

WIND RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE SITE, BUILDING
No.1057
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Chapman Road, near Lookout Mountain Road
Carson Vicinity
Skamania County
Washington

HABS WA-232-C

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

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WIND RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE SITE

BUILDING #1057

HABS No. WA-232-C

Location: Wind River Administrative Site, Skamania County, Washington. This building fronts Chapman Avenue, the main north-south street through the site. It is in the middle of the group of the three historic residences near the center of the Avenue.

U.S.G.S. Stabler 7.5' Quadrangle, 1983 Provisional Edition. Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 10.583000.5072050

Significance: Building #1057 has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the thematic nomination titled "USDA Forest Service Administrative Buildings in the States of Oregon and Washington Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps." This building embodies the rustic style of architecture associated with the Forest Service and the CCC in the Pacific Northwest. As stated in the Internal Management Guidelines, Supplement to Depression-Era Building PMOA (1989): "The CCC provided the work force to build the necessary new facilities. Thus, the buildings are also directly associated with the Federal Government's response to the Great Depression. They are tangible evidence of the positive impact of President Roosevelt's first emergency relief program."

The residence was classified as having a secondary level of historic importance under the National Register thematic nomination, receiving a numerical rating of 120 out of a possible 200 points. The structure is a good example of the construction projects undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps and signifies aid to the local community provided by the emergency work relief program through employment of youth and experienced craftsmen, purchase of building materials and camp supplies, and personal experiences of enrollees. The property exemplifies the rustic architectural idiom developed by the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Region to impart Forest Service identity and to represent its purposes and ideals, and signifies the agency's particular interpretation of a singular expression of early twentieth century American architectural thought. Possessing the qualities of rustic design and execution, the structure is a good example of an architectural property invested with special aesthetic and associative values by the agency that created it.

Description: Residence #1057 is a side gabled, one and a half story residential structure, with two gabled dormers and a garage addition extending from the main building mass. The projecting gables on the east and west sides of the house appear to be original to the design, however, the garage appears to be a later addition due to a difference in siding material. The smaller gable projecting from the east façade frames the main entrance, covering a porch and short stairway leading to the front door. The gable extending from the

north end of the west façade encloses a bedroom on the first floor. The garage addition has a separate roof structure, with the ridgeline oriented in the same direction as the main side gabled structure, extending to the south of the main building mass and offset slightly to the west.

The exterior features indicate a rustic or craftsman influence in design, typical of the first part of the 20th century. Exterior details include “V”-groove drop siding, corner boards, exposed rafter tails, and bracketing on gable ends. The house and garage have a composition shingle roof that is not original. The roof has several penetrations, including vent stacks and a barrel-arched brick chimney that protrudes from the composition roofing just west of the ridgeline of the main building mass. There are 15 windows penetrating the exterior of the house, and two windows on the garage addition. All the windows associated with the house have 6 over 1, double-hung wood sash configuration with wide wooden trim pieces on the exterior. All windows are paired, with the exception of the west dormer, garage, and upper story windows. The windows are operated by a rope and pulley system, which utilizes counterweights within the window framing. Several windows have screens that appear to be original. The garage addition has two fixed windows, with wood sash, and a four-pane configuration. Access to the garage occurs on the south façade, with an overhead garage door.

The east façade faces Chapman Lane, and it is the main elevation of the house. It is clad with “V”-groove drop siding, featuring wide wood trim at the window openings and ends at corner boards. The siding begins at the top of the concrete foundation, which can be seen above ground level. Modern gutters are attached to the roof and may be concealing exposed rafter tails.

A short walkway and stair lead to the porch and front door, which is centered on the east elevation. The stairs and porch are of brick and concrete construction. The porch is enclosed by a wood railing constructed of 2x4's, and does not match the detailing of the dormer above. A bracketed gable dormer extends from the main side-gabled volume, covering the porch and front entrance. Two large, heavy, wooden, scroll-cut brackets support the gabled dormer. The brackets consist of multiple members and have a rustic, handcrafted appearance. The gable end is clad in board and batten siding and supported by a boxed tie beam, which rests on the large brackets. Located under the gable end are knee brackets of a rustic, handcrafted quality, notched into the verge board.

Flanking the central porch gable on the east facade are paired windows, with six-over-one, double-hung wood sash, typical of all the windows of this building at the first floor level. Below the paired windows a hinged opening covers a light well. The lightwell is located just below ground level to the south of the porch.

