

Randle Ranger Residence (Building #1135)
Silverbrook Road
Randle
Lewis County
Washington

HABS No. WA-187

HABS
WASH,
21-RAND,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

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Don Busch, Photographer February 1982 (WA-187-2 and WA-187-3)
R.H. McClure, Jr., Photographer February 1982 (WA-187-1, WA-187-4, WA 187-5)

- WA-187-1 CONTEXTUAL VIEW TO WEST, RANDLE RANGER RESIDENCE AND ASSOCIATED GARAGE ON BENCH ABOVE PASTURE AND SILVERBROOK ROAD.
- WA-187-2 SOUTH FRONT AND EAST SIDE OF RANDLE RANGER RESIDENCE SHOWING PORCH, DORMER, AND 1936 KITCHEN/DINETTE ADDITION, VIEW TO WEST.
- WA-187-3 EAST SIDE OF RANDLE RANGER RESIDENCE SHOWING 1936 KITCHEN/DINETTE ADDITION, VIEW TO SOUTHWEST.
- WA-187-4 NORTH BACK OF RANDLE RANGER RESIDENCE FROM SLOPE AT REAR OF STRUCTURE. VIEW IS TO SOUTH-SOUTHEAST AND SHOWS 1936 LAUNDRY ROOM ADDITION.
- WA-187-5 NORTHEAST INTERIOR CORNER OF 1936 KITCHEN/DINETTE ADDITION SHOWING CABINETS. VIEW IS TO NORTHEAST.

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
RANDLE RANGER RESIDENCE (Building No. 1135) HABS No. WA-187

Location: South side of Silverbrook Road, approximately 100 feet northeast of Silverbrook Road and Slagle Road intersection, and one mile east of the center of the town of Randle, Randle Vicinity, Lewis County, Washington.

USGS Randle Quadrangle (15'), Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 10.5810475.51540225.

Present Owner: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
6926 E. 4th Plain Blvd., P.O. Box 8944
Vancouver, Washington 98661-7299

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: The qualities of significance in local history and in architecture are present in the Randle Ranger residence. Possessing integrity of form, material, and environment, the building also retains the primary elements of fabric, setting, location, design and workmanship. As the residential component of an early Forest Service administrative site, the building is associated with a pivotal Federal land-managing agency, with the local line officers who implement the policies and practices of that agency, and with events important in resource conservation history. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the bungaloid style of architecture, exemplifying a vernacular interpretation of the Bungalow-Craftsman type.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1925
2. Architect: unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: USDA Forest Service
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: USDA Forest Service. Kirkpatrick (n.d.) reports that "a good deal of scrounging and contributed labor went into the project. Rangers from elsewhere on the Forest were detailed in the off season to help complete the job.
5. Original plans and construction: Original plans and records pertaining to construction of the residence have been lost or destroyed. Plans for houses of this type were commonly sold in pattern books. An internal Forest Service memorandum (Teed 1936) gives the original construction cost at \$968.35.
6. Alterations and additions: Teed (1936) reports that \$193.74 were spent on "betterment" of the residence between 1925 and 1936, but provides no more specific information. In 1935 a basement of poured cement was added beneath the house. This work was done by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) men from the Lower Cispus and Packwood CCC camps and is verified by their graffiti on basement chimney bricks.

In April and May, 1936 a living room and dinette addition was made to the east elevation of the residence (Cecil 1935b, Lewis 1935, Ritter 1935, Adams 1936). A large woodburning furnace was installed in the basement. An extension to the north wing, on the north elevation, was also made in 1936 (Ritter 1936). During March 1938 the bathroom of the residence was remodeled and new plumbing was installed (Flury 1938).

A number of changes were noted that are not documented in Forest Service records. The present chimney, which services a brick living room fireplace, also appears in the 1937 photograph of the house. A former chimney was found behind a wall in the kitchen. This chimney probably serviced a woodburning cookstove in the kitchen. The 1937 photo also shows a colonial-style railing over the flat-roofed living room/dinette addition. This was removed in later years and a single pitch roof added. In the 1930s the roof of the residence was comprised of cedar shingles. These were replaced in 1950 with composition shingles.

Associated with the residence are a garage and root house built by the CCC in 1935. In 1981 sheet steel doors were added to the garage.

