

Peavy Cabins  
Block A, Lot 1  
Pettit Lake Summer Home Area  
Stanley Vicinity  
Blaine County  
Idaho

HABS No. ID-107

HABS  
ID  
19-STANV,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of Interior  
San Francisco, California 94102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY  
PEAVEY CABINS

HABS  
ID

19-STAN V  
1-

HABS No. ID-107

Location: The site is located on the south shore of Pettit Lake, Block A, Lot 1 of the Pettit Lake Summer Home Area, Blaine County, Idaho. The site is located 2 1/2 miles west of Highway 75 on the Pettit Lake Access Road, approximately twenty miles south of Stanley, Idaho.

Present Owner: Bruce Willis

Present Occupants: Vacant

Present Use: None

Significance: The Peavey Cabins, constructed in the late 1920s, represent a rustic style of log cabin architecture. Three of the four cabins, illustrate the lapped box corner detail. The fourth cabin displays the ventral saddle notch detail. All are constructed of local materials.

These cabins were owned by the Peavey family for approximately sixty years. Various members of the family have been involved in state and national political positions. The Peavey family also owns one of the largest livestock companies in southern Idaho, The Flattop Sheep Company, established in the early 1920s.

Report  
Prepared by: Donna Hartmans  
Boise, Idaho  
October 1992

### PHYSICAL CONTEXT

The Peavey Cabins are located on the south shore of Pettit Lake in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in central Idaho. The site lies in the Stanley Basin in northwest Blaine County approximately twenty miles south of Stanley, Idaho and forty-five miles north of Ketchum and Sun Valley, Idaho. Pettit Lake lies at the eastern edge of the Sawtooth Wilderness at an elevation of 6,996 feet. The lake is approximately 3/4 of a mile long east to west and 1/2 mile wide north to south. The site is accessed via highway 75 and the Pettit Lake Access Road. The Peavey Cabins are located on Block A, Lot 1 of the Pettit Lake Summer Home Area on approximately 1/2 acre of land.<sup>1</sup> (See vicinity map).

The Site slopes from the southwest to the northeast with a small knoll at the southeast corner. The site is vegetated primarily with lodgepole pine and sparse undergrowth. The Pettit Lake Access Road borders the southside of the property. A loop driveway accesses the site from the southeast. (See site plan).

The Peavey Cabins are on the eastern most leased property along the south shore of Pettit Lake. Another twenty-one properties extend westward from the Peavey Cabins along the lake shore in Blocks B, C, and D. The Pettit Lake Access Road ends at Block D, Lot 7. Block E of the Summer Home area is located on a peninsula on the north side of the lake opposite the Peavey Cabins.<sup>2</sup> The eastern lakeshore is used for recreation on a day use basis. Tin Cup Trailhead is located at the end of the road on the north side of the lake, north of the peninsula summer home area. From this point, trails lead north or west into the Sawtooth Wilderness. Trail 095 follows the north shore of the lake westward into the wilderness area.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT

The origin of the name for Pettit Lake is uncertain. One idea is that it was named for W.H. Pettit, a manager of the Monarch Mine in Atlanta, Idaho in Elmore County about twenty miles to the southwest of the lake. A second derivation claims that Tom Pettit, a stage coach driver in the early 1870s passed through this area and camped at the lake, giving it his name.<sup>3</sup>

This rugged mountainous region was first explored by Alexander Ross in 1824, an agent for the Hudson Bay Company.<sup>4</sup> The area was then used by trappers in the late 1820s and 30s. In the 1860s gold miners were attracted to central Idaho and mining communities populated the area. John Stanley, a prospector, discovered gold in 1863 and many of the land features bear his name. Subsequent mining areas developed in the Stanley Basin at Sawtooth in 1878, Galena in 1879, and Vienna and Smiley Creek in the 1880s. South of Galena Pass other mining endeavors established towns at Ketchum in

1880 and Hailey in 1881.<sup>6</sup> Galena and Vienna remain as memories only and became ghost towns by the 1890s. Other towns fared better in maintaining communities after mining endeavors ended.

Logging and agriculture became the next primary economic enterprises of the Stanley Basin. With the timber industry came interest in forest conservation which was a national concern in the 1870s and 80s. Envisioned as early as 1875 by private forest conservation groups throughout the country, a system of forest reserves began to be established in 1891 under the Department of the Interior. In 1905 these reserves were moved to the Department of Agriculture and reorganized as the United States Forest Service. In 1907 these reserves were redesignated National Forests. The Sawtooth National Reserve was established by Theodore Roosevelt on May 29, 1905 and changed to the Sawtooth National Forest on March 4, 1907.<sup>8</sup> The Sawtooth National Forest's mission was that of any other Forest; manage timber and wildlife, administer mining and grazing rights, and provide recreational benefits for the public.

In terms of recreation, early Forest records show the number of people using the Sawtooth National Forest during the following years:

1917 -	5,400
1920 -	9,000
1925 -	11,000
1935 -	15,000 <sup>9</sup>
1940 -	69,000 <sup>9</sup>

The increase in these statistics were dependent upon road development in the Sawtooth National Forest and recreational planning by its administrators. A 1926 Sawtooth National Forest map indicates the highway between Stanley and Ketchum as the main motor road. The access road to Pettit Lake was twice as long originally,<sup>10</sup> entering from the highway (now Highway 75) at the southeast. Eight years later, the 1932 Sawtooth National Forest map indicates a shorter more direct route from the east to the lake from Highway 93 (now 75).<sup>11</sup>

Recreational planning was also being undertaken by the Sawtooth National Forest. In 1937 the Regional Forester expressed the plans of the Forest Service to accommodate the increased use of the Sawtooth Mountains and the Idaho Primitive Area (established in 1931) for recreationists.