The garage abuts the south façade of the house and sits atop a course of concrete block, which in turn rests on a poured concrete foundation wall. The siding on the garage is novelty drop siding, with wide corner boards

matching those on the house. A doorway is located adjacent to the house in a short enclosed hall between the house and garage, and to both sides of the door the siding is identical to that of the house. A trim piece to the south of the door marks the change in siding. Tongue and groove wood flooring can be seen below the door, and ends abruptly at the first step down to grade. The roof has composition shingling and exposed rafter tails.

The south elevation has the same decorative elements as the east elevation. There are three windows on this elevation, one on the second level and two windows in a paired configuration on the first level, east of the garage addition. The garage door is located on the south elevation, as well as a doorway to the east of the garage door. Novelty drop siding clads this side of the garage as it does on all sides but the north. The gable end has two extant hinged openings that have been filled with more novelty siding. The wide trim pieces around the openings, wide verge boards, deep overhang, gable end brackets, and corner boards are consistent with early 20th century craftsman styling.

The west elevation is the rear of the house, and has a gabled extension that creates an "L"-shape to this façade. The cladding is consistent with the rest of the house, with the same details. There are 5 windows on this elevation, one single wood sash window on the end gabled mass, and two paired sets on the side gabled volume. All windows have the same materials and configuration, consistent with the rest of the house. Below the paired windows are located hinged hatches that cover a doorway to the basement, and a light well. No steps exist to access the basement door. Several vent stacks and an electrical conduit penetrate the roof on west façade. An aluminum gutter is installed on the side gabled roof edge, but not under the gabled projection at the north end of this facade. Instead, there are 3 knee brackets located in the gable end. The brackets are simple, 4x4 pieces creating a triangle that is notched into the verge board.

The north elevation has the same cladding as the rest of the house, with brackets under the gable end, notched into the verge board. Wide trim pieces surrounding the windows and corner boards are also consistent with the rest of the house. There are three six-over-one windows on the north elevation, however, none are paired. One window is present under the gable end, one in the rear projecting mass, and one at the east end of the first floor. A light well can be seen just above grade, centrally located.

The house consists of one and a half stories. The plan is rectangular, with a small bay to the rear of the house. The interior spaces consist of a living room, dinette, kitchen, bathroom, and 2 bedrooms on the first floor. A breezeway connects the house to the garage on the first floor level as well. A stairway leads from the living room to the upper floor, ending at a closet. There are two bedrooms upstairs.

The interior finishes and details are very consistent throughout. The common areas such as the kitchen, dinette, living room and hallway all feature the same shoe molding, chair rail, corner guards and "cove"

molding. Door and window trim is very thin, beveled, $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide painted wood. The wall surfaces are painted or papered beaverboard panels, as is the ceiling in most cases. Exceptions are noted in room descriptions.

The living room is located in the southeastern corner of the house, and it is accessed through the front door. A fireplace and mantel are prominent on the west wall of this room, almost directly opposite the front entrance. The fireplace is constructed of painted brick, with a running bond pattern. The mantel is a 2x14 piece of painted lumber, with decorative apron below. The hearth in front of the fireplace is also of brick construction in a parquet pattern. The brick here is painted as well. The living room floor consists of 2-3/8" wide tongue and groove fir flooring. The finish is a light, natural color. Several floor grates punctuate the floor, one of which is wooden. The remaining floor grates are of metal with an orange/bronze finish. The living room has wainscoting under the chair rail, and it is only present in this space. The wainscoting is comprised of 3 horizontally oriented "V"-groove boards giving the space a rustic character. All the walls in the living room above the wainscot are clad with beaverboard, painted white.

The kitchen is located in the southwest corner of the house, opposite the living room and accessed through the dinette. The kitchen has a rectangular plan, with a north-south orientation. A breezeway connects the kitchen to the garage. Wall finishes are beaverboard, with narrow trim pieces overlapping the panel joints. The ceiling has the same finish as the walls, with one light in the center of the ceiling. The vinyl floor covering appears new. A counter wraps from the west wall to the north wall in an "L"-shaped arrangement, with the sink located under the paired windows on the west wall. There are cabinets above and below the countertop, above the stove and adjacent to the refrigerator. The cabinetry is not original, most likely replaced in the seventies. The cabinet faces are laminated wood with a cherry lacquered finish and stainless steel hardware. The countertop is plastic laminate, with a starburst pattern. The appliances are modern. Shoe molding is not installed on the east wall, but is present on all other walls. The cove molding is of smaller profile and is not consistent with the other rooms.

