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References

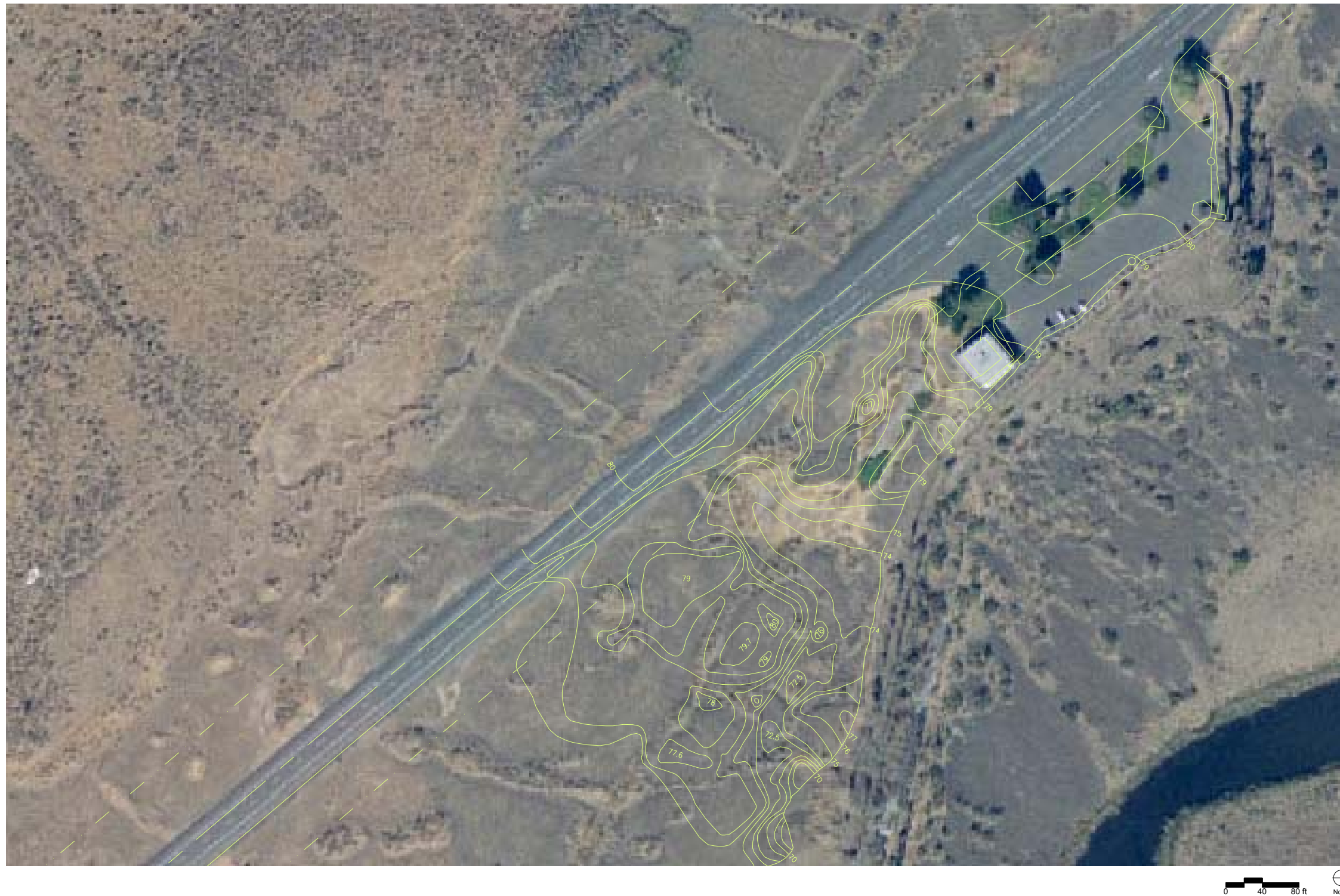
Interpretive Master Plan for Ice Age Floods in Washington State Parks
David Bucy, BUCY Associates Interpretive Planning; 2006

Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byways
Coulee Corridor Consortium, Coulee City, Washington; 2009