B. Historical Context

The Randle Ranger residence was built to house the District Ranger, Randle Ranger District, Rainier National Forest (dissolved 1933). The house was built in 1925 to replace an older log home on the site. The log house had served as a residence for the District Ranger from 1906 to 1924, when it was dismantled to make room for the new building (Kirkpatrick 1969). Ranger John Kirkpatrick and his family occupied the residence from 1925 to 1935. Subsequent District Rangers and their families occupied the house up to 1977.

The building is associated with the USDA Forest Service, the principal Federal agency responsible for the management of public lands and resources in Lewis County, Washington, and with events important in resource conservation history. Through its policies, programs and practices, the Forest Service has had an important and definable role in the historic development of the communities in and around the lands under its jurisdiction. As a land-managing agency and as an employer, the Forest Service contributed to the economic growth and social stability of those communities. As part of an early administrative complex, the Randle Ranger Residence characterizes the physical establishment of the Forest Service at the local level.

In an area economically dependent on the lumber and wood products industries, the public timberlands, managed by the Forest Service, assume considerable importance. The decade after World War I was one of rapid growth and development in the Forest Service policy. This period of transition from custodial maintenance of the timber resource to positive management had far-reaching implications for southwestern Washington. Federal and State cooperation was expanded in the areas of fire control and reforestation, as well as leadership in implementing improved logging practices to assure a continuing supply of publicly-owned timber for an area beginning to exhaust its private reserves.

The Randle Ranger Residence relates to these events in several ways: it is the residential component of an administrative site designed to facilitate the expanded responsibilities of the Forest Service. The building represents a transitional phase in administrative site development reflective of an evolving Federal agency with limited funding and restricted personnel. The building housed the District Ranger who exercised administrative authority at the field level of organization. Effective administration and public service required the ranger to live at the headquarters site. The location of the residence on a bench about 300 feet north of and overlooking the District compound reflects this necessity.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. **Architectural character:** The Randle Ranger Residence embodies the distinctive characteristics of the bungalowoid style of architecture. The house represents a local interpretation of the Bungalow-Craftsman type, popular in the Pacific Northwest circa 1905-1930. The major features of the house that are typical of this architectural type include: one and one half story woodframe structure, medium gabled roof with solitary and prominently centered gabled dormer, projecting roof trim with exposed rafters and simple triangular verge brackets, horizontal fir shiplap, and six-over-one double hung windows.

In the Pacific Northwest Region, domestic vernacular architecture appears frequently in Forest Service administrative sites developed in the late 1910s and 1920s. The simple, functional styles suited the Forest Service's utilitarian purposes, and were adapted to offices as well as residential buildings. The bungalowoid type is seen throughout the Region, interpreted variously according to local fashion. The Randle Ranger Residence is representative of this trend. The exterior shiplap finish, windows and other minor features can be seen in a variety of other residences in the surrounding upper Cowlitz River valley. The residence is a good example of the bungalowoid style, and one of a small number in Forest Service ownership.

2. **Condition of fabric:** The condition of the house has slowly deteriorated since 1977, when it was last occupied. The exterior paint is peeling, a small leak has developed in the roof, and a number of windows have been broken by vandals. Interior paint and wallpaper is peeling and sheetrock has been damaged by vandals. Any fixtures of value have also been removed by vandals. All exterior doors have been damaged. The front porch and laundry room flooring is rotten. Most vinyl floor covering is cracked or warped. The basic fabric of the house, including walls, roof structure, flooring, stairs, windows, and heating system, appears to be in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior

1. **Overall dimensions:** This is a rectangular house measuring 46'9" x 26'4", is one and one half story with basement, has a ground floor wing on north elevation measuring 20' x 10'2" and a ground floor closet bay on west elevation measuring 9'3" x 3'.
2. **Foundations:** Poured cement, 5" thick. Forms portion of basement walls.
3. **Walls:** Exterior finish material on all elevations is horizontal shiplap Douglas-fir lumber. Boards measure 5 1/2" wide by 1/2" thick. Exterior paint is gray, and peeling to reveal older Seafoam Green exterior paint. Exterior shiplap overlies diagonally placed boards 5" wide by 1/2" thick.

