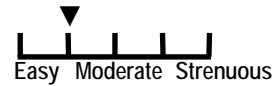


Hodges Cabin

Easy to moderate, 7 miles



Hodges Cabin is a fun hike through the forest along the North Fork of Coffee Creek. The cabin dates to the 1920s and it is fun to explore this summer resort of the Walter Hodges family.

Hike

- ◆ **Hodges Cabin** (41° 9.428'N, 122° 50.797'W)
Total Length (round-trip): 7 miles via Coffee Creek North Fork Trail
Elevation Gain: 1,000'
Difficulty: Easy-to-moderate

Topo Maps

- ◆ *Ycatapom Peak* and *Billys Peak*

Directions to Trailheads

16.5 miles to Coffee Creek North Fork Trailhead

Take Hwy 3 north from Trinity Center about 8 miles to Coffee Creek Road. Turn left and follow Coffee Creek Road 8.3 miles to the trailhead parking area (just before crossing the bridge). Note that the last 2.3 miles to the trailhead are gravel. The trail actually starts about 300 feet back along the road to the east, but there is a somewhat steep shortcut to the trail out of the north side of the parking area.

Hodges Cabin History

Hodges Cabin is located about 3.5 miles up the Coffee Creek North Fork Trail inside the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The cabin and other buildings on the property were built in 1923 by Walter Leander Hodges, and include the two-story cabin, a horse barn and corral, a blacksmith shop, a generator shed and Pelton wheel, a cement swimming pool and a treehouse!

Mr. Hodges and his wife Agnes Yenez, made their money in the sand and gravel business in Los Angeles before looking for a country residence in Northern California. Prior to the start of World War I, they purchased property in Trinity Center so they could raise horses. At this time, Walter began exploring the Coffee Creek area and something about the North Fork of Coffee Creek caught his eye. Sometime during World War I, Walter began visiting and camping near the present cabin site, and subsequently decided to buy the land as a vacation spot.

Work on the cabin began in 1920 and was completed in the winter of 1923. Frank Schlomberg, a German cabinet maker, built furniture for the cabin, and took care of it during the winter months while the Hodges were away (Frank Schlomberg's tiny stucco cabin sits farther up the trail just past its junction with the Saloon Creek Trail). That same year, Walter finalized the purchase of five mining claims from T.B. and Edith Wil-



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liams and Jesse and Tiny Carter of Shasta County. On this property, Walter acquired a small sawmill where he manufactured all of the lumber needed for his building project. The materials that could not be made with the sawmill were hauled in by pack mule, since the nearest road was ten miles away at the time.

Walter built the cabin of incense cedar logs in a unique blockade style, sawing the logs on three sides for a snug fit and leaving the bark on the facing to the outside. The 2,000-square-foot cabin was built with a large kitchen and great room on the ground floor, a sleeping porch, four bedrooms and a dressing room/bathroom on the second floor. The place was heated with a large native stone fireplace, and cooled in the summer with a set of six French doors facing each other across the great room on the north and south sides. Opening the French doors allowed the cooling up- and down-canyon breezes to move unimpeded through the house. The surrounding buildings were built of dimension lumber and roofed with tin.

After Walter's death in 1930, Agnes, daughter Marion and her husband Robert Warrum, spent their summers at the cabin until 1940. Sometime in the mid fifties Agnes sold the cabin to her niece and nephew, George and Edith Doss. They kept the cabin for several years with the help of Dr. Herman Gross, a long-time friend of the Hodges. In 1963, Dr. Gross bought Hodges Cabin from Doss and held it until 1968 when he sold it to William A. Pearson. "Billy" Pearson was a colorful character who was a horse racing jockey, a winning contestant on the TV game show "The \$64,000 Question", and an art dealer.

Unfortunately, through all the years this cabin was used, the property, in fact, belonged to Southern Pacific Railroad. A



Hodges Cabin (continued)

fraudulent land survey around the turn of the century led to this conflict. It was not until the 1980s that the legal maneuvering between SP and Pearson was made moot by a land exchange between SP and the US Forest Service. This exchange was part of the Forest Service's effort to consolidate public ownership within the Trinity Alps Wilderness. In 1984 the entire area was incorporated into the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

The Trail

The North Fork Coffee Creek Trail is an easy-to-moderate trail that climbs relatively gently from the trailhead to your destination at Hodges Cabin 3.5 miles away. The trail begins with a moderate climb away from the trailhead on Coffee Creek road, crosses a low ridge shoulder and then follows the North Fork of Coffee Creek that runs at the bottom of the canyon below.

The trail stays high for approximately one mile before it drops down to the creek. Approxim-ately 1¼ miles from the trailhead

you will cross the only bridge before you get to the cabin. From the bridge, the trail follows the west side of the creek, occasionally climbing away from the creek and then dropping back down. It follows this up and down course until you reach the low ridge directly across the canyon from Little Lick Creek. From here it drops to creek level and stays there until you reach the Coffee Creek North Fork crossing to the cabin.

The cabin, barn and other outbuildings sit across the creek on a flat and come into view well before you reach the creek crossing. The trail offers fine views of forested ridges, distant peaks, and the North Fork of Coffee Creek. It passes through or close to several flats along the creek where you can take a break and relax next to the water. In July, azaleas are a common sight and other wildflowers grow profusely along the trail as well. Crossing the creek to the cabin can be tricky when it is high with spring run-off. Look farther upstream for crossing logs...they are usually not hard to find.