The dinette is located just north of the kitchen. All finishes in this room, including the shoe molding, chair rail, corner guards, walls and ceiling are the same as the other major spaces in the house. The walls however, have blue and white print wallpaper covering the beaverboard. A built-in shelf is located on the south wall of the dinette, with a cherry lacquered finish and open wood shelving. A triangular shelf or counter has been inserted on the east wall between the dinette and the living room.

The hallway has the same shoe molding, chair rail, corner guards and cove molding that is characteristic of the other major spaces on the first floor. It leads from the dinette north and then west, providing access to the two bedrooms at the north end of the house.

The bathroom, centrally located at the north end of the house between the bedrooms, has been remodeled. There appears to be drywall installed on

the walls and ceiling, a newer vinyl floor covering, new hollow core door, modern door trim and hardware in this room. The heating vent is the only feature that is consistent with the rest of the house.

The finishes in the bedroom at the northeast corner of the house have been altered from the original. Drywall has been installed on the walls and ceiling, as well as a different type of base molding (and no other molding to speak of). The floor is newer vinyl. A modern sliding-door closet is located on the west wall of this room.

The northwest bedroom on the first floor has many of the same features as the common areas of the house, including the moldings, window and door trim, chair rail, and fir flooring. Walls are of beaverboard, as is the ceiling. The flooring is the same tongue and groove fir as the living room floor. Heating grates are located in the wall, at floor level and are consistent with the other heat vents located in the rest of the house. Two interesting details of note in this room include the closet and the corner treatment. The corners have a quarter round piece of molding above the chair rail, nested in the corner. The closet has a darker finish to the fir floor, and unpainted beaverboard on the walls and ceiling.

The stairs leading to the upper level are located adjacent to the front door, in the living room. There is a short dogleg and landing, turning left and up towards the ridgeline of the roof. The treads are covered with carpeting, but the end is exposed revealing bull-nosed treads. A 2x2 newel post marks the beginning of the run, with a short balustrade consisting of a 1"x2" banister over 1"x1" balusters (two total). Chair rail molding becomes a base molding at the landing, and offers a nice transition from the living room to the stairs.

The stairs lead up to the second level hallway, which is only a small landing with doors on the north and south sides, plus a small closet on the west side. Beyond the doors are bedrooms with low-pitched ceilings. There are crawl spaces beyond the east and west walls, and one window on the north and south walls. The room to the south of the stairs has a brick chimney stack in the center, drywall ceiling and walls, and vinyl flooring. The room to the north of the stairs has the same finishes as the south room, minus the chimney and employing fir flooring instead of vinyl. The doors to the crawl spaces in both rooms have glass knob pulls and decorative hinges.

Historic Context:

Building #1057 was originally constructed in 1917 as the Experiment Station Assistant's residence. By 1940, the building has fallen into great disrepair, and a fire severely damaged the structure on June 4, 1941. A plan was undertaken to rebuild and repair the damaged building that involved the retention of the general style and detailing of the original structure. The residence was essentially rebuilt in 1942 utilizing CCC labor. The situation of this building is somewhat unique at the Administrative Site, as funding was more readily available for rehabilitation projects than for new construction. The house retained a few typical early 20th century bungalow elements and massing, while at the

same time incorporating some of the rustic design ideals of the CCC. This is the second building on this site, yet it continues to serve its historic function and convey a sense of the design ideals of both the CCC and bungalow traditions.