4. Structural system, framing: Nailed frame wall structure of 1 3/4" x 3 5/8" fir studs with two foot spacing of vertical supports. Floors supported by joists of 9" x 1 1/2" lumber with two foot spacing. Joists span 26 foot width of house, and are supported in the center of this span by a weight bearing wall structure on the second floor and a beam of laminated joist lumber beneath the first floor. This beam is supported by vertical posts resting on the cement floor of the basement. Roof support consists of fir stud rafters spaced two feet apart and sheathing nailed across rafters. Sheathing is 4 1/4" x 1" lumber with gaps of 6 inches between each.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The house has a single porch at the main entry on the south elevation. The porch is open with cement steps on east and west ends and low railing with vertical slats on south side. The house roof line projects to cover the porch. A simple balustrade and stylized brackets and porch columns are the major decorative features of the porch.
6. Chimneys: Two offset brick chimneys are present, one on the south roof slope, the other on the north roof slope. Bricks are 8" x 4" x 3 1/4" in size.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The house is accessed by three doors. The main doorway is located off-center in the main facade (south elevation). Opening is flat with plain trim, door is single leaf, double panel, with single pane window in upper panel. The door opens into the living room. The north wing doorway and door, in east elevation of wing, is of same type. Basement doorway opens upward from and just above ground level at east end, north elevation. The door is corrugated plastic over a wooden frame, and covers the cement stairway to basement.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The south elevation has three six-over-one double hung paired windows on the first floor. One is located at the west end (bedroom), one at the center (living room), and the other at the east end (living room addition). The second floor contains two six pane wood casement windows. The west elevation has two small fixed single sash windows centered on the first floor (bedroom closets) and paired six-over-one double hung windows on the second floor. North elevation windows are all on the first floor. They include a six-over-one double hung near the west end (bedroom), two eight-over one double hung windows, one west of center kitchen) and the other center (bathroom), and a fixed single sash, six pane window at the east end (dinette). The east elevation has two windows on the first floor. North of center (dinette) are three grouped six-over-one double hung windows, and south of center (living room addition) are paired six-over-one double hung windows. The second floor windows are centered (bedroom) and are paired six-over-one double hung. Two window frames occur in wells below the ground surface of east elevation. These basement windows are presently covered with plywood.

Several windows occur in the north wing of the house. The west elevation of the wing has a fixed eight-over-one single sash window (laundry room) The north elevation (laundry room) and east elevation (pantry) also have one window each of this type.

8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Medium gable roof, axis east-west, composition shingle covering material nailed onto cedar shingles (former covering).
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Eaves project, rafters are exposed; verges project with fascia and brackets.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: There is a single dormer on the south roof slope. The dormer roof is gabled with overhang and bracketed eaves.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans:
 - a. Basement: see sketch plan (page 12)
 - b. First floor: see sketch plan (page 13)
 - c. Second floor: see sketch plan (page 14)
2. Stairways: Basement stairway from kitchen straight with no railing; stairs from first to second floor curved with no railing.
3. Flooring: The kitchen, dinette, bathroom and first floor bedrooms have vinyl flooring over original oak flooring. The living room, dining room and second floor bedrooms have oak flooring. Oak flooring is 4 1/2" x 5/8" tongue-and-groove board nailed to subflooring of diagonal 5" x 1/2" lumber.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Living room lower walls are plywood paneling and wood trim painted pink, upper walls are wallpapered with gold design on blue background. Underlying wallpaper are two earlier layers of floral print wallpaper over light green paint, the original wall finish. The walls are sheetrock. Ceiling in living room is acoustical tile. Living room addition and dinette walls and ceiling are plywood paneling and trim, painted pink. Upper walls in dinette are painted aqua. The kitchen walls are also plywood paneling and trim. Upper walls are painted beige, lower walls pink. First floor bedrooms are painted pink (south room) and light green (north room) with white ceilings. Original wall finish in both bedrooms was floral print wallpaper. Bathroom lower walls include imitation tile formica sheeting over original vertical tongue and groove boards and upper walls of plywood paneling and trim painted aqua. The upstairs bedroom walls and ceilings are painted plywood paneling and trim. The west room is pink, the east room is blue.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Wide, flat entryway with plain trim between living room and living room addition (no door). Wide, semi-elliptical plain archway with flat trim between kitchen and dinette (no door). A narrower entryway without door joins kitchen and living room. Doorway between the kitchen and pantry is flat with plain trim, door is single leaf, double panel with single pane window in upper panel. Both first floor bedrooms and bathroom have flat doorways with plain trim, doors are single leaf with five panels. Second floor stairway doors are narrow, double leaf, double panel type with hook and eye latch. Second floor bedroom doors are same type as described for first floor bedrooms.
- b. Windows: All interior window surrounds are flat, plain, with lugsills, and are painted the color of adjacent walls.

