

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEMS,
MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 GARAGE

HAER No. CA-2272-S

Mill Creek
Yucaipa vicinity
San Bernardino County
California

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 GARAGE

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Location: The Mill Creek 2 and 3 Garage (MC 2 and 3 Garage) 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 Garage 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 Garage was constructed circa 1920s and is located at the east side of the property. This one-story building has a rectangular plan. The west façade is asymmetrical and the building sits on a concrete foundation. The exterior is clad with corrugated metal sheets. The moderately pitched side gabled roof is clad with corrugated metal sheets. The roof has moderately overhanging open eaves. The west façade has two wood channel drop single garage doors and a single wood paneled pedestrian door.

History: The MC 2 and 3 Garage 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. This building has since been demolished. 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.

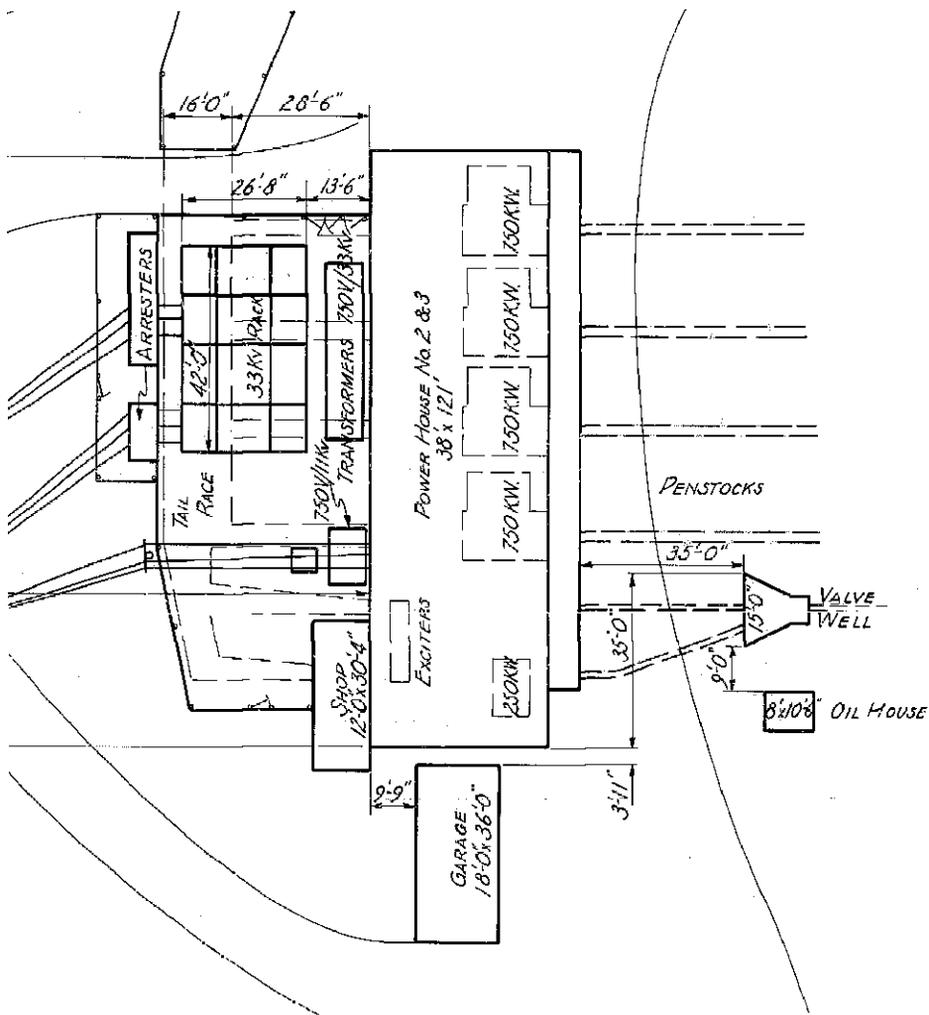
Low, George P. "The Generating, Transmission and Distribution Systems of The Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles, Cal.," *The Journal of Electricity, Power and Gas*. vol. XIII, no. 1. January, 1903.

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

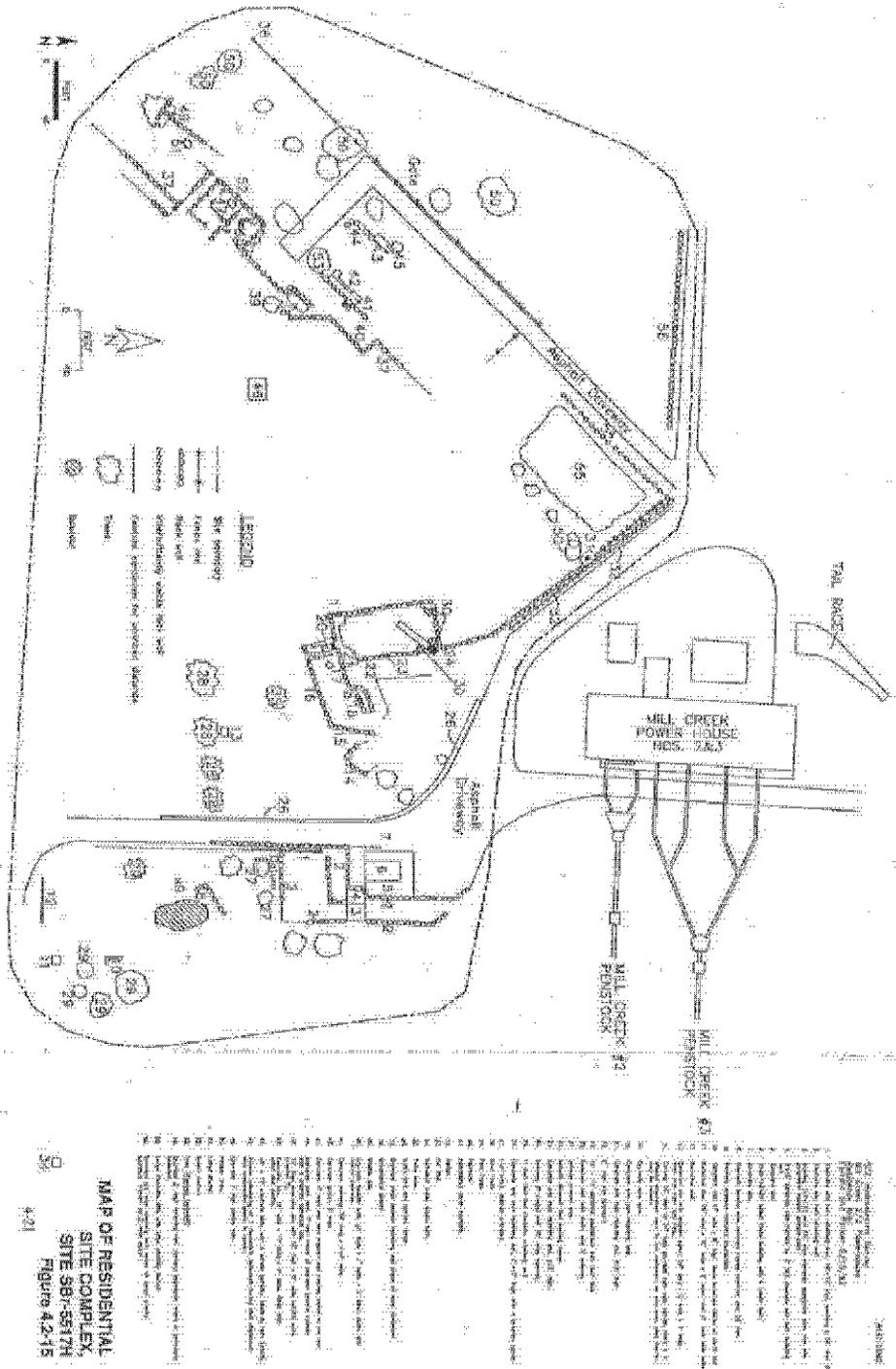
“Redlands Electric Light & Power Co., Edition Electric Co. of Los Angeles, Mill Creek Powerhouses,” *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form*, April 30, 1985, item number 7, 10.