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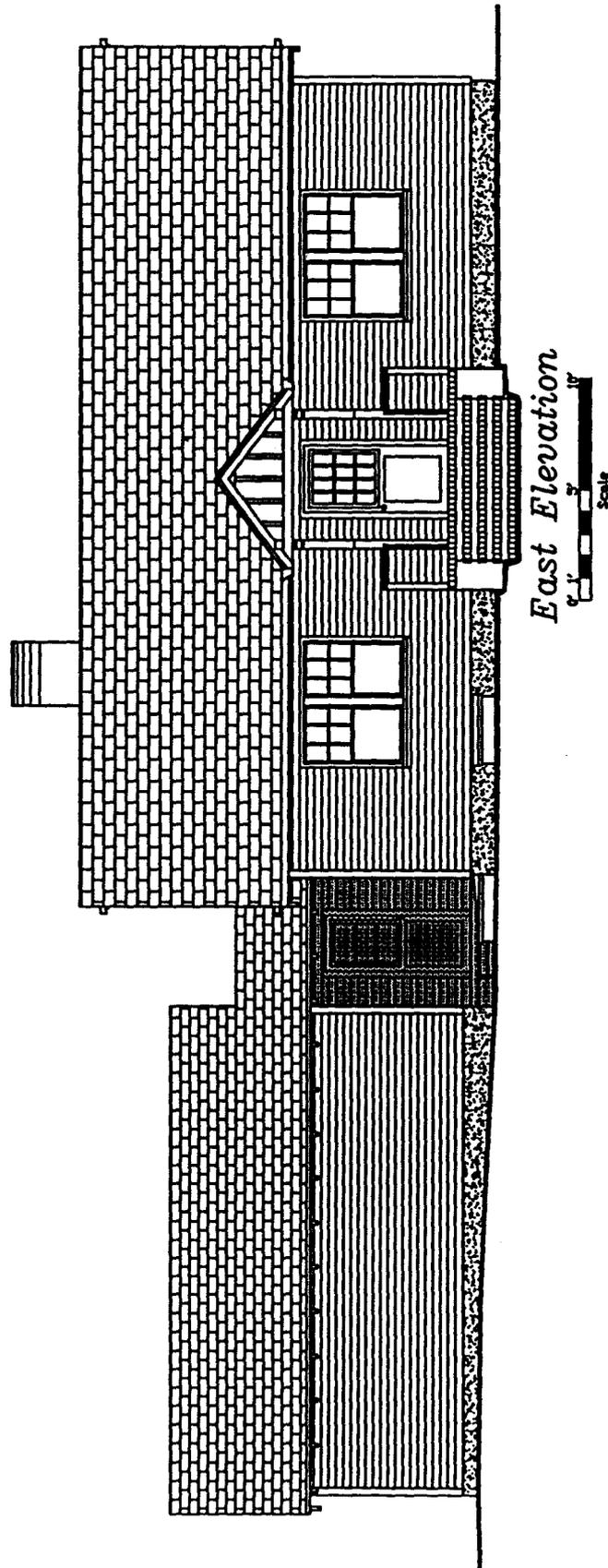
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Project Information: This structure is being documented as a historic resource due to a land conveyance from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to Skamania County, Washington. The structure is included within the boundary of the conveyance, and will be transferred to the county. The documentation was prepared by Alex McMurry of the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program and Kathryn Toepel of Heritage Research Associates in May of 1999.

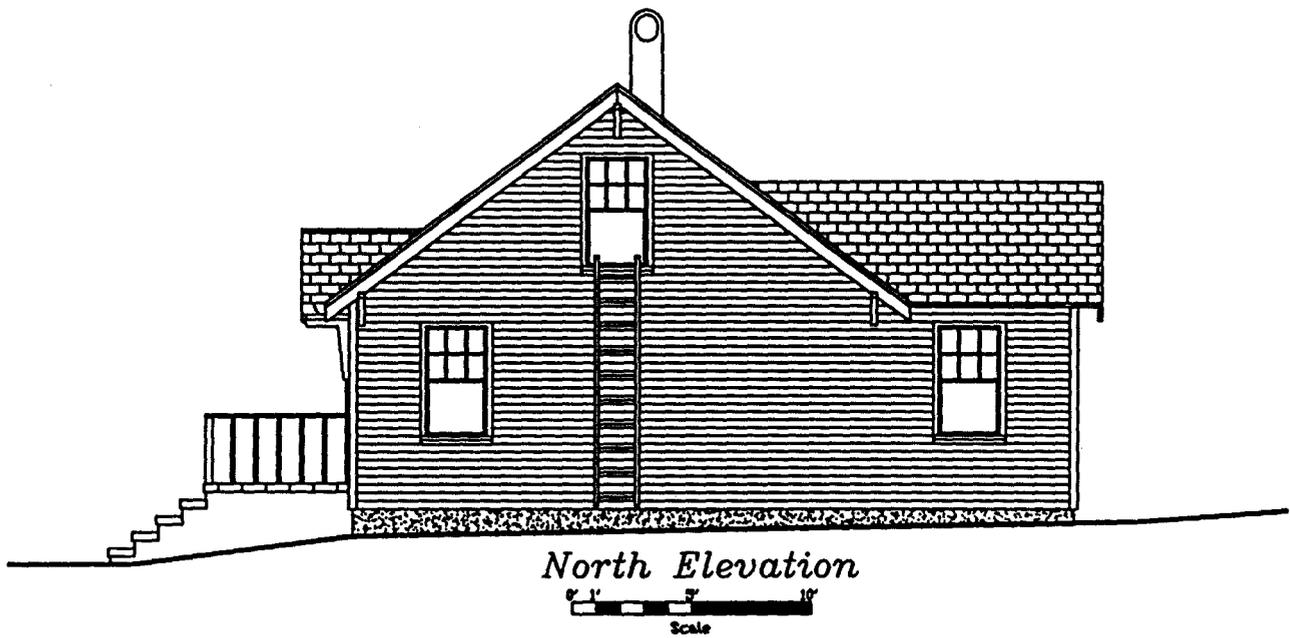
**Experiment Station Assistant's Residence
Constructed 1917 – Reconstructed 1942**

