

White Deer Lake Camp
Cyrus H. McCormick Experimental Forest
Champion vicinity
Marquette County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-30

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WHITE DEER LAKE CAMP

HABS No. MI-30

INTRODUCTION

The White Deer Lake Camp Island buildings are located in the Northwest quarter of Section 1, T49N, R30W, Marquette County, Michigan, on a rocky island in White Deer Lake approximately 150 feet from the mainland. These buildings, which are on public lands administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, are currently unoccupied. The area is currently administered by the Ottawa National Forest, Kenton Ranger District, Kenton, Michigan, as part of a 17,000 acre experimental forest. Some informal recreational use also occurs in the area.

The White Deer Lake Camp Island buildings are significant because of their association with the McCormick family, of the midwest's leading industrial families, and as a representative example of recreational lodge/resort design around the turn of the century in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Most construction was done with logs and exhibits great attention to detail and skilled craftsmanship. The historical context of the buildings is described in a report prepared under contract by the Mid-American Research Center of Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois (Karamanski n.d.)

Most information presented here on the camp's physical history and extant architecture has been derived from a report prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory (Anderson, et al. 1970) and from memos prepared by a Forest Service employee who had examined numerous plans and memos in McCormick family records that were acquired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture North Central Forest Experiment Station in Marquette, Michigan. (Metzger 1976a, 1976b, 1976c). Some of the photographs and other documents examined by Mr. Metzger may have been lost or destroyed. Documents and photographs obtained from the McCormick family and other individuals that are now in the possession of the Ottawa National Forest will be placed in the Archives of the State of Michigan. Included will be the original historic photographs and plans which were copied for the documentation submitted to the Historic American Buildings Survey. Most of the historic photographs in this collection were contributed by Mr. Kenneth Nowell, Ishpeming, Michigan, who was Superintendent of White Deer Lake Camp from 1958 to 1967. All historic plans in this collection were obtained from the North Central Forest Experiment Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Marquette, Michigan, which obtained them from the McCormick Estate Office around 1968.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Metzger, Frederick T.

1976a Memo to files, May 12, 1976 (4060 - Research Facilities). North Central Forest Experiment Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Marquette, Michigan.

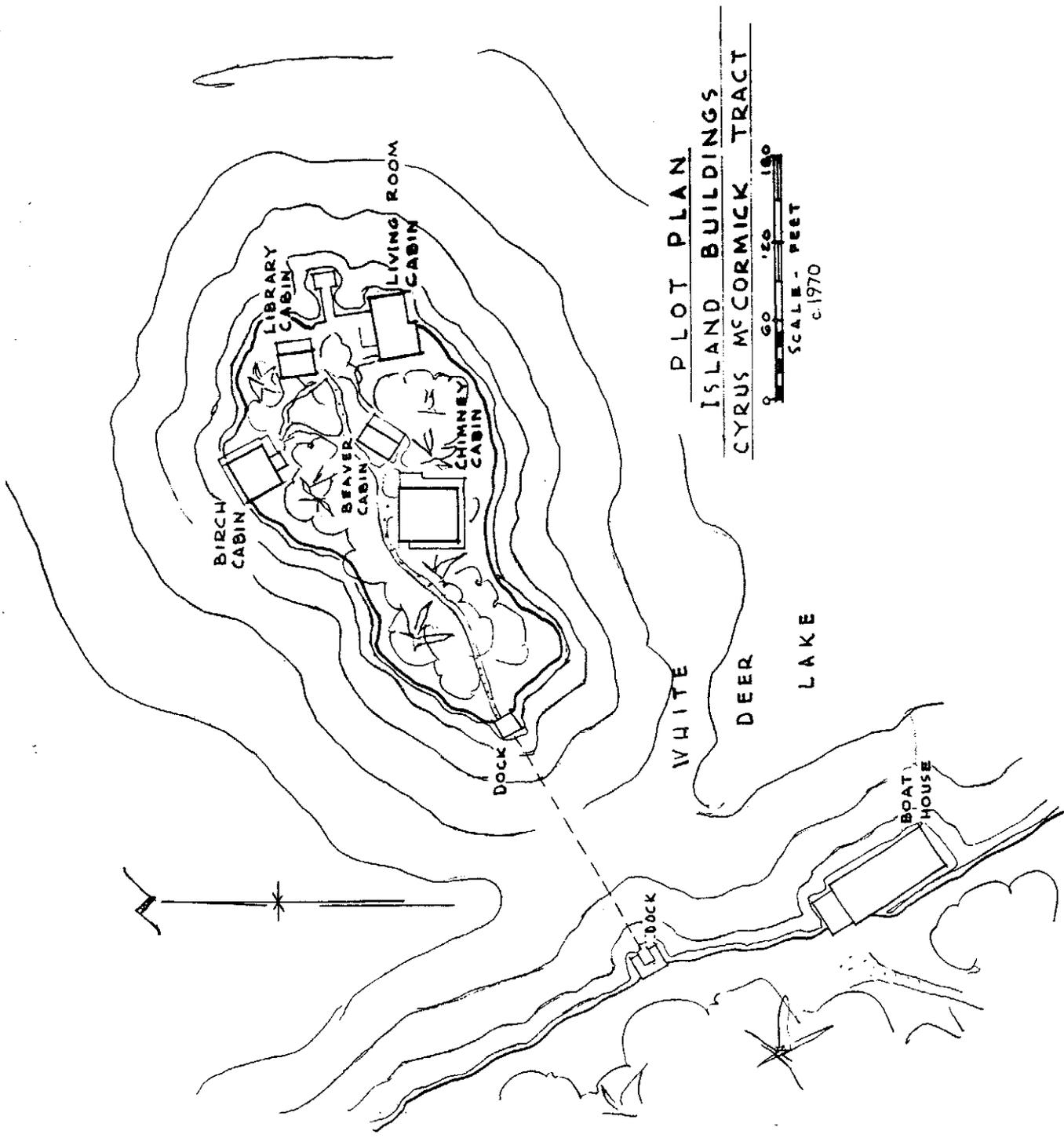
1976b Letter to Carter B. Gibbs, October 27, 1976 (4060 - Research Facilities). North Central Forest Experiment Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Marquette, Michigan.