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission: Strategic Plan 2009-2015
State of Washington, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission; 2008

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission: 2013 Centennial Goals
State of Washington, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission; 2003

Site Aerial Map



Architect, Kenneth Brooks Correspondence

NEWS RELEASE INFORMATION DESCRIBING
THE DRY FALLS INTERPRETIVE CENTER
TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY
THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STATE OF WASHINGTON

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF PROJECT

This interpretive center located at Dry Falls approximately 40 miles southwest of the Grand Coulee Dam near the center of the State of Washington, will consist of a gallery of exhibits which will tell the story of Dry Falls. This will include the geological, paleontological and anthropological aspects of the area.

Briefly, this waterfall, now dry, was once the greatest cascade of water the earth has known. It was caused by an advancing glacier which cut off the flow of the Columbia River, sending it out across the lava plains. (The lava had come earlier from large deep crevices in this area of the Columbia Basin, rather than from mountain-like volcanoes.) The cascade of water eroded the lava away, cutting into the joint system of the columnar basalt (lava). When the glacier receded, the Columbia River returned to flow in its original banks and thus Dry Falls exists today. (For a more complete story see the State Parks and Recreation Commission prospectus section "Origin of Dry Falls" - a four-page description.)

SITE ASPECTS

The proposed site is on a prominent bluff on the upper west side of the chasm within view of State Highway #7 approximately four miles southwest of Coulee City or fifteen miles north of Scap Lake. As one approaches from the north, through desert-like scab rock and sagebrush land, one is hardly aware that such a chasm exists except for the tops of the distant ridges exposing themselves slightly. From the south, one rises up out of a great canyon dotted with lakes. It is a strange and scaleless landscape, it being difficult to comprehend the heights and distances of the basaltic outcroppings.

The building itself is intended to have a scaleless quality. It will be sited in the scab rock and sagebrush void of any man-made landscaping or man-made objects in an endeavor to preserve this somewhat mysterious "face of the moon" quality of the region. Car parking and access roads will be tucked into low ground as much as possible. Utility lines will be concealed under a narrow path leading to the Center to avoid molesting the scab rock which is covered with age-old lichen.

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BUILDING DESIGN

Functional Aspects:

To gain the best panoramic view of Dry Falls, it is desirable that the gallery floor level be elevated. An architectural concept which let the architecture "get behind" the exhibits rather than outshine them led to the simple 50 foot square volume. Elevating the gallery floor and the desire for permanency led to this volume being placed on a 30 foot square basaltic base. (The base houses the toilet rooms and utility areas.) The gallery cantilevers loft over the basaltic base creating shaded shelter for outdoor viewing in the hot summer climate. One enters the gallery itself via basaltic steps which ascend to the heart of the gallery above, not unlike entering the archaeologists' excavations of the Mayan pyramids in Yucatan.

The gallery itself is a simple enclosure with a clear cut traffic pattern which takes the visitor past a time calendar in the form of a clock, a relief map of the region made as though it were cut from a globe, the miocene landscape, the lava flows, a model of the Blue Lake Rhino found in the channelled scab lands, a description of how mountains are formed, the ice-cap formation and receding era. A "sunroom bay" of glass at this point will expose a panorama of Dry Falls itself. Then archaeological artifacts will be displayed, a model of a cave shelter used by nomadic Indian tribes, and finally a description of the Grand Coulee area as we know it today with the great Grand Coulee Dam.

Two basaltic lava rock walls enclosing the tunnel-like stairway will ascend into the gallery itself, giving viewers a constant "feel" of the lava rock of this region.

A curator will be on duty at all time; his space is conveniently available for all questions, literature. He has full view control of the entrance and all gallery areas. All display panels and glass cases will be suspended between structural columns especially arranged to support the exhibits in a permanent, clean way.

