

CEDAR PASS LODGE, CABIN 1-2  
Badlands National Park  
20681 South Dakota Highway 240  
Interior  
Jackson County  
South Dakota

HABS SD-25-A  
*HABS SD-25-A*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### CEDAR PASS LODGE, CABIN 1-2

HABS No. SD-25-A

Location: Badlands National Park, Interior, Pendleton County, South Dakota

The coordinates for Cabin 1-2 are 43.747396 N, -101.944764 W, and they were obtained through Google Earth in October 2012 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Present Owner: National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior

Present Occupant: Forever Resorts

Present Use: Park visitor lodging run by a concessioner, scheduled for demolition.

Significance: Cabin 1-2 is one of the large, multi-unit cabins at Cedar Pass Lodge. Although heavily altered, Cabin 1-2 dates to the early years of Cedar Pass Lodge. Cedar Pass Lodge is a roadside tourist facility established during the late 1920s in the Badlands of South Dakota. It was developed by local businessman Ben Millard and initially operated by his sister Clara Jennings. Cedar Pass Lodge began as a dance hall with a dining room and some lodging in 1928. A tourist cabin court was expanded at the rear of the property in 1930 to provide additional overnight accommodations. Two rows of small rustic wood cabins face each other around a U-shaped gravel drive. The valley setting offers views toward the rock formations of the Badlands, particularly the heights of Cedar Pass to the northeast.

With the support of U.S. Senator Peter Norbeck, Millard and Jennings promoted the Badlands as a tourist destination and received the first concession permits in the proposed National Monument. Badlands National Monument was officially established in 1939 and shortly thereafter the Cedar Pass area was chosen as its administrative headquarters, largely due to the presence of Cedar Pass Lodge, which was still a privately held endeavor. The cabins were completely resheathed with stucco around 1949 and many of the original wood sash windows replaced by aluminum sash. Cabin 1-2 was renovated with simulated masonry veneer on the front gable entrance by 1965.

Herbert Millard sold Cedar Pass Lodge to the National Park Service in 1963, after the death of both his parents. Cedar Pass Lodge continues to be operated as a concession, providing one of the few options for food and lodging in a remote location. In 2012 the current concessioner, Forever Resorts, demolished or moved many of the extant cabins and replaced them with new modular units.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1930
2. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: Tourist cabins for visitors to the South Dakota Badlands National Monument (Badlands National Park in 1978). The National Park Service purchased Cedar Pass Lodge from the son of original builder/owner Ben Millard in 1963. Management of the lodge and cabins has been handled by a concessioner from that time until the present.
3. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.
4. Original plans and construction: A photograph from c. 1935 indicates Cabin 1-2's form is largely the same (Figure 1). This photograph shows log-faced siding and four over one wood sash windows. An original entrance porch with an asymmetrical front gable is located on the main elevation. The original interior form of this duplex cabin is unknown. The rear ell contains older building material that may be repurposed.
5. Alterations and additions: All the exterior materials, including window sash and doors were replaced prior to 1965. It is likely that log-faced siding was removed from Cabin 1-2 and the wood frame structure sheathed with stucco over chicken wire c. 1949. The asymmetrical front gable entrance porch was sheathed with random ashlar pattern simulated masonry veneer c. 1960.<sup>1</sup> This entrance foyer has a single diamond-shaped window opening filled with glass block. This opening replaced two rectangular sash windows.