1976c Memo to files, October 27, 1976 (4060 - Research Facilities). North Central Forest Experiment Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Marquette, Michigan.

- * A copy of this report is filed as a Field Record to this documentation.

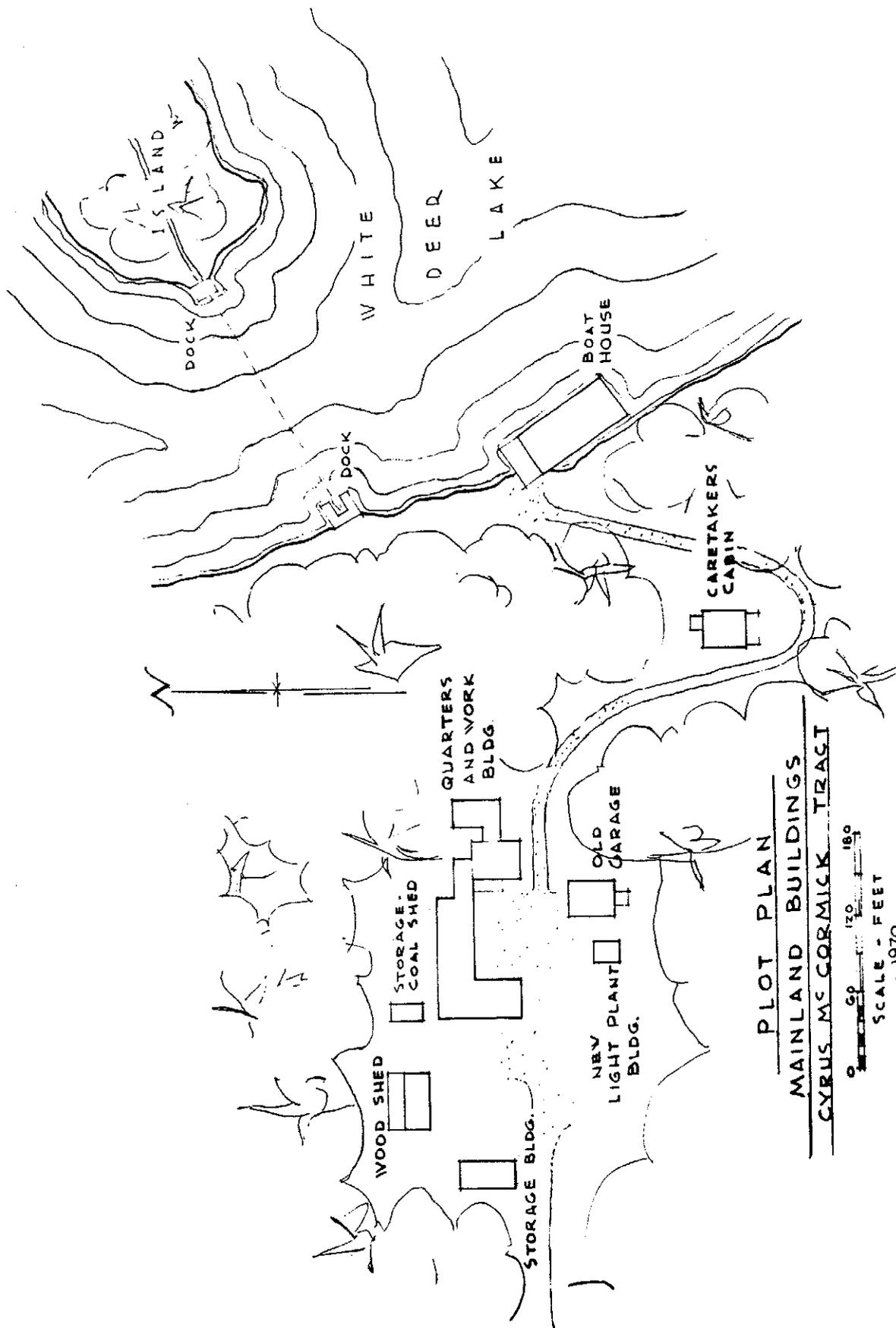
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PLOT PLAN
ISLAND BUILDINGS
CYRUS MCCORMICK TRACT

0 50 100
SCALE - FEET
c.1970



PLOT PLAN
MAINLAND BUILDINGS
CYRUS MC CORMICK TRACT
SCALE - FEET
c. 1970