

William Allen White Cabins
(Lower Sleeping Cabin)
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park Vicinity
Larimer County
Colorado

HABS No. CO-63-C

HABS
COLO,
35-ESPR.V.
2C-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

NO. 150M
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to
William Allen White Cabins, Lower Sleeping Cabin
Bear Lake Road
Rocky Mountain National Park
Vicinity Estes Park, Larimer County
Colorado

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM TO:

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE CABINS, LOWER SLEEPING CABIN

HABS NO. CO-63-C

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This report is an addendum to one drawing previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

Location: Bear Lake Road, Moraine Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Vicinity Estes Park, Larimer County, Colorado

Significance: This cabin is typical of structures built by turn of the century settlers as guest quarters. It is also important due to its association with William Allen White, a noted writer, Pulitzer prize winner, and advisor to many political figures.

Description:

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Information - Lower Sleeping Cabin

Architectural Merit and Interest: This is one of two sleeping cabins William Allen White built in 1913. He built it to house some of the many acquaintances who came to Colorado to visit White during the summers. This is a two story cabin, one bedroom upstairs and another smaller bedroom downstairs. Sheet metal sheathing made to look like rockfaced masonry covers the outer wall of the lower floor.

Condition of Fabric: Original materials in poor condition.

Summary Description: This is similar in style to the upper sleeping cabin (HABS No. CO-63-B), being rectangular with a small covered, open front porch, and board and batten siding. It also has a unique gable-type roof with cedar shingles and a metal ridge cap with ball finial. This cabin is also unique in that it is built into a steep slope. The east facade is only one story, but the western end is two stories tall. There is one bedroom on the top floor, and a small bedroom on the lower floor. The remaining portion of the lower floor is a crawl space. The bedroom on the lower floor is entered through a separate ground level door. Sheet metal sheathing representing coursed, rockfaced masonry, covers the outer wall of the lower level. Overall dimensions are 20'-3" x 12'-3".

B. Detailed Description of Exterior

Foundation: None.

Wall Construction: Board and batten exposed wood.

Structural System: Wood frame.

Porches, Stoops, Etc.: One five-step wood platform porch (steps are badly deteriorated and broken), with board and batten railing and 4" x 8" vertical supports, is on the front facade. This porch is covered with a gable end hood. A stone and concrete stoop is located on the south facade.

Openings, Doorways, and Windows: There are two single doors with vertical wood boards having interior batts - one located on the front facade and one on the south facade. Each of the two doorways has a wood screen door. There are two window openings with brown wood frames and flat arches on the upper floor, and two windows on the lower floor. The window on the front facade on the lower floor is rectangular of unusual dimensions; it is wide, but very narrow in height.

Roof - Shape and Covering: The sloping low pitched gable-type roof is covered with cedar shingles and having exposed 2" x 4" rafter ends. The shape of this roof, where the gable ends curve slightly upward, is unusual because it resembles the roof of a pagoda, which is atypical of the area. A metal ridge cap is present with a ball finial at the front facade.

C. Detailed Description of Interior

Floor Plan: One room upstairs and one room down, both used as bedrooms for guests.

Stairways: None.

Flooring: Wood boards.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes: Both the walls and the ceiling are covered with gypsum wallboard. Wood battens are placed randomly (probably at the wallboard joints) on both the walls and ceiling.

D. Site and Surroundings

The cabin site is open with native grasses, soils and pines. The view of Longs Peak and other mountains, and Moraine Park is to the south and southwest. The front facade is to the west.