Economic Aspects:

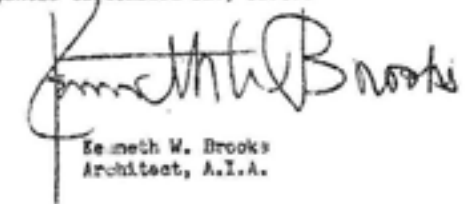
Included in the architect's assignment was to provide the space at minimum cost yet produce a structure permanent and durable, with an air of solidity. Its concept will allow conventional construction methods, speed of erection, and lowest possible cost because of the simple cube-like mass. The white roof will reflect heat to reduce the air conditioning load. All heating and air conditioning will be with electricity and an air-to-air heat pump.

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Aesthetic Aspects:

This simple, light, man-made appearing shell housing the gallery setting on an organic base of lava stone (acquired in the immediate vicinity) will be a modern museum to house this educational information and is intended to be of such simple masses in strong profile against the skies that the passer-by will immediately know that here is a pilgrimage point worthy of visiting and revisiting. All surface exteriors of the gallery will be white, including the roof, to make this lonesome volume as much a "beacon" from the air as it will be a focal point from the ground.

The gallery will be a dim blue environment, air conditioned, semi-dark as at dusk or dawn - all to create an oasis-like impact on the visitor arriving from the hot sagebrush plains. (Walls are blue burlap, display panels carbonized fir, floors dark cork.)