We are also conducting a study with our recreational engineers covering resort sites and summer home areas so that we will eventually have the entire region between Stanley Lake and Ketchum classified thoroughly according to uses of highest value.<sup>12</sup>

Recreational planners and wildlife specialists were utilized to provide accommodations for the many thousands of people who were going to visit the Sawtooth Mountains every year. Studies for fish habitat at Pettit Lake were already underway and a limited use of land for summer homes and recreational pursuits was "permissible only under certain prescribed policies and regulations of the United States Forest Service."<sup>13</sup>

Pettit Lake and other lakes in the Stanley Basin were being developed for summer homes as early as the 1920s by the Forest Service. Statistics for summer home sites are as follows:

1920 -	5
1925 -	28
1929 -	51
1940 -	63 <sup>14</sup>

A 1925 map of Pettit Lake indicates the north and south shore roads were already established by this time. A few homes are situated on the south shore in what appears to be Blocks C and D and on the north shore in Block E.<sup>15</sup> A 1935/36 map of Pettit Lake Summer Homes shows parcels of land designated in Blocks A, B, C, D, and E with residences and owner's names in many of them.<sup>16</sup> A 1941 Master Plan of Pettit Lake indicates additional lots on the south shore of the lake in Blocks C and D bringing the total number of lots on the south shore to twenty-two.<sup>17</sup> This 1941 Master Plan represents the summer home area at Pettit Lake as it presently exists. No other development has occurred to permit additional summer homes over the past fifty-one years.

The scenic mountainous area in which Pettit Lake is located has endured over 100 years of debate concerning its preservation and use. As early as 1883 the preservation of the area was promoted by Idaho Women's Clubs. Bills were introduced before Congress in 1913, 1916, 1935, 1960, and 1966 to establish the Sawtooth National Park. All of these attempts were defeated. Finally in 1972 the Sawtooth National Recreation Area was created and preservation of the area for continued recreational use was established.<sup>18</sup>

#### PEAVEY CABIN SITE HISTORY

A special use permit for Block A, Lot 1 on Pettit Lake indicates that the site was initially leased from the Forest Service by A.J. Peavey on July 01, 1926.<sup>19</sup> Arthur J. Peavey Sr. (A.J.) was in the insurance business in Twin Falls, Idaho.<sup>20</sup> During the summer of 1927, construction commenced with the first of four cabins on the site. Cabin 1, the kitchen/dining cabin, located nearest the lake was constructed by A.J. Peavey's sons Arthur Jr., Thomas, and Frank with the help of a carpenter (name unknown). During the following three summers construction was continued by the Peavey family. In the summer of 1928, Cabin 2, the large multi-purpose cabin was

built. In the summer of 1929, the sleeping porch was added to the west end of Cabin 2 and a bunkhouse, Cabin 3, was built. In the summer 1930 the western most structure, Cabin 4, another bunkhouse, was built. Timber for the cabins was not cut from the site, but was dead standing lodgepole pine that the Forest Service allowed to be cut from the area.<sup>21</sup>

Individuals associated with the property are the Peaveys of Twin Falls, Idaho and decedents of that family. Mary Thomas Peavey Brooks was married to Arthur J. Peavey Jr. Her father, John Thomas of Gooding, Idaho, was U. S. Senator from Idaho in 1927-32 and 1940-45. Arthur J. Peavey Jr. died in 1941. Mary Peavey later wed C. Wayland Brooks, a U. S. Senator from Illinois. Mary Brooks herself, served three terms as an Idaho legislator from Blaine County from 1965-70. In 1969 she was appointed the 28th Director of the U.S. Mint by President Richard Nixon, a position she held until her resignation in 1977. When she was appointed to direct the U.S. Mint, her son John Thomas Peavey replaced her in the Idaho legislature through 1976. He<sup>22</sup> is currently an Idaho State Senator again, being elected in 1981.

Mary Brooks' father, John Thomas, established a livestock company in Muldoon, Idaho, the Flattop Sheep Company, in the early 1920s. Her son John Peavey still operates the ranch, one of the largest in southern Idaho.

The Peavey family maintained a Special Use Permit on Pettit Lake until about 1985 when the cabins were sold. The cabins were initially used by the Peavey family during the summers for extended periods of time. Highway 75 from Ketchum to Stanley was originally a gravel road and traveling to the site was not as convenient as today. Thus weekend trips to Pettit Lake by the family did not occur until later years. Since 1985 a series of owners have leased the property from the Forest Service.<sup>24</sup>

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

##### Cabin 1, Kitchen/Dining Cabin

Cabin 1, built in 1927, has log sills placed directly on the ground for the foundation. The lodgepole pine log walls are constructed with a lapped box corner detail, using 2x lumber at the intersections. Lath chinking and concrete daubing finish the walls. The roof structure consists of a ridgepole, two purlins, and fourteen pole rafters which are exposed at the eaves. 1x sheathing and wood shingles complete the roof. A rubble fieldstone chimney on the south side is rectangular at the base, narrowing to a smaller rectangle above the eave.

The interior of Cabin 1 is divided into two rooms; a kitchen at the east and a dining room at the west. The floor in both areas is

concrete, poured after the walls were constructed. The log walls are finished with lath chinking and concrete daubing at the southwest, south, and east walls and pole chinking at the northwest and north walls of the dining room. The kitchen walls are finished with pole chinking throughout. Each room is open to the roof structure. The fireplace at the dining room has a split log mantel. The kitchen is lit by two pairs of sliding windows on the north wall, each having six panes of glass. The dining room is lit with thirteen awning windows of six panes each. There are six windows in the north wall, three on the west wall, and four on the south wall. Two doors access the dining room; one at the north wall and one at the west wall. Each door is of board and batten construction with strap hinges and handles fashioned from tree branches. Each door has a screen door also.