6. Decorative features and trim: There are three fixed bookcases in the living room. Two extend out from east wall on each side of entryway to living room addition. They have open wooden shelves and are painted pink. The third bookcase is centered in the north wall of the living room. It is recessed into the wall, has open wooden shelving, and is also painted pink. There is evidence in the form of decorative hinge outlines cut into the trim that the bookcase originally had glass doors.

7. Hardware: Window lifts are curved fingerpulls, with two on wide windows.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The original heating system involved the living room fireplace and a wood-burning cookstove in the kitchen. A wood-burning furnace was later installed in the basement with heat ducts to floor registers in the living room and addition, dinette, kitchen, bathroom, and all four bedrooms.
- b. Lighting: Most light fixtures in the house have been removed by vandals. Decorative brass light fixtures reportedly existed above the fireplace. First floor bedrooms have central ceiling screw-in fixtures with decorative metal plate surrounding fixture. Bathroom has similar ceiling fixture and ceramic screw-in fixture in wall above sink. A small globe of milk glass is attached to the fixture.
- c. Plumbing: Pipes from bathroom and kitchen are exposed in basement. They are steel, appear to be in good condition, and exit underground to the north of the house.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The building occupies a narrow bench at the foot of the toeslope forming the north side of the valley, just east of Hampton Creek. It is approximately 50' above the valley floodplain. A fence marking the Forest Service property boundary is 57' west of the house. The Hampton House, built in 1908, is located on private land approximately 300' west of the Randle Ranger Residence.

2. Historic landscape design: Two types of ornamental ground ivy are present. One variety is on the bank south of the house, another on the bank north of the house. Two apple trees are located 20' west of the house. A domestic rose bush is situated adjacent to center of east elevation of house.
3. Outbuildings: A garage (USFS building #1550) is located 47 feet east of the house. It is a 20' x 20' square wood-framed structure with a poured cement floor and foundation. The cedar shingle roof is medium gabled, with bracketed verges. The exterior is horizontal shiplap with end boards. Two large steel hinged doors are present in the south gable end. There is a door in the west elevation, two nine-over-one stationary windows in the north gable end and two in the east elevation. The structure has an open storage loft.

A root house (USFS building #1950) is located 19 feet east of the north wing of the residence and is built into the slope bank. It is a rectangular structure measuring 11'4" x 9'3" with poured cement walls to 6'7" height. A single door is centered on the south elevation. A single window is located above the door. The medium gabled roof is covered with cedar shingles and exhibits bracketed verges. Horizontal clapboard forms the exterior of the gable ends above the cement walls.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings

No original plans for the house exist. A blueprint copy of plans for the 1936 additions to the house is on file at the Randle Ranger Station. The addition plans are dated 12/10/35 and are drawn at a scale of 1/4" = 1'.

B. Early Views

Two early photographs are on file in the photographic archives of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The first of these was taken in 1935 and shows the residence and garage. Another residence is also shown to the east. The view is to the northeast from the junction of Silverbrook Road and Slagle Road. The second early photograph was taken in 1937 from a point near the southeast corner of the house. The view of the house is to the northwest, with the living room/dinette addition in the foreground. The photographers of these two early views are not known.

A 1964 photograph of the residence is also on file in the same archive. The perspective is similar to the 1937 view. The photographer is unknown.

C. Interviews

No interviews were conducted.

D. Bibliography

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Anonymous

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Cecil, K.P.

1935a Letter to District Ranger Sheppard, Wind River Ranger Station.
Dated December 3, Forest Supervisor's Office, Columbia National Forest, Vancouver.

1935b Memorandum to Ranger Lewis, Randle Ranger Station. Dated December 26, Forest Supervisor's Office, Columbia National Forest, Vancouver.

Flury, Charles E.

1938 Memorandum For Ranger Lewis. Dated March 12, Randle Ranger Station, Columbia National Forest.

Kirkpatrick, Dahl

1969 Letter to Harold W. Coates, District Ranger, Randle Ranger Station. Dated February 19, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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Lewis, Melvin M.

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McClure, Richard H. Jr. and E. Cail Throop

1982 Randle Ranger Residence (Building #1135), