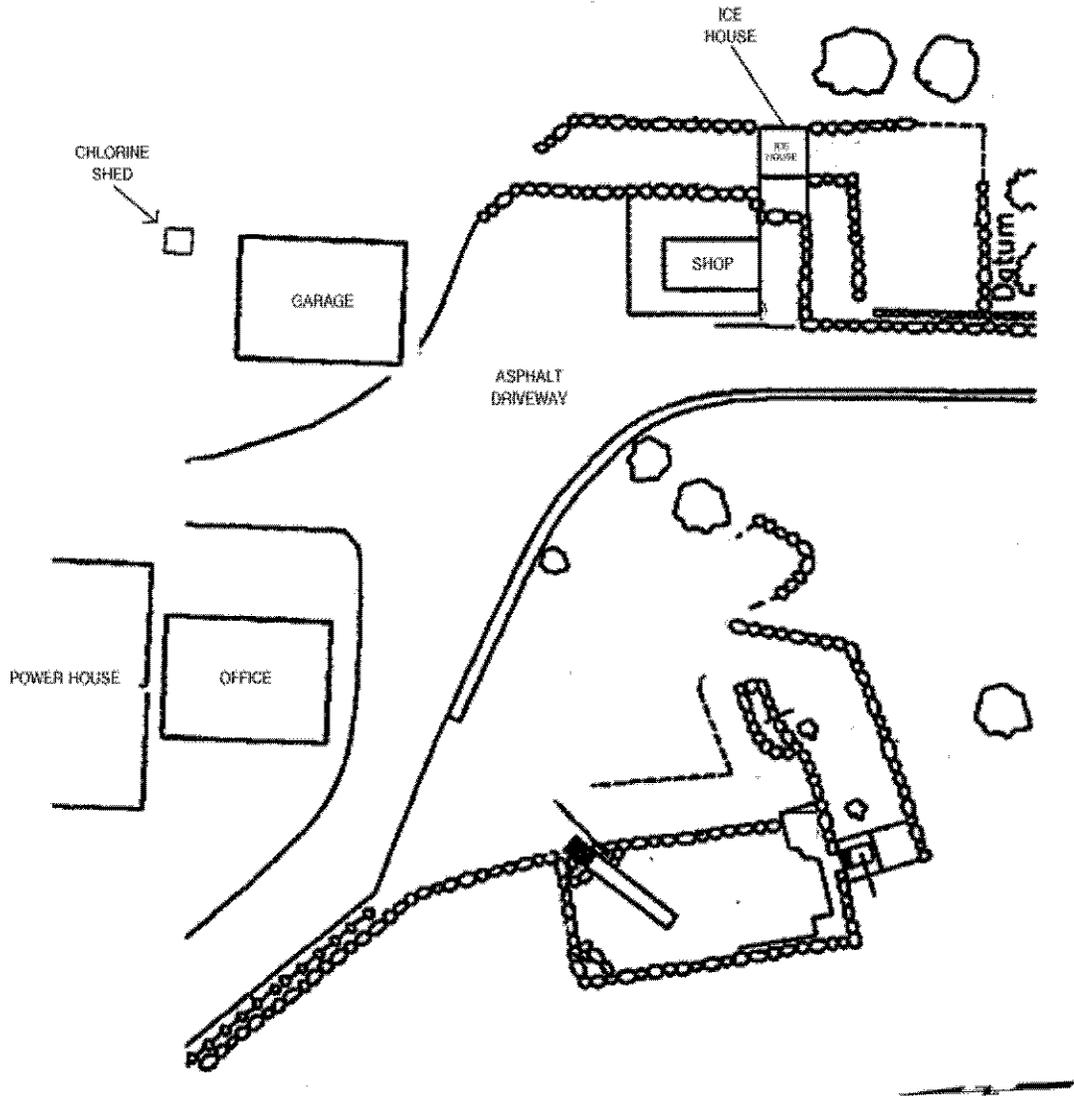
Historian: Christeen Taniguchi, Senior Architectural Historian, and Nicole Collum, Architectural Historian II, Galvin Preservation Associates, 1611 S. Pacific Coast Highway, #104, Redondo Beach, CA 90277, 2008-2009.

Project Information: MC 2 has not operated since 1992 when it was damaged during floods. It was not, however, decommissioned. The Southern California Edison Company, in conjunction with the San Bernardino National Forest, the agency that owns the property, proposes to formally decommission the facility. This process will include filling the sandbox and forebay with slurry, and removing the metal features. Although MC 3 is still in operation, it is also being recorded as part of this project because of the system's close association with MC 2.



Site Map of the Mill Creek 2 and 3 Powerhouse Site (Map Courtesy of Southern California Edison)

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 ICE HOUSE SITE MAP



Mill Creek 2 and 3 Ice House Site Plan.