A storage shed at the east end of Cabin 1 was added later (date unknown). It has a vertical log structure covered with log slabs, a shed roof, and board and batten door.

A small cooler/cellar approximately four feet by two and a half feet by two feet deep is located next to the north door to provide storage for perishables and water. The cabin has been upgraded with electrical outlets, but no lights. (See floor plan).

#### Cabin 2, Multi-Purpose Cabin

Cabin 2, built in 1928, has a mortared fieldstone foundation at the main room. The lodgepole pine walls are ventral saddle notched with the ends extending about eighteen inches beyond the walls. The walls are chinked with lath and daubed with concrete. The roof is comprised of a ridgepole, four purlins, and fourteen pole rafters with ends exposed at the eaves. 1x sheathing and wood shingles complete the roof. A rubble fieldstone chimney at the south wall has a rectangular base narrowing to a bulbous round form above the eaveline. The sleeping porch, added in 1929, is of the same construction, except the log sills and spandrel are laid directly on the ground.

The interior of Cabin 2 is one large room with the sleeping porch to the west. Both rooms have tongue and groove flooring. Each room is open to the roof structure. The east and west walls of the main room are chinked with lath and daubed with concrete. The north and west walls have pole chinking as do the walls of the sleeping porch. The fieldstone fireplace has a split log mantel and a concrete hearth. The main room is lit with fixed and inswinging casement windows of nine panes each. The north wall has eight casement windows, four on each side of a dutch door. The south wall has three windows at each side of the fireplace. Each group of three windows has a casement with a fixed window to each side. The east door is of board and batten construction as is the door to the sleeping porch. These two doors have strap hinges and

handles fashioned from tree branches. The north and east doors have screen doors. The sleeping porch has screening attached to the large openings at the north and west. The main room has been upgraded with electrical outlets and lights. (See floor plan).

### Cabin 3, Bunkhouse

Cabin 3, built in 1929, has log sills laid directly on the ground. The lodgepole pine log walls are constructed with a lapped box corner detail using 2x lumber at the intersections. The walls are finished with lath chinking and concrete daubing. The roof structure consists of a ridgepole, two purlins, and six pole rafters with exposed ends at the eaves. 1x sheathing and wood shingles finish the roof.

The interior of Cabin 3 has a concrete floor poured after the walls were constructed. The log walls are finished with pole chinking. The room is open to the roof structure above. A board and batten door at the north wall has a handle fashioned from a tree branch and strap hinges. To either side of the door are inswinging casement windows with six panes each. A pair of casement windows are located on the east wall also. (See floor plan).

This cabin was known as the "Honeymoon Hut" by the Peavey family.<sup>25</sup> A sign was hung over the door naming this cabin until at least 1985.<sup>26</sup> The sign is no longer extant.

### Cabin 4, Bunkhouse

Cabin 4, built in 1930, has a foundation of mortared fieldstones at the east and south walls. Log sills serve as the foundation at the north and west walls. The lodgepole pine log walls are constructed with a lapped box corner detail using 2x lumber at the intersections. The walls are finished with lath chinking and concrete daubing. The roof is comprised of a ridgepole, two purlins, and thirteen pole rafters with ends exposed at the eaves. 1x sheathing and wood shingles finish the roof.

The interior of Cabin 4 is a single room with a rough plank floor. The log walls are finished with lath chinking and concrete daubing. The space is open to the roof structure. Two plank doors, one at the east and one at the west have handles fashioned of tree branches, strap hinges and screen doors. Two pair of inswinging casement windows with six panes each are located on the north wall. (See floor plan).

Cabin 4 was known as "Ram Pasture" by the Peavey family.<sup>27</sup> A sign indicating this was located on the building until at least 1985.<sup>28</sup> The sign is no longer extant.

### Outhouse

A wood frame outhouse is located at the western edge of the site. It has an unmortared fieldstone foundation and narrow clapboards over shiplap sheathing. The shed roof has lx sheathing and wood shingles. This building has been erected since 1985; a log outhouse was present at the site at that time.

### Site Features

The four cabins and the outhouse are connected with rock bordered paths winding through the lodgepole pines. A firering and flagpole are located north of Cabin 1. A wood dock extends into Pettit Lake north of Cabin 1. The site is bordered by a zigzag log fence at Pettit Lake Access Road to the south. (See site plan).

### ENDNOTES

1. Sawtooth National Forest, Summer Homes, Tract B, Block A-B-C-D-E, Pettit Lake, Revised 1935, Master Plan R-37. (Ketchum, Idaho: map located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters).
2. Sawtooth National Forest, Recreation District III, Area D, Layout Plan. Part of the Master Plan, Pettit Lake Summer Home Sites (Addit). March 28, 1941. (Ketchum, Idaho: map located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters).
3. Lalia Boone. Idaho Place Names, A Geographical Dictionary (Moscow, Idaho: University of Idaho Press, 1988), 293.
4. Luther Linkhart, Sawtooth National Recreation Area (Berkeley, CA: Wilderness Press, 1981), 9.
5. Ibid., 11.
6. Lalia Boone, 358, 332, 149, 386, 346, 208, and 168-69.
7. Donna Hartmans, Historic Lookouts on the Willamette National Forest: Management Plans for Preservation. (Eugene, OR: Unpublished Graduate Thesis, University of Oregon, Historic Preservation Program, December 1991), 7-8.
8. History of the Sawtooth National Forest Hailey, Idaho, History Information Report, February 15, 1941, revised through 1943, (Boise, Idaho: Idaho State Archives), 7.
9. Ibid., 50.
10. Sawtooth National Forest, Boise Meridian, 1926. (Ketchum, Idaho: map located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters).