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.

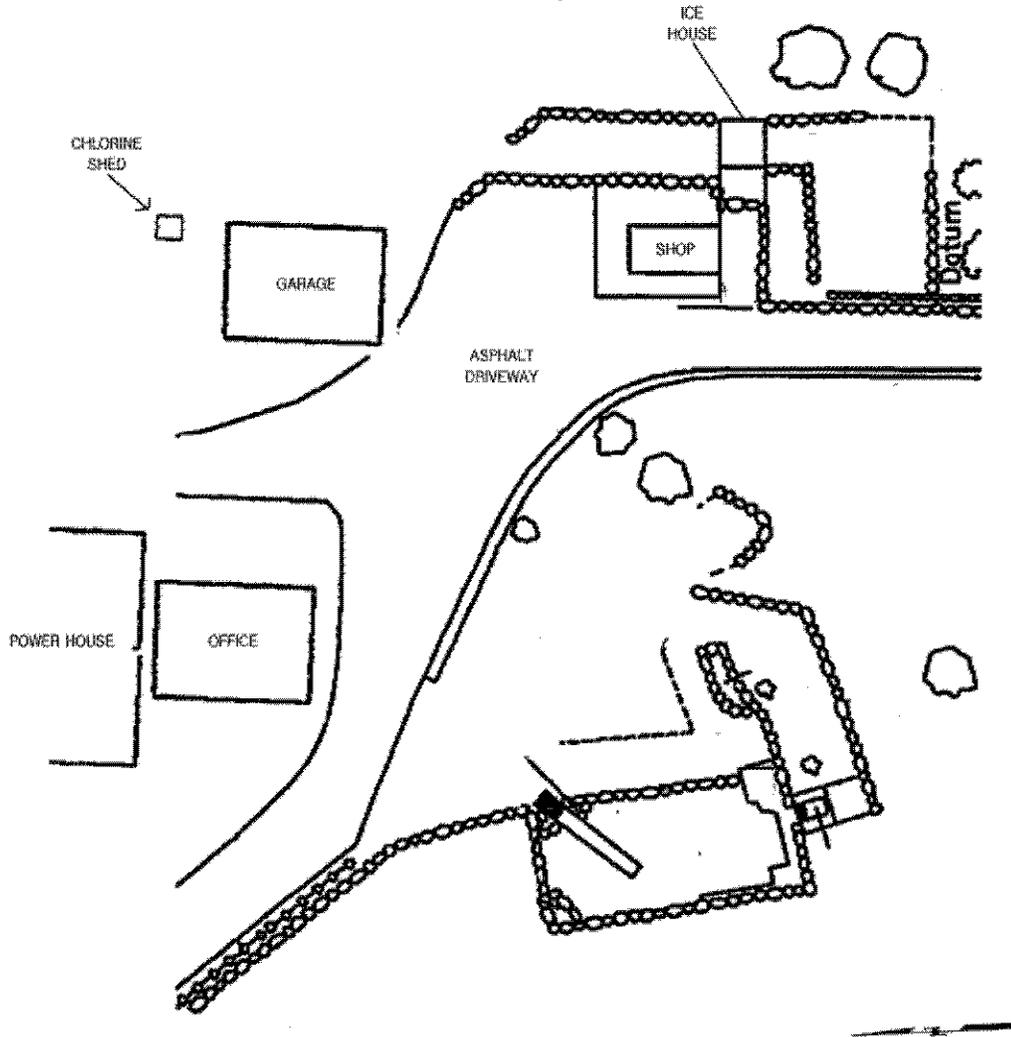


Detail taken from March 26, 1928 Plot Plan, illustrating the original location of the Mill Creek 2 and 2 Garage (Plan Courtesy of Southern California Edison).



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

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 GARAGE SITE MAP



Mill Creek 2 and 3 Garage Site Map.