

CEDAR PASS LODGE, CABIN 14-16
Badlands National Park
20681 South Dakota Highway 240
Interior
Jackson County
South Dakota

HABS SD-25-L
HABS SD-25-L

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 14-16

HABS No. SD-25-L

- Location:** Badlands National Park, Interior, Pendleton County, South Dakota
- The coordinates for Cabin 14-16 are 43.745116 N, -101.943356 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 14-16 is a multi-unit type with two one-room plus bath units and a single two bedroom and bath unit. This type is unique among the rental cabins. 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 14-16 retains many of its wood sash windows.
- 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. 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: The original plan for this triplex cabin is unconfirmed, but appears to have been a long rectangular structure divided into three units. It was previously designated Cabin 14-17. The building now has an irregular footprint as a result of two additions on the rear facade.
5. Alterations and additions: The original half-log siding was removed from Cabin 14-16 c. 1949 and the wood frame structure sheathed with stucco. Bathrooms were added within the rear portion of each bedroom unit. A shed roof extension at the rear of Unit 14 contains the hot water heater for all three units (accessed via exterior only) and the bathroom and closet for Unit 14. A larger cross gable addition contains the Unit 15 and 16 bathrooms and a second bedroom for Unit 16. It is likely that an earlier bathroom addition was extended to create the second bedroom.

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

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Cabin 14-16 contains three independent bedroom/bathroom units within a single one-story structure. The cabin is a simple wood frame structure with plain stucco walls. It has a side gable roof at the main façade facing the road and a cross gable extending off-center at the rear. The main elevation has six bays of alternating doorways and windows starting with the Unit 16 doorway at the west edge. Each unit has one doorway and one window on this flat façade. An additional shed roof addition at the rear gives this elevation an irregular façade.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair. The exterior stucco is cracked or bulging in several areas. Wood elements (window sills, eaves, soffits) and the roof shingles show evidence of deterioration.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 42 feet, 4 1/4 inches wide by 30 feet, 3 1/2 inches deep (including rear ell)
2. Foundations: Cabin 14-16 sits on a slab at grade.
3. Walls: Cabin 14-16's walls are sheathed with textured cement stucco painted light tan. There is a square wood sign mounted to the right of each front elevation doorway incised with the unit number.
4. Structural system, framing: The cabin has a wood frame with a common rafter roof.
5. Stoop: Cabin 14-16 has a low wood decking stoop across its front façade. The stoop is painted a dull orange.
6. Chimney: None.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Cabin 14-16 has three exterior doorways on the southwest façade facing the cabin court road. Each door is solid with wood veneer painted dull orange on the exterior and a peephole. Each door is set in a simple wood frame with a wood threshold and wood frame screen door. An additional doorway is located on the northwest side façade of the Unit 16 bedroom addition. This opening allows direct access between this bedroom and the outside. Another wood board door on the rear façade of the shed roof addition allows access to the water heater. This opening has a simple wood frame.
 - b. Windows: The typical windows for Cabin 14-16 are a rectangular opening with an early wood sash slider window. Each sash is divided into four horizontal lights. These windows are located on the front elevation paired with each original unit doorway, on the end façades of the original section, and at the rear wall of the Unit 14 bedroom. The windows in the end façades are positioned off-center. Each of these windows is set directly into the stucco wall surface, which curves to meet the window frames. Each window has a simple wood sill that extends three inches past the sides of the windows. Two smaller versions of this window opening are located on the sides of the cross gable ell – one each for the Unit 15 and 16 bathrooms. The Unit 14 bathroom has a similar size slider window without the curved stucco opening. This window is located on the southeast side of the shed roof ell and has a single light in each sash. Cracking in the stucco indicates that this opening previously may have been larger. Cracking in the stucco also shows another possible window opening on the southeast side elevation of the cross gable ell.

There are two additional rectangular window openings in the cross gable ell at the Unit 16 second bedroom. One is located on the northwest façade and the other on the northeast near the east corner. These openings contain a single hung aluminum sash with two over two horizontal divided lights. These later windows are set directly into the stucco wall.

Nearly all of the windows have a wood frame screen attached to the exterior – only rear window for Unit 14 appears to be missing its screen.