ENDNOTES cont'd.

11. Sawtooth National Forest, Boise Meridian, 1932. (Ketchum, Idaho: map located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters).
12. R.H. Rutledge, Regional Forester, Region 4, "What the Forest Service Plans for the Sawtooth Salmon River Country," Seeing Idaho, July 1937, 9.
13. Ibid., 9, 46.
14. History of the Sawtooth National Forest, 54.
15. Sawtooth National Forest, Pettit Lake, May 1925, Revision 1934. (Ketchum, Idaho: map located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters).
16. Sawtooth National Forest, Summer Homes, Tract B, Block A-B-C-D-E, Pettit Lake, Revised 9-20-35, Revised 5-15-36. (Ketchum, Idaho: map located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Headquarters).
17. Master Plan, Pettit Lake Summer Home Area, March 28, 1941.
18. See Luther Linkhart, 12; J. Russell Fox, "Scenic Roads of Blaine County, Sawtooth National Park," Idaho Club Woman, January/February 1914, 28-30; Jean Conley Smith, "On the Trail in Sawtooth National Park," Idaho Club Woman, October 1912, 27; and Ralph E Woods, "The Proposed Sawtooth National Park," New West Magazine, May 1916, 5.
19. Sawtooth National Forest, Special Use Permit, July 01, 1926. (Ketchum, Idaho: located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters, Special Use Permit files).
20. "Elizabeth Peavey: most gracious pioneer," The Times News, Twin Falls, Idaho: 18 July 1979, C1.
21. Mary Thomas Peavey Brooks, Interview by author, 10 and 17 September 1992, telephone interview. Mary Brooks' first husband was Arthur J. Peavey Jr.
22. See "Mary T. Brooks rises from start in Gooding," Gooding County Leader, (Gooding, Idaho) 3 March 1977, 1; Idaho Statesman, (Boise, Idaho) 25 January 1979, 5B, 7B, 19 April 1973, 1D, 12 March 1969, 10; Mary Thomas Brooks, Interview by Miriam Breckenridge, 7 January 1983. OH 245, tape and transcript, Ketchum Community Library Oral History Collection, Ketchum, Idaho.
23. Mary Thomas Brooks, OH 245.

24. See Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Special Use Permit.(Ketchum, Idaho: map located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters); and Mary Thomas Peavey Brooks, Interview by author.

25. Mary Brooks, Interview 10 September 1992.

26. Sharon Metzler and Julie Garcia, IMACS Site Form, State of Idaho Historic Site Inventory Form No. 10-BN-285, 28 May 1985, (Ketchum, Idaho: Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters).

27. Mary Brooks, Interview 17 September 1992.

28. Metzler and Garcia, IMACS Site Form 10-BN-285.

29. Ibid.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Books**

Boone, Lalia. Idaho Place Names, A Geographical Dictionary. Moscow, Idaho: University of Idaho Press, 1988.

Fisher, Vardis. The Idaho Encyclopedia. Federal Writer's Project, WPA, Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers Ltd., 1938.

Idaho Blue Book. 1989-90 Edition and 1990-92 Edition.

Linkhart, Luther. Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Berkeley, California: Wilderness Press, 1981.

Stone, Lynne. Idaho's Sawtooth Country. Seattle, Washington: Mountaineers, 1990.

**Magazines and Journals**

Fox, J. Russell. "Scenic Roads of Blaine County." Idaho Club Woman, January/February 1914, 28-33.

Rutledge, R.H., Regional Forester, Region 4, U.S.F.S. "What the Forest Service Plans for the Sawtooth Salmon River Country." Seeing Idaho. July 1937, 6-9, 46.

Smith, Jean Conley. "On the Trail in Sawtooth National Park." Idaho Club Woman, October 1912, 2-7.

Woods, Ralph E. "The Proposed Sawtooth National Park." New West Magazine, May 1916, 5.

**Newspapers**

"Elizabeth Peavey: most gracious pioneer," The Times News, 18 January 1979, C1.

Idaho Statesman, 12 March 1969, 10.

\_\_\_\_\_, 19 April 1973, 1-D.

\_\_\_\_\_, 25 June 1979, 5B, 7B.

"Mary T. Brooks rises from start in Gooding," Gooding County Leader, 3 March 1977, 1.

**Interviews**

Berry, Arthur H., Interview by Glenn Oakley, 4 April 1983. Oral History OH 110, tape. Ketchum, ID: Ketchum Community Library.

Bibliography cont'd

Brooks, Mary Thomas, Interview by Miriam Breckenridge, 7 January 1983. Oral History OH 245, tape. Ketchum, Idaho: Ketchum Community Library.

Brooks, Mary Thomas Peavey, Interview by author, 10 and 17 September 1992. Telephone interview. Boise, Idaho.

Peavey, John Thomas, Interview by author, 08 September 1992. Telephone interview. Boise, Idaho.

**Unpublished Reports**

Hartmans, Donna. Historic Lookouts on the Willamette National Forest: Management Plans for Preservation. Eugene, Oregon: Unpublished graduate thesis, University of Oregon, Historic Preservation Program, December 1991.

History of the Sawtooth National Forest, February 15, 1941, revised through 1943. History Information Report, Hailey, Idaho. Boise, Idaho: State Archives.

Metzler, Sharon and Garcia, Julie. IMACS Site Form, State of Idaho Historic Site Inventory No. 10-BN-285, 28 May 1985, Ketchum, Idaho: located in the files at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters.

Special Use Permit, Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Special Use Permit files. Ketchum, Idaho: Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters.