B. Historical Context: See overview report for Cedar Pass Lodge (HABS No. SD-25) for detailed historical context.

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<sup>1</sup> Cabin 1-2 and Cabin 3 are listed as recently remodeled and modernized in a 1965 inspection report. These are the two cabins with simulated masonry veneer. See "Recommendations and Estimates on Cedar Pass Concessions Facilities, Badlands National Monument, (December 1965), Box 830, Entry P 11 Administrative Files, RG 79 - Record of the National Park Service, National Archives and Records Administration II, College Park, MD.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Cabin 1-2 is a one-story wood frame structure with a side gable roof and plain stucco walls. An ell projects from the rear closer to the west corner of the structure. Its main embellishment is an asymmetrical front gable entrance porch sheathed with random ashlar simulated masonry veneer. As the only duplex cabin, Cabin 1-2 is a unique plan type within the Cedar Pass Lodge cabin court.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair. The exterior stucco is cracked or bulging in several areas. Wood elements (window sills, eaves, soffits) show evidence of deterioration.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 52 feet, 3 1/8 inches wide by 34 feet, 11 inches deep (including rear ell)
2. Foundations: Cabin 1-2 sits on a slab at grade.
3. Walls: Cabin 1-2's walls are sheathed with textured cement stucco painted light tan and laid over chicken wire. There are square wood signs mounted to the right of the doorways and entrance porch incised with the unit numbers. Triangular metal fixed louver ventilation grates are imbedded at the gable peaks on the side façades. Two small rectangular fixed louver grates are located near the bottom corners of the southeast side façade.
4. Structural system, framing: The cabin has a wood frame with a common rafter roof.
5. Stoop and entrance porch: Cabin 1-2 has a concrete stoop across its front façade with one step. The stoop has rounded corners and extends eight feet from the front of the building. The step extends across most of the stoop and has a higher section at the center. A photograph from 1965 shows sections of low simulated masonry walls around the edges of the stoop (Figure 2). At the center of the stoop the entrance porch/foyer projects from the main façade of the cabin. The porch has an asymmetrical front gable with the longer slope on the southeast. It is covered with random ashlar pattern simulated masonry veneer in gray, red, and shades of tan. Cabin 3 has the same veneer on its front gable. There is an eighteen-inch square diamond-shaped opening at the gable filled with glass block and positioned off center. The only door opening in the entrance porch is at the northwest side. Currently this doorway only has a wood frame screen door; the hinge marks remain from a solid door in this opening.

There is another low concrete slab along the southeast side of the rear ell which has a manhole covered by a square concrete slab. A smaller slab is located at the door on the northwest side of the ell.

6. Chimney: None.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Cabin 1-2 has four exterior doorways on the northeast façade facing the cabin court road -- two for each unit. Two doorways are located close together within the entrance porch (Units 1A and 2B) while the other two are visible from the exterior (Units 1B and 2A). Units 1B and 2A have wood veneer doors with peepholes. They are set in frames with tapered two-inch wide mitred corner trim. These two exposed openings also have wood frame screen doors. The two doorways inside the entrance porch for Units 1A and 2B have wood veneer doors without peepholes and two-inch wide wood trim with mitred corners and a rounded edge.

The rear ell has a doorway on the northwest side with a four inch wide wood frame with mitred corners. The door consists of horizontal wood boards with a porcelain knob.

b. Windows: Cabin 1-2 has rectangular window openings with replacement aluminum sash set directly into the stucco wall. The typical window has two over two horizontal lights. There are pairs of windows flanking the Unit 1B doorway on the front elevation and to the left of the Unit 2A doorway. One single window is located to the right of the Unit 2A doorway on the front façade. Four single windows are located on the rear façade, one for each bedroom. There is another single window on the southeast side façade positioned closer to the east corner. Each bathroom has a smaller version of the same aluminum sash window – one is on the southeast side of the ell for Unit 1 and on the southwest façade between the two rear bedroom windows for Unit 2.

There are two small wood sash windows at the mechanical room in the rear portion of the ell, one on each side façade. These early windows have three vertical divided lights over one and are framed with four inch wide wood trim with mitred corners. Each window has a sloped wood sill that projects slightly from the wall.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Cabin 1-2 has a side gable roof with a cross gable roof rear ell. The roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles with metal flashing wrapping over the top and corners of the fascia boards. The asymmetrical front gable porch roof is lower and sheathed with the same materials.

- b. Eaves: Cabin 1-2 has overhanging eaves with open rafter ends covered by a simple fascia board. These wood elements are all painted dull orange. The fascia on the entrance porch has a curved end.