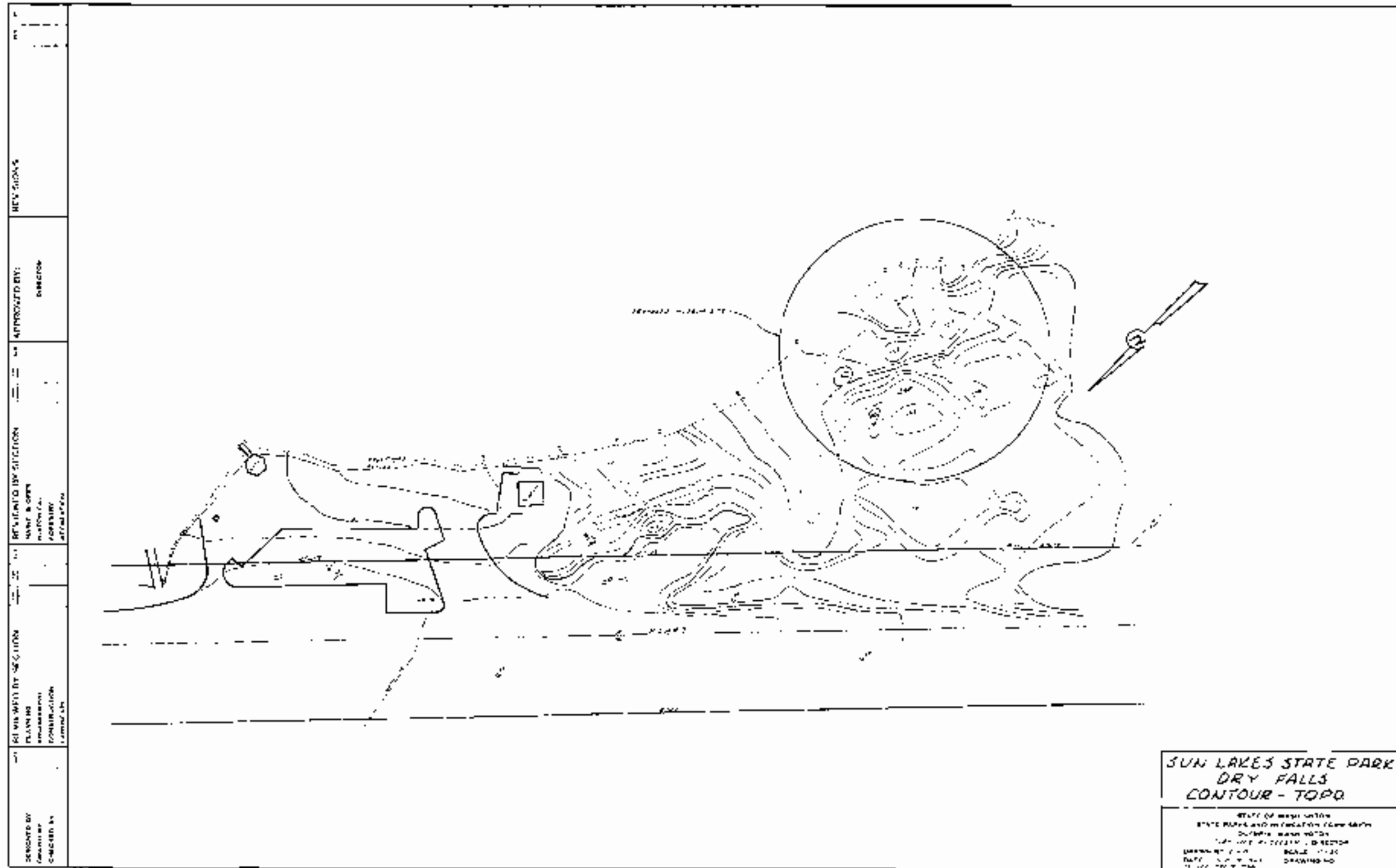


Kenneth W. Brooks
Architect, A.I.A.

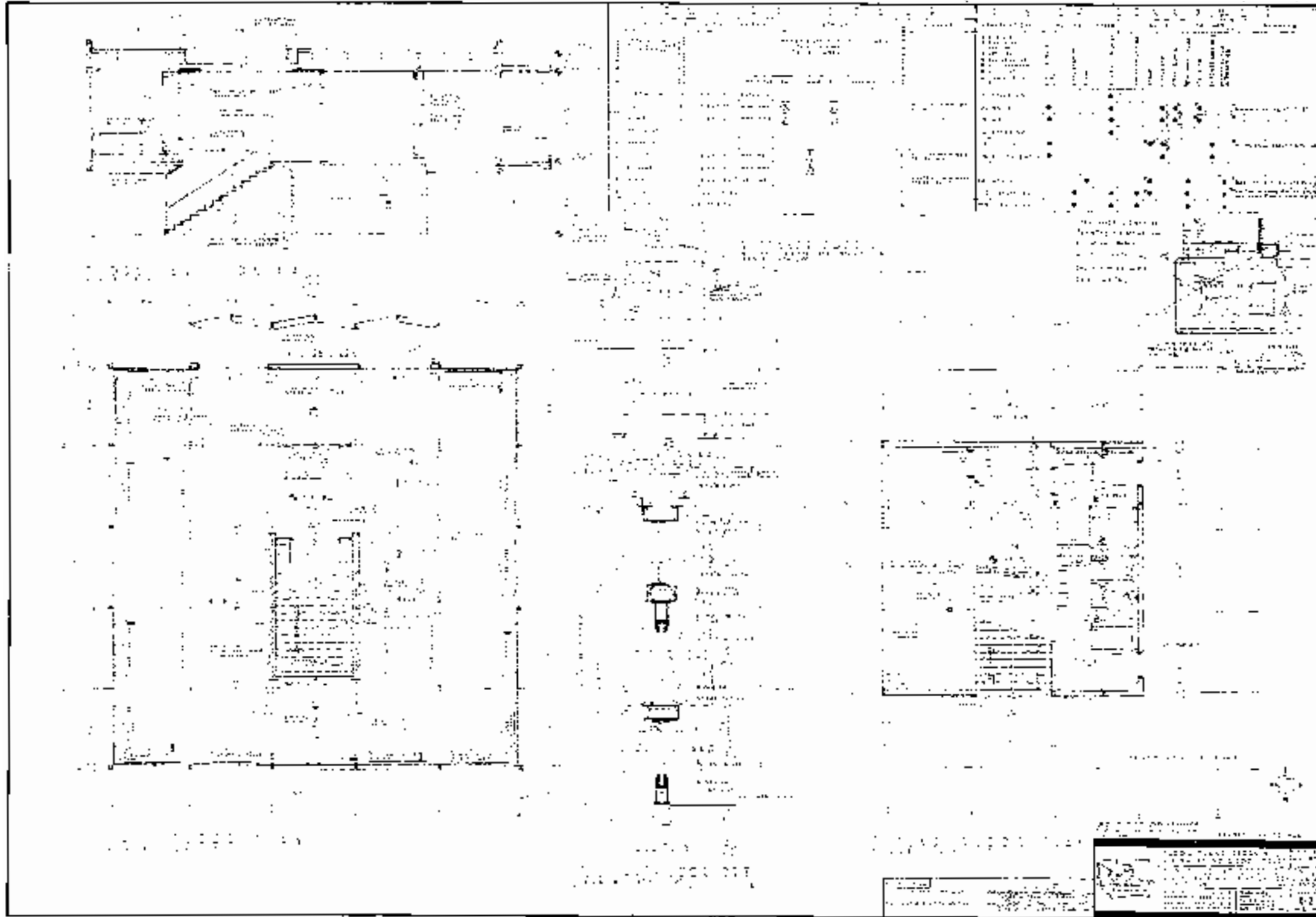
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1963 Site Plan