Maps - all located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters in Ketchum, Idaho.

Sawtooth National Forest, Boise Meridian, 1926.

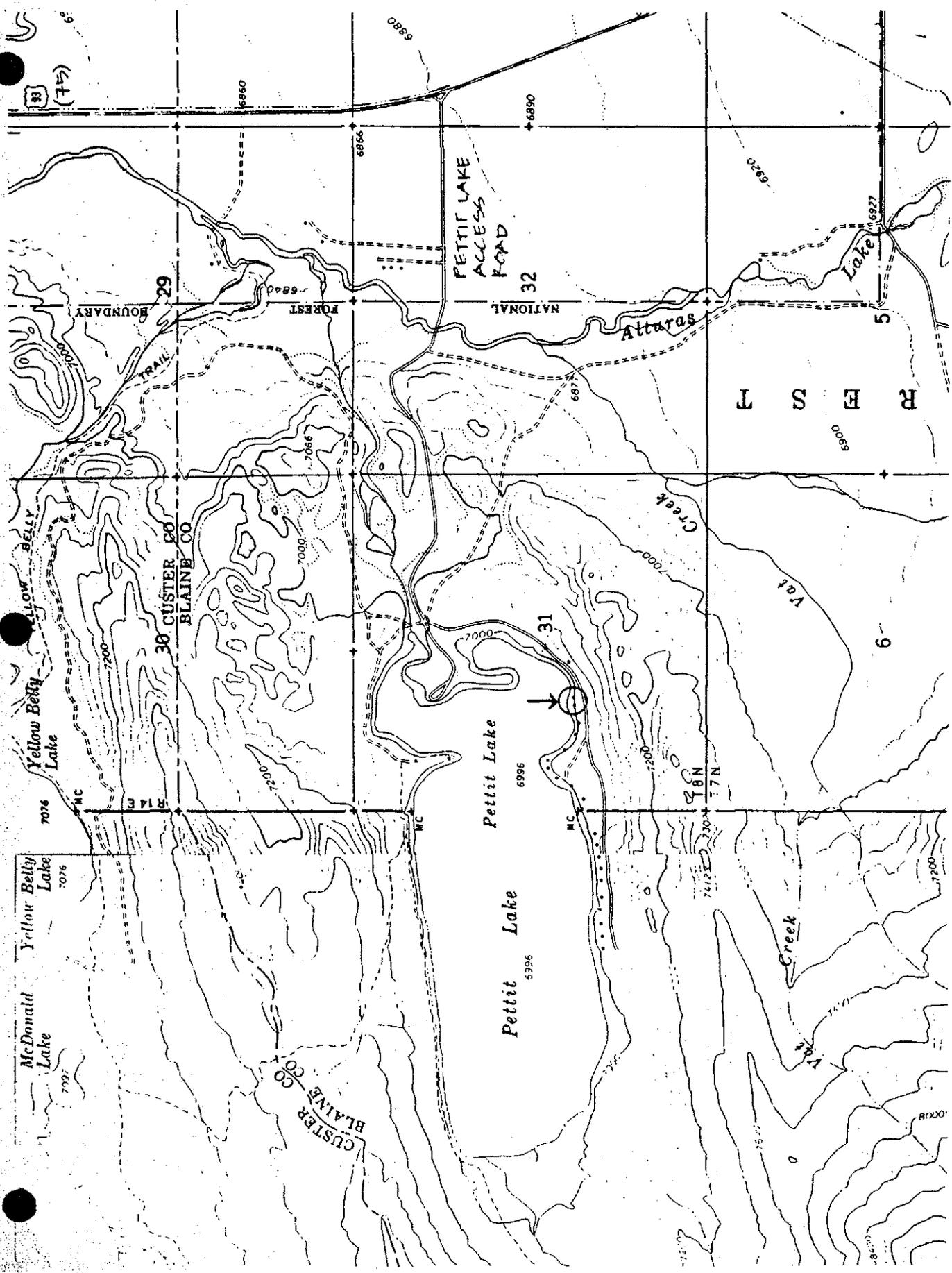
Sawtooth National Forest, Boise Meridian, 1932.

Sawtooth National Forest, Pettit Lake, May 1925, Revision 1934.

