

CEDAR PASS LODGE, CABIN 22  
Badlands National Park  
20681 South Dakota Highway 240  
Interior  
Jackson County  
South Dakota

HABS SD-25-Q  
*HABS SD-25-Q*

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 22

HABS No. SD-25-Q

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

The coordinates for Cabin 22 are 43.746730 N, -101.943747 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 22 is a typical one-room cabin at Cedar Pass Lodge with relatively few alterations. 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.

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 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: This small tourist cabin retains its original square footprint and side gable roof form.
5. Alterations and additions: The original half-log siding was removed from Cabin 22 c. 1949 and the wood frame structure sheathed with stucco. Sections of the log siding remain in the eaves and along the rake of the gable ends. A bathroom was added within the original bedroom space. The original wood sash windows have been replaced by c. 1963 aluminum sash. The door also appears to be a c. 1963 replacement with vertical boards.

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 22 is simple one-story wood frame structure with a side gable roof and plain stucco walls. With Cabins 21 and 23, it is one of three almost identical single room cabins with a nearly square plan.
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: 17 feet, 10 1/8 inches by 16 feet, 4 1/2 inches

2. Foundations: Cabin 22 sits on a slab at grade.
3. Walls: Cabin 22's walls are sheathed with textured cement stucco painted light tan. There is a square wood sign mounted to the right of the doorway incised with "22."
4. Structural system, framing: The cabin has a wood frame with a common rafter roof.
5. Stoop: Cabin 22 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 22 has a single exterior doorway on the southwest façade facing the cabin court road. The doorway is off-center closer to the south corner of the cabin. The solid wood door is formed by vertical boards. It has three small rectangular openings near the top with fixed glazing. The openings are arranged in a diagonal. It is set in a simple wood frame with a wood threshold and wood frame screen door. There is a metal flashing lip over the doorway.
  - b. Windows: Cabin 22 has a single window opening at roughly the center of three façades; only the northwest façade is blank. However cracking in the stucco indicates that a window was located at the center of this façade as well. The front and rear have square openings filled with aluminum sash set directly into the stuccoed wall. The single hung sash is divided into two over two horizontal lights. A smaller rectangular aluminum sash is located on the southeast side elevation. This window corresponds to the location of the bathroom. All of the windows have a wood frame screen attached to the exterior.

There is a small square opening near the gable peak on the southeast side elevation filled with projecting metal frame with metal louvers.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Cabin 22 has a side 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.
  - b. Eaves: Cabin 22 has overhanging eaves with open rafter ends covered by a simple fascia board. These wood elements are all painted dull orange. Remnants of original half-log siding are extant at the top of the walls along the gables and eaves and sheathing the exposed rafters. These half logs are

pieced between the rafters on the front and rear eaves and a single long piece in each rake of the side gables. Although this log siding has been sprayed with stucco patching, the peeled log material with cut branch ends is still clearly visible.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Cabin 22 has a single bedroom with a bathroom created by a partition at the east corner of the space. The nearly rectangular bathroom has its doorway in an angled section of the partition wall.
2. Flooring: Cabin 22 has a wood floor covered by commercial-grade carpeting in the bedroom and vinyl sheet flooring in the bathroom.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are covered with knotty pine paneling with vertical grooves forming boards of varied widths. The boards formed by the grooves have smooth, rounded edges. The paneling has a simple convex wood cornice trim and baseboard. In the bedroom it has a medium brown stained finish with the knots visible. In the bathroom the paneling is painted tan. There is a cut section of paneling in bedroom side of the partition wall near the rear window. It has been screwed into place and there is a circuit panel above. The void behind probably contains the hot water heater. The plaster ceilings have been sprayed with a lightly textured coating.
4. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Cabin 22 has one interior doorway between the bedroom and bathroom in the diagonal section of the interior partition wall, close to the south corner. This opening is cut directly into the wood paneled partition wall and is fitted with a hollow core wood door.  

The inside of the external door has two thick horizontal boards with pointed ends over the vertical boards. This side of the door has a medium brown stained finish. The simple frame is set directly into the wood paneling without applied trim.
  - b. Windows: The aluminum sash windows are set into the knotty pine paneling with a moderate reveal. The windows have a five inch deep wood sill that projects 1 ½ inches from the wall and extends 1 ½ inches beyond the edge of the window opening.
5. Decorative features and trim: There is a simple wood shelf with a clothes bar below at the south corner. This small niche space behind the exterior door in the niche space created by the bathroom partition wall.
6. Hardware: The exterior door has a yellow metal keyed knob lock and deadbolt.

## 7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Cabin 22 does not have integrated HVAC equipment. Because these structures are not used outside of the summer season, they are equipped portable electric space heater and a window unit air conditioner. The air conditioner is installed in a hole cut into the wall below the rear window.

There is a metal ventilation grille in the ceiling at the northwest side wall. This grille and the exterior louver in the southeast gable appear to ventilate the cabin through the rafter space.

A small metal heater with fan unit set into the partition wall in the bathroom. It is framed by wood trim with mitred corners.

- 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. Existing light fixtures appear to date to c. 1963. These include two recessed lights with aluminum housings, a gold metal wall sconce in the northwest wall with a cone-shaped metal shade, and a white metal ceiling fixture with a clip-on square glass shade. The light switches are toggle type.
- c. Plumbing: The cabin has interior plumbing including a shower stall with a vinyl surround, a plastic composite sink in a wood vanity, and vitreous china toilet. The shower stall sits within a niche at the east corner.

## 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 22 sits near the middle of the southwest side of the U.

## PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: There are no architectural drawings for Cabin 22, given the ad hoc nature of its construction and alteration.

B. Early Views: A cabin similar to Cabin 22 appears in a c. 1935 photograph, showing the wood timber sheathing and original windows (see Figure 1). Views from the 1960s show alteration of the exterior with stucco (Figure 2).

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 22 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, Cedar Pass Camp, c. 1935.  
Source: Mary (nee Allburn) Aggergaard Scrapbook, BADL Archives.



Figure 2: Cabin 22 (November 1965).  
Source: "Concessions Buildings, Badlands," (19 November 1965), Box 830, Entry P 11, RG 79, NARA II.