### C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Cabin 1-2 has two units -- each a suite with two bedrooms and one bathroom. Unit 1 is located on the northwest side and Unit 2 on the southeast side of the structure. The two Unit 1 bedrooms are adjoining with only a large cased opening between. The Unit 1 bathroom occupies part of the rear ell. The mechanical room at the back of the ell is only accessible from the exterior. The Unit 2 bedrooms are separated by the bathroom. The Unit 2B bedroom has a large closet at the front within the entrance porch. The closet contains a clothes bar with shelf above and does not have a door. The Unit 2A bedroom is L-shaped with a small alcove between the exterior doorway and its bathroom doorway.
2. Flooring: Cabin 1-2 has a wood floors covered by commercial-grade carpeting in the bedrooms and vinyl sheeting in the bathrooms. The mechanical room has a concrete floor with evidence of severe cracking and heaving.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are covered with medium brown knotty pine paneling with vertical grooves forming boards of varied widths. The boards formed by the grooves have smooth, rounded edges. The walls have a simple convex wood cornice trim 1 ½ inches wide and 3 ½ inch-high flat wood baseboards. The bedrooms have a tray ceiling that slopes at the front and rear. These ceilings are covered with twelve inch square acoustic tiles covered with random perforations. The interior of the entrance porch has the same knotty pine paneling and acoustic tile ceiling.

The Unit 1 bathroom has gypsum board walls and ceiling, with textured plastic covering the wall at the sink. This room has an applied plastic baseboard. The Unit 2 bathroom has gypsum board walls partially covered with textured plastic, flat wood baseboard, and an acoustic tile ceiling. The mechanical room section of the ell has pieced together bead board walls on the exterior walls and unfinished studs at the bathroom. The mechanical room ceiling is roughly finished gypsum board.

4. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Unit 1 has a large cased opening between the two bedrooms with 4 ½ inch wide dark brown stained wood trim on both sides with mitred corners. The other interior doorway in this unit leads to the bathroom through the rear of bedroom 1A. This opening has wood trim on both sides 2 ¼ inches wide with mitred corners. The trim projects 1 ½ inches from the wall on both sides. It is painted white on the bathroom side and stained dark brown on the bedroom side. The hollow core door located here has a gold metal lever handle and pin hinges.

Each Unit 2 bedroom has an interior doorway into the shared bathroom. These doorways have 2 ¼ inch wide wood trim with mitred corners. The trim is stained medium brown on the bedroom sides and painted white inside the bathroom. The doors are medium brown hollow core with gold knobs.

The inside of the external doors each have a medium brown stained finish and flat dark brown stained wood trim 2 ¼ inches wide with mitred corners.

- b. Windows: The aluminum frame windows are set into the paneled walls with a moderate reveal and no trim. The Unit 1 bathroom window has white painted wood trim 2 ¼ inches wide with mitred corners. The wood frame windows in the mechanical room have no interior trim.
5. Decorative features and trim: A wood dressing table with a Formica top has been built into a rectangular niche in the southeast wall of the Unit 2B bedroom. The table has a single drawer with two metal C-handles and projects from the wall on curved side pieces.
  6. Hardware: The exterior doors have yellow metal keyed knob locks and deadbolts with interior lever mechanisms (Unit 1A does not have the deadbolt). These doors have pin style hinges.
  7. Mechanical equipment:
    - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Cabin 1-2 has evidence of several generations of heating equipment. There are vents in the rear wall and ceiling of each room for a forced air heating furnace that used to be in the ell mechanical room. The furnace has been removed but a galvanized metal vent pipe and exterior ductwork covered with stucco patching remain. A paneled projection in the Unit 1A bedroom contains galvanized ductwork running back through the ell. Currently Unit 1 has a portable heating/air conditioning unit installed in a hole cut into the wall below the southwest rear window of the outer bedroom, as well as a window unit air conditioner. The Unit 2 bedrooms and bathroom have electric baseboard heaters connected to external electrical conduit. The Unit 2 bedrooms also have window unit air conditioners.
    - b. Lighting: The cabins are wired with 15-amp electric service in a daisy chain configuration. The bedrooms have white metal ceiling fixtures with a clip-on square glass shades. The Unit 1 bedrooms also have recessed ceiling lights and wall sconces with double metal cone fixtures. The Unit 1 bathroom has square recessed lights in the ceiling at the center of the room and over the sink. The Unit 2A bedroom has a single cone metal

wall sconce. The Unit 2B bedroom has a recessed ceiling light over the built-in dressing table. The Unit 2A bathroom has an early square glass dome ceiling fixture and a recent wall sconce near the sink. The light switches are toggle type.