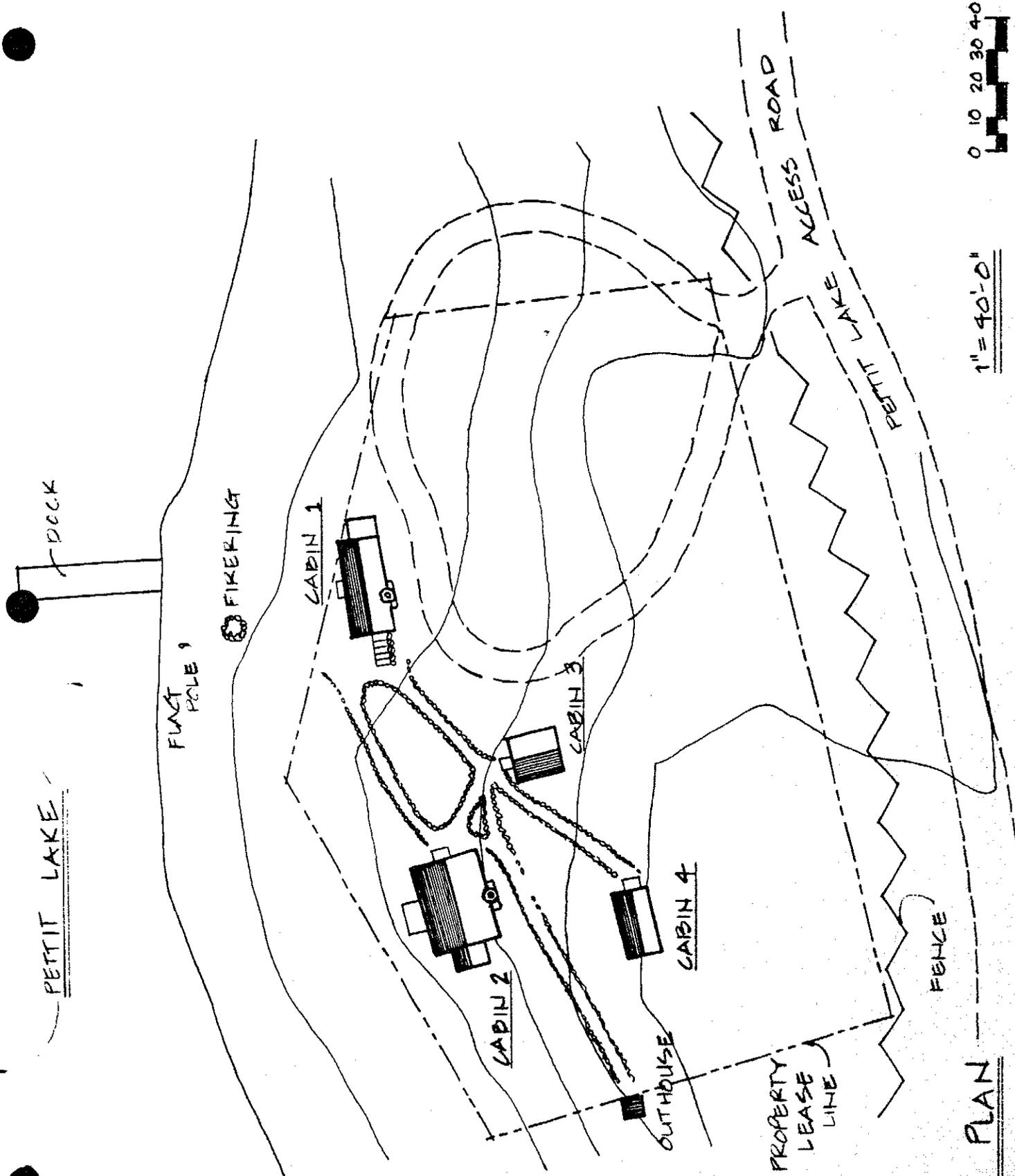
Sawtooth National Forest, Summer Homes, Tract B, Block A-B-C-D-E, Pettit Lake, Revised 1935, Master Plan R-37.

Sawtooth National Forest, Summer Homes, Tract B, Block A-B-C-D-E, Pettit Lake, Revised 9-20-35, Revised 5-15-36.

Sawtooth National Forest, Recreation District III, Area D, Layout Plan. Part of Master Plan, Pettit Lake Summer Home Sites (Addit). March 28, 1941.



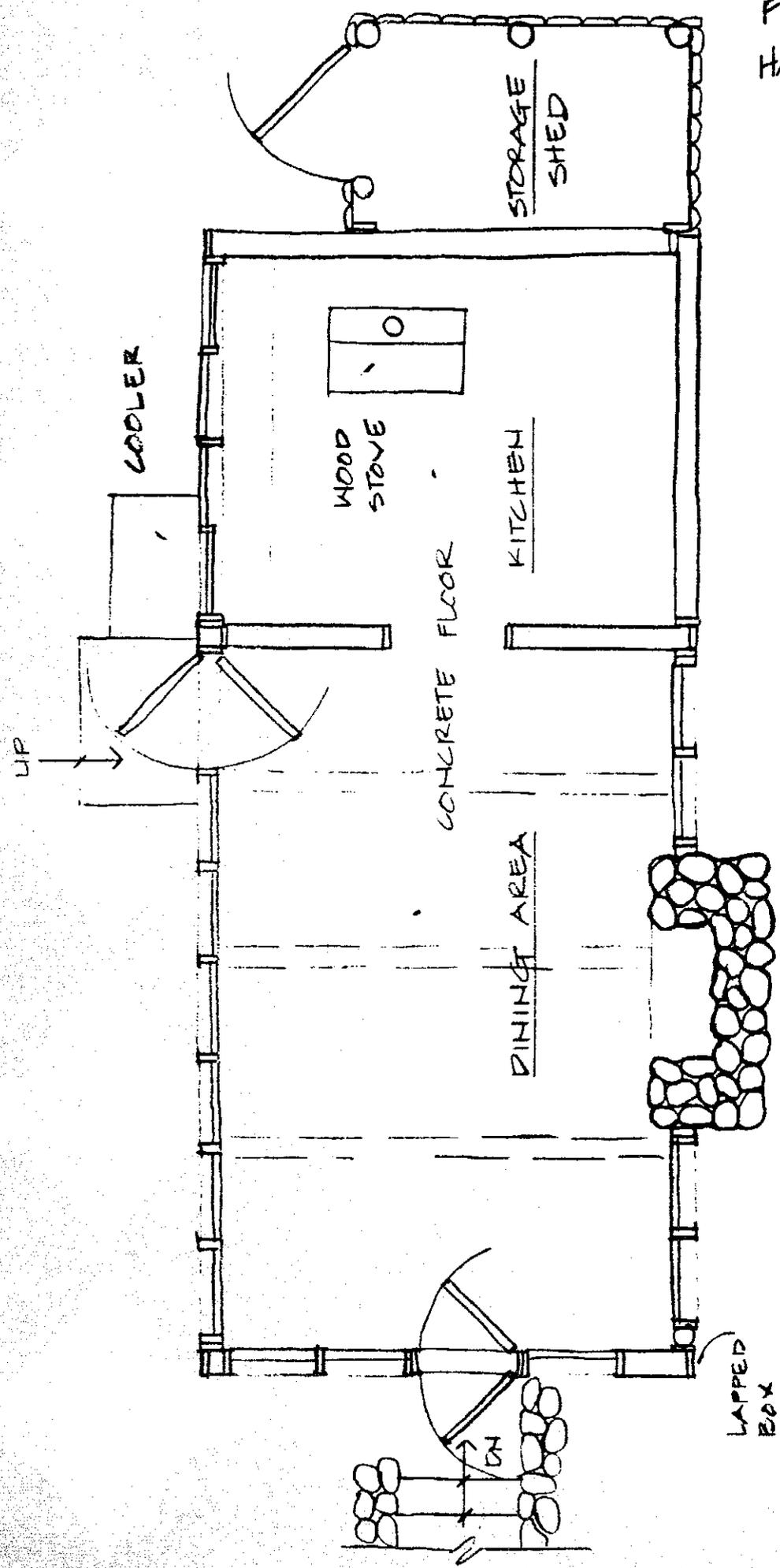
⊕ PETTIT LAKE, BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO.  
VICINITY MAP