There is a hatch in bathroom ceiling of Unit 16 allowing visual access the rafters.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Cabin 14-16 has a T-shaped cross gable roof with a moderate pitch. It is covered with brown asphalt shingles with metal flashing wrapping over the top and corners of the fascia boards. The shed roof rear ell also has brown asphalt shingles.
- b. Eaves: Cabin 14-16 has overhanging eaves with open rafter ends covered by a simple fascia board. The gable ends also have a fascia across the eave overhang and visible purlin ends. These wood elements are all painted dull orange. Aluminum gutters with downspouts are attached to the fascia on the front façade and on the sides of the rear cross gable.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Cabin 14-16 is divided into three units. Units 14 and 15 have a single bedroom with a bathroom to the rear. Unit 16 has two bedrooms with a connecting bathroom between them. Unit 14 and the rear bedroom of Unit 16 have closets.
2. Flooring: Cabin 14-16 has a wood floor covered by commercial-grade carpeting in the bedrooms and vinyl tile in the bathrooms.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls in the original front three bedrooms are covered with knotty pine paneling with vertical bevels between boards of varied widths. The medium brown stained finish paneling has a simple concave wood cornice trim and flat baseboard three inches high. The baseboard looks like a later replacement. The second Unit 16 bedroom in the rear ell has faux wood plastic composite paneling on the inner southwest wall and a textured light tan plastic paneling with vertical grooves and sixteen inch wide vertical sections. This room has the same cornice trim and flat baseboard; here the cornice is painted. The bathroom walls are plaster. There are plaster ceilings throughout the cabin.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Each Cabin 14-16 bedroom has one interior doorway leading to the bathroom. The openings are cut into the wood paneled partition wall with mitred corner applied trim three inches wide. The trim curves at the

inner edge. The thin wood doors are made from the same paneling, with a Z-cross brace on the painted bathroom side.

The closet in Unit 14 has the same thin wood panel door as the bathrooms with a varnished finish on both sides and the typical trim. The closet in the Unit 16 rear bedroom has a hollow core wood door with the typical trim and medium brown varnished finish.

The inside of the external doors have same three-inch wide wood trim with mitred corners and curved inner edge. This side of the door has a medium-brown stained finish.

- b. Windows: All of the bedroom windows have applied wood trim three-inches wide with mitred corners. The trim has a medium brown stain that matches the paneling, except in the Unit 16 second bedroom where it is painted white. The trim tapers inward in three one-inch sections. The shallow sill has the same trim forming an apron below. This apron trim is slightly different in the rear and side windows of Unit 14 with only two sections of unequal width. The outer corners of the trim are rounded and extend one inch beyond the window edge.

The bathroom windows have three-inch wide wood trim with mitred corners and a rounded inner edge. The trim is painted white.

5. Decorative features and trim: None.

6. Hardware: The exterior doors have a yellow metal keyed knob lock and keyed deadbolt with a lever mechanism on the inside. The bathroom doors have pin hinges. The exterior doors and the closet in the second Unit 16 bedroom have pintle hinges.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Cabin 14-16 has individual portable HVAC units installed in a hole cut into the wall below a rear or side window in each bedroom.
- b. Lighting: The cabin is wired with 15-amp electric service in a daisy chain configuration. There is an electrical box and external conduit on the northwest façade. Each bedroom has a white metal ceiling fixture with a clip-on square glass shade. The Unit 16 rear bedroom also has a lantern-style wall sconce over the bed in the southeast wall. The bathrooms have metal base ceiling fixtures with glass dome shades. The Unit 16 and 15 bathrooms have older etched milk glass shades while Unit 14 has a recent clear glass replacement. The light switches are toggle type.
- c. Plumbing: Each of the three cabin unit bathrooms has interior plumbing including a vinyl tub with vinyl surround and shower fixtures, a plastic composite

sink in a wood vanity, and vitreous china toilet. All of these fixtures are less than thirty years old.

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 14-16 sits near the far end of the drive on the southwest side.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: There are no architectural drawings for Cabin 14-16, given the ad hoc nature of its construction and alteration.

B. Early Views: Views from the 1960s show alteration of the stucco exterior and the intact wood sash windows (see Figures 1, 2, and 3).

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 14-16 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 14-17, front view (November 1965).

Note - the rear bedroom of Unit 16 was designated Unit 17 at this time

Source: "Concessions Buildings, Badlands," (19 November 1965), Box 830, Entry P 11, RG 79, NARA II.



Figure 2: Cabin 14-17, side view (November 1965).

Source: "Concessions Buildings, Badlands," (19 November 1965), Box 830, Entry P 11, RG 79, NARA II.



Figure 3: Cabin 14-17, rear view (November 1965).

Source: "Concessions Buildings, Badlands," (19 November 1965), Box 830, Entry P 11, RG 79, NARA II.