- c. Plumbing: The Unit 1 bathroom has a gypsum board shower stall with a vinyl liner, particle board vanity counter with a plastic composite sink, and vitreous china toilet. The Unit 2 bathroom has a vinyl tub and shower liner with a gypsum board end wall, a wood vanity cabinet with plastic composite sink, and a vitreous china toilet. The electric hot water heater for Cabin 1-2 is located in the ell mechanical room.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design: Cedar Pass Lodge cabins are arranged around a U-shaped gravel drive behind the lodge building. There is a grassy area and mid-sized trees and shrubs at the center of the U-shaped drive and around the site. Cabin 1-2 sits at the beginning of the northeast side of the U and sits at a slightly different angle than the other cabins in that row.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: There are no architectural drawings for Cabin 1-2, given the ad hoc nature of its construction and alteration.

B. Early Views: The earliest photograph of Cabin 1-2 is from c. 1935, showing the wood timber sheathing and original windows (see Figure 1). Views from the 1960s show alteration of the exterior with stucco and simulated masonry veneer (see Figures 2, 3, and 4).

C. Selected Bibliography:

**Archival Collections:**

RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, National Archives and Records Administration II, College Park, MD.

Badlands National Park (BADL) Library and Archives, Ben Riefel Visitor Center, Interior, SD.

**Publications/Reports:**

John Milner Associates, Inc. "Discovery and Re-Discovery in the White River Badlands: Historic Resource Study." South Dakota: Badlands National Park, 2006.

O'Bright, Al. "Condition Survey Report: Cedar Pass Cabins, Badlands National Park." (10 July 2009), Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service.

Shuler, Jay. *A Revelation Called the Badlands: Building a National Park, 1909-1939*.  
Interior, SD: Badlands Natural History Association, 1994 (reprint).

#### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of Cedar Pass Lodge, Cabin 1-2 at Badlands National Park (BADL) was undertaken in 2011-2012 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Heritage Documentation Programs division of the National Park Service (Richard O'Connor, Chief). The project was sponsored by the NPS Midwest Regional Office (MWR) and Badlands National Park. Project planning was coordinated by Catherine Lavoie, Chief, HABS; Robert Arzola, HABS Architect; and by Eric Brunnemann, Superintendent, BADL. The field work was undertaken and the measured drawings were produced by HABS Architects Paul Davidson, Daniel De Sousa, and Jason W. McNatt. The historical reports were written by HABS Historian Lisa P. Davidson. The large-format photography was done by HABS Photographer Renee Bieretz. Crucial assistance was provided by BADL staff Steve Thede (Deputy Superintendent), Megan Cherry (Museum Technician), and Pam Livermont (Administrative Assistant), and the staff of Forever Resorts.

#### PART V. ILLUSTRATIONS



Figure 1: Cabin (now Cabin 1-2), Cedar Pass Camp, c. 1935.  
Source: Mary (nee Allburn) Aggergaard Scrapbook, BADL Archives.



Figure 2: Cabin 1-2 (November 1965). Note Cabin 3 at left.  
Source: "Concessions Buildings, Badlands," (19 November 1965), Box 830, Entry P 11, RG 79, NARA II.



Figure 3: Cabin 1-2, Rear View from Northwest (November 1965). Note Cabin 3 at right.  
Source: "Concessions Buildings, Badlands," (19 November 1965), Box 830, Entry P 11, RG 79, NARA II



Figure 4: Cabin 1-2, Rear View from Southwest (November 1965). Note Cabin 3 at left.  
Source: "Concessions Buildings, Badlands," (19 November 1965), Box 830, Entry P 11, RG 79, NARA II