1" = 40'-0"



SITE PLAN



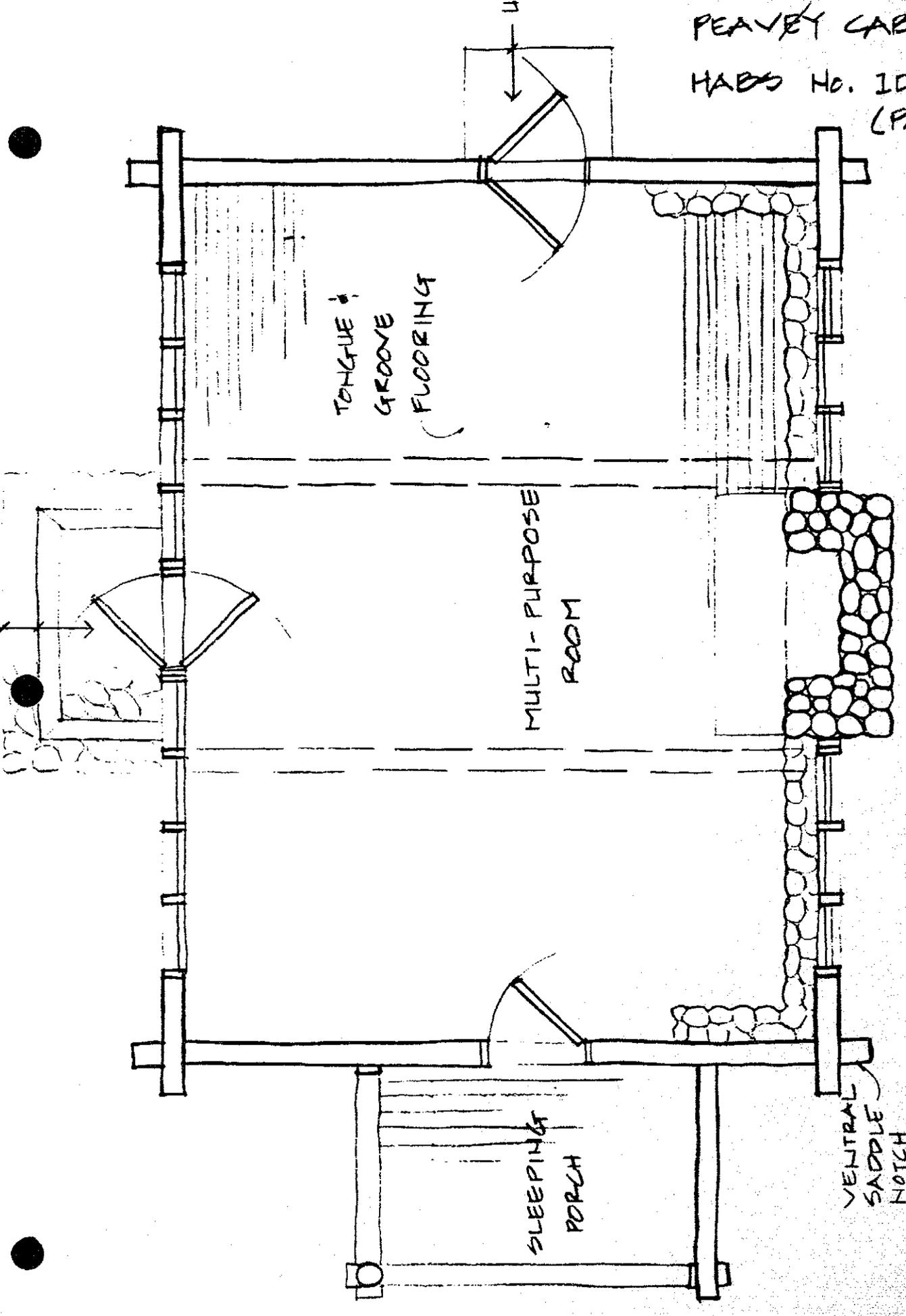
1/4" = 1'-0"

CABIN 1, KITCHEN/DINING



PEAVEY CABINS

HABS No. 1D-107  
(PAGE 16)