1964 Building Plans



WSPRC Meeting Minutes, November 1964

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Seattle Park Board Office
100 Dexter Avenue North
Seattle, Washington

November 15, 1964

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Ted R. McTighe, Vice Chairman
Clair V. Greeley
Howard Martin
James Whittaker
Joe Hamel
Eleanor Berger

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Charles H. Odegaard, Director
Ralph Dunker, Administrative Assistant
John Clark, Supervisor, Planning and Dev.
Philip Parker, Public Information Officer
B. K. Wilcox, Supervisor of Operations
Leona Stephens, Secretary

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

James Hovis, Chairman

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Fred Overly, Regional Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
Mr. E. M. Sterling, Camping Editor, Seattle Times
Mr. Chester Biesen, Executive Director, Assoc. of Washington Cities
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Chadbourne, Past President, Washington State Parks Assoc.
Mr. Ed Johnson, Superintendent, Seattle Park Department
Mrs. Frederick Lemere, Board Member, Seattle Park Commission

A-1, AGENCA:

It was requested that the following item be added to the agenda:

B-2 Spokane House -- Report by Mr. Warren Brown of General Administration Department

MOTION by Mr. Whittaker, seconded by Mrs. Berger, that the proposed agenda be accepted with the above addition. Motion carried.

A-2, MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION by Mr. Greeley, seconded by Mr. Martin, that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

B-2, SPOKANE HOUSE

Mr. Warren Brown, Department of General Administration, stated that that department would submit the following list of qualified architects from which the Commission could, if they wished, select the architect for Spokane House:

George M. Rasque & Associates
McClure & Adkison Architects
Barnard & Holloway
Culler, Gale, Martell & Ericson

These firms have been doing work for the State for some time and are geared for either large or small jobs. Mr. McTighe stated that the Eastern Washington Historical Society's Subcommittee on Spokane House has asked Mr. McTighe to serve as its Chairman. This Committee has expressed much interest in Spokane House and it is his feeling they will want to express their views regarding the type of architecture proposed for this, as well as expressing an opinion about the architect selected. Mr. Martin suggested that the selection of the architect be made by Mr. McTighe in conjunction with the staff. Mr. McTighe stated he would make his selection known after the next meeting of the committee. Mr. Odegaard suggested that a member of the staff be present at the meeting. Mr. McTighe stated he would request a preliminary meeting of the committee after which it would be necessary that a regular meeting be held and that he would be happy to have a member of the staff present at the regular meeting to answer any questions the committee might have.

D-1, DRY FALLS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Mr. Warren Brown stated that five bids were opened October 21, 1964, for Dry Falls Interpretive Center. The low bid exceeded the funds available and it has been concluded that it will be necessary to re-bid the project. Because it was found that the excess in the project was primarily in the ground work to be done, they have gone over the plans and consolidated in some areas, selected a new site for the building which would involve less road work, laying of utility lines, as well as other items which would reduce the cost but not materially affect the overall design of the building. The architect has been directed to redo the plans. The building will be basically the same as shown to the Commission at a previous meeting.

This item was presented for the information of the Commission members and no action was necessary.

C-1, SACAJAWEA STATE PARK

The State Parks and Recreation Commission has applied to the U. S. Corps of Army Engineers for an amended license at Sacajawea State Park which would enlarge the present use area by approximately 269 acres. This application is pending at the present time.