Building elevation adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.



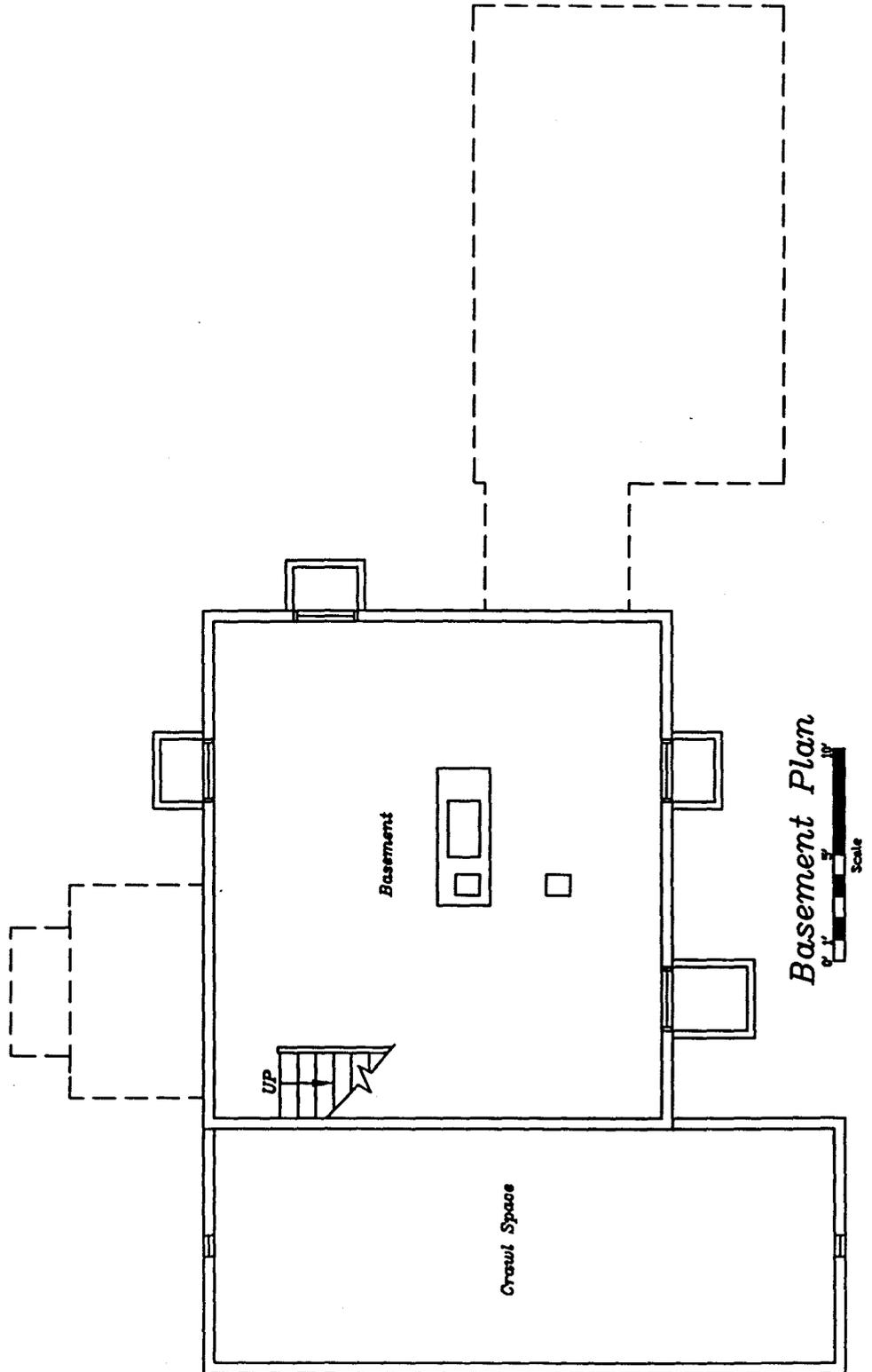
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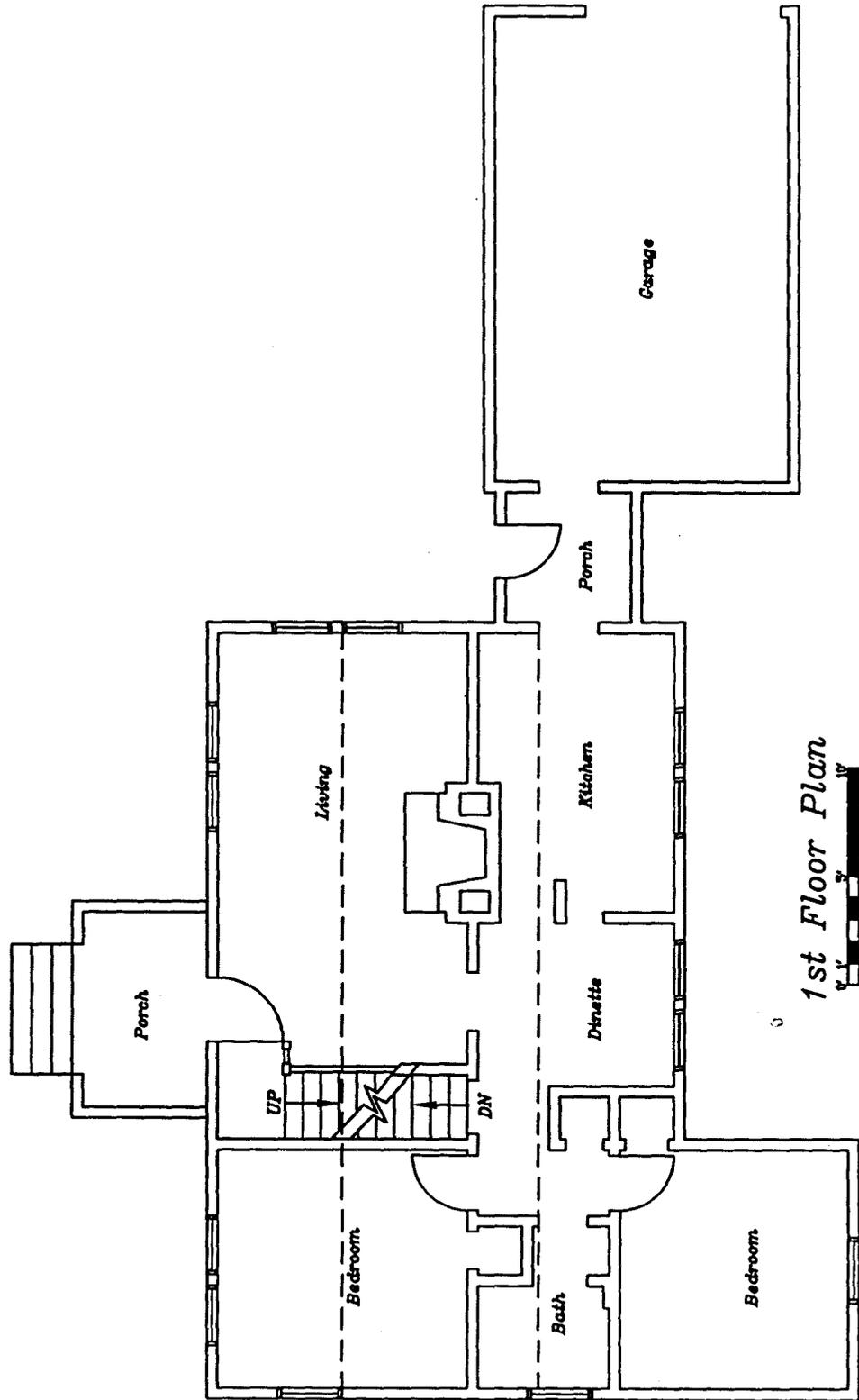
**Experiment Station Assistant's Residence
Constructed 1917 – Reconstructed 1942**

Building basement plan adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and
Forest Service photographs dated 1986.



**Experiment Station Assistant's Residence
Constructed 1917 - Reconstructed 1942**

Building floor plan adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.



**Experiment Station Assistant's Residence
Constructed 1917 – Reconstructed 1942**

Building floor plan adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.