$1/4" = 1'-0"$

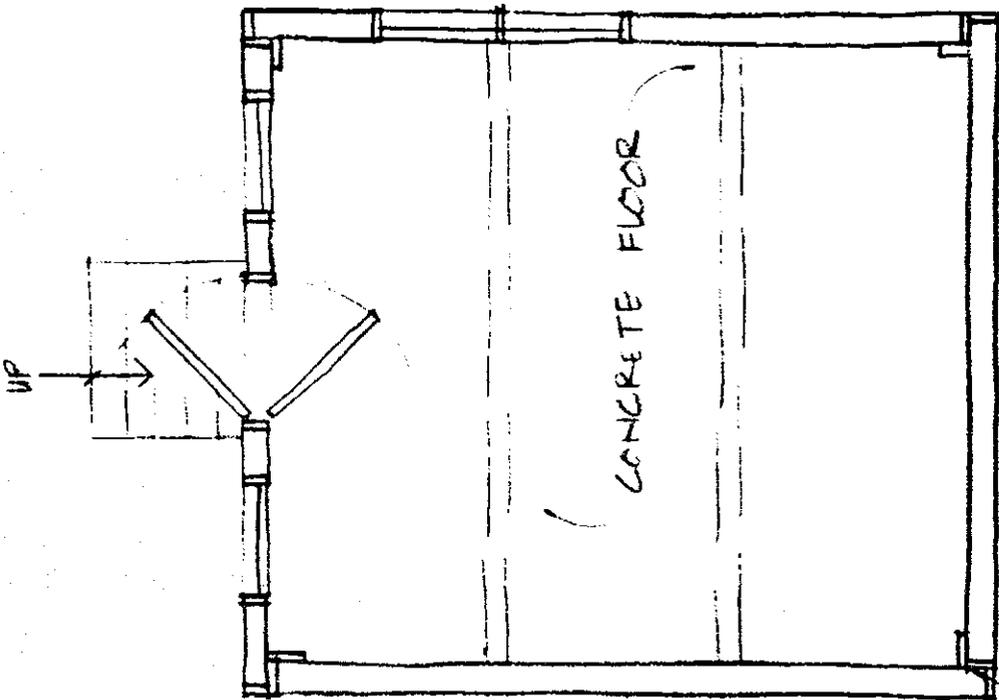
CABIN 2, MULTI-PURPOSE



PEAVEY CABINS

HABS No. ID-107

(PAGE 17)



LAPPED ROY  
CORNER  
DETAIL



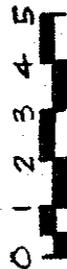
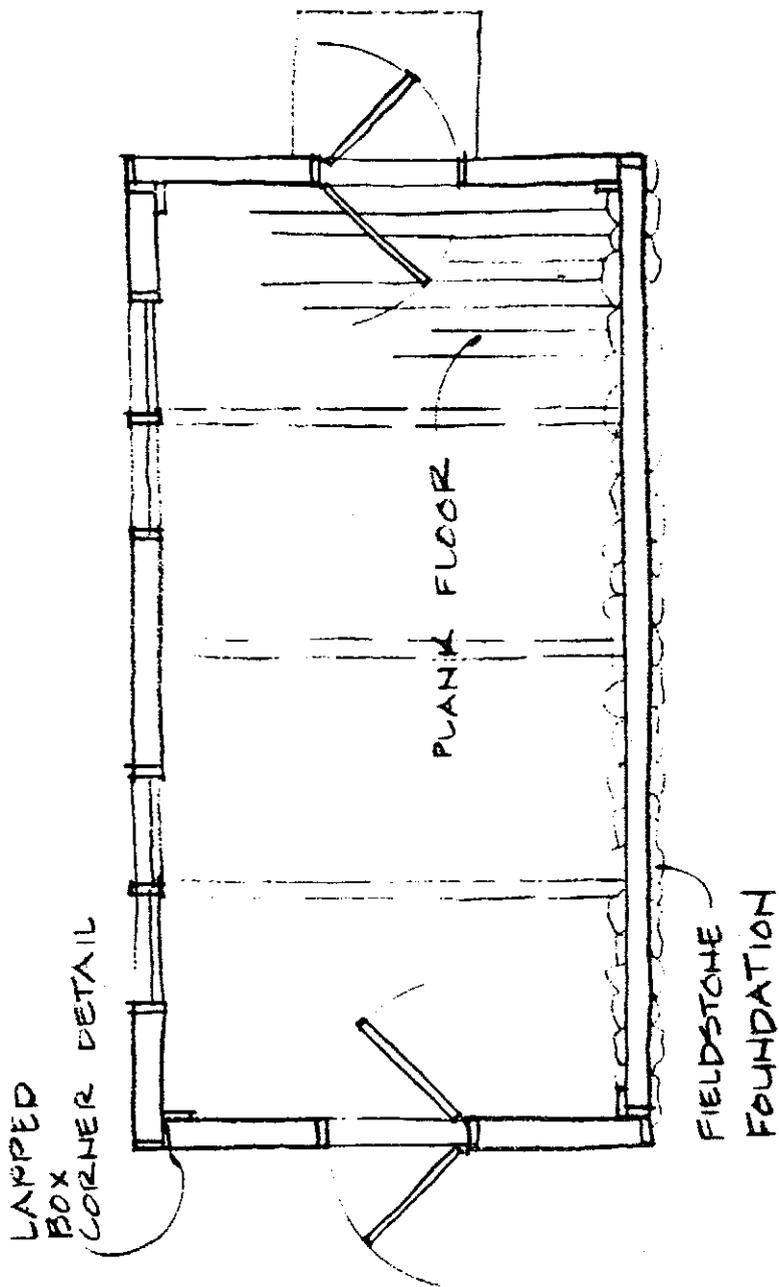
1/4" = 1'-0"

CABIN 3, BUNKHOUSE

"HONEYMOON HUT"



PEAVEY CABINS  
HABS NO. ID-107  
(PAGE 18)



$\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$



CABIN 4, BUNK-HOUSE  
"RAM PASTURE"