

CEDAR PASS LODGE, CABIN 9  
Badlands National Park  
20681 South Dakota Highway 240  
Interior  
Jackson County  
South Dakota

HABS SD-25-H  
*HABS SD-25-H*

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 9

HABS No. SD-25-H

- Location:** Badlands National Park, Interior, Pendleton County, South Dakota
- The coordinates for Cabin 9 are 43.746397 N, -101.944018 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 9 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. Cabin 9 retains 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: This small tourist cabin was probably built with a square footprint and side gable roof (Figure 1). This form is still clearly visible. Early wood sash slider windows are still extant.
5. Alterations and additions: The original half-log siding was removed from Cabin 9 c. 1949 and the wood frame structure sheathed with stucco over chicken wire. A bathroom extension was built at the west corner probably around the same time. Another extension at the back of the south corner contains a mechanical room with a hot water heater for this and several neighboring units. The door is a later replacement of wood veneer with a peephole.

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 9 is simple one-story wood frame structure with a side gable roof and plain stucco walls. The rear, or southwest, façade has the bathroom and mechanical room extensions. Cabins 4, 5, 6, and 8 have similar plans and forms with the exception of the mechanical room extension on Cabin 9.

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. The wood floor is sagging in several areas of the bedroom.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 20 feet, 7 1/4 inches wide by 18 feet, 2 1/4 inches deep (including additions)
2. Foundations: Cabin 9 sits on grade.
3. Walls: Cabin 9's walls are sheathed with textured cement stucco over chicken wire painted light tan. There is a square wood sign mounted to the left of the doorway incised with "9."
4. Structural system, framing: The cabin has a wood frame with a common rafter roof.
5. Stoop: Cabin 9 has a low wood decking stoop across its front façade. The stoop is painted a dull orange.
6. Chimney: There are remnants of two brick masonry chimneys – one at the northwest side of the mechanical room extension and one inside at the north wall of the bedroom. These chimneys slope up approximately half way up the wall.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Cabin 9 has a single exterior doorway on the northeast façade facing the cabin court road. The doorway is off center closer to the north corner. The solid wood door has wood veneer and a peephole. It is set in a thin wood frame with butt joints. This opening also has a wood threshold and wood frame screen door.

The mechanical room extension has a doorway on the southeast side with a thin wood frame with butt joints. The door consists of vertical wood boards with a metal knob.

- b. Windows: Cabin 9 has a single rectangular window opening at roughly the center of each façade of the original bedroom block. The typical window is an early wood sash slider with four horizontal lights in each sash. The window in the southeast side façade is a later single light wood sash slider. The openings with the early wood sliders have curved stucco tops and sides and wood sills that extend three inches past the sides of the window. The modified southeast window has a thin wood frame. The bathroom extension has a single smaller rectangular window opening in the northwest side. This window is an aluminum slider with single light sashes. It is installed directly into the stucco wall with patching to fill an earlier curved edge opening. The

bathroom and rear bedroom windows have a wood frame screen attached to the exterior. There is physical evidence for an additional window opening in the rear façade of the bathroom extension.

8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Cabin 9 has a side gable roof with a shed roof mechanical room extension and a lower side gable for the bathroom extension. The south slope of the bathroom gable is partially incorporated into the main roof. The roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles with metal flashing wrapping over the top and corners of the fascia boards.
  - b. Eaves: Cabin 9 has overhanging eaves with open rafter ends covered by a simple fascia board. These wood elements are all painted dull orange. Because all sections of Cabin 9 have consistent eaves it is likely that the entire roof was reframed to incorporate the extensions.

#### C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Cabin 9 has a single bedroom with a bathroom in a small extension projecting from the west corner. The mechanical room extension is only accessible from the exterior.
2. Flooring: Cabin 9 has a wood floor covered by commercial-grade carpeting in the bedroom and vinyl tile in the bathroom. The wood floor is failing and sagging below the carpet in several areas of the bedroom.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are covered with medium brown knotty pine paneling with v-notch vertical grooves forming boards of varied widths. The paneling has a simple convex wood cornice trim three inches wide and five and a half inch high flat wood baseboard. The plaster ceiling in the bedroom has been sprayed with a thick textured coating. The bathroom has textured white plastic sheeting forming a wainscot on the walls with gypsum board above and a 4 ½ inch flat wood baseboard painted white. The gypsum board bathroom ceiling slopes to the front and rear. The mechanical room walls and ceiling are unfinished.
4. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Cabin 9 has one interior doorway between the bedroom and bathroom at the northwest wall near the west corner. This opening has flat wood trim 2 5/8 inches wide with butt joints. The upper piece projects slightly over the sides. The early wood door has two rectangular recessed panels on each side with an ovolo tapered edge.

The inside of the external door has a medium brown stained finish and flat wood trim inches wide with butt joints. The upper piece projects slightly over the sides.

- b. Windows: The early wood sash windows have 2 ¾ inch wood trim and apron. The wood sill is 1 ½ inches deep with rounded corners. The upper piece of the trim and the sill project slightly over the sides. The modified southeast window has flat wood trim 5 ½ inches wide with butt joints and no sill. The bathroom window sits in the plastic wainscot with no trim. The bottom of the opening is covered with five inch square gray ceramic tiles like those in the shower stall.
5. Decorative features and trim: The chimney remnant in the northwest wall is covered with knotty pine paneling.
6. Hardware: The exterior door has a yellow metal keyed knob lock and deadbolt with interior lever.
7. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Because this structure is not used outside of the park season, it is equipped with a portable heating/air conditioning unit installed in a hole cut into the wall below the southeast side window. The mechanical room used to house a equipment for Cabin 9 and several neighboring units.
  - 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 southeast façade. The bedroom has a white metal ceiling fixture with a clip-on square glass shade. The bathroom has a yellow metal bar light over the vanity. The light switches are toggle type.
  - c. Plumbing: The cabin has interior plumbing including a shower stall with a five inch square gray ceramic tile walls and yellow and tan mosaic tile floor with a mix of square and rectangular tiles varying in size from 1 ½ inch to ½ inch. The shower stall sits within a niche at the south corner of the bathroom extension. The bathroom also has a plastic composite sink in a wood vanity and vitreous china toilet. An electric hot water heater for Cabin 9 and several neighboring units is located in the mechanical room extension.

#### 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 9 sits near the middle of the northeast side of the U.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: There are no architectural drawings for Cabin 9, given the ad hoc nature of its construction and alteration.

B. Early Views: A cabin similar to Cabin 9 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 (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 9 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 9 (November 1965).  
Source: "Concessions Buildings, Badlands," (19 November 1965), Box 830, Entry P 11, RG 79, NARA II.



Figure 3: Cabin 9 (November 1965).

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



Figure 4: Cabin 9 from Rear (November 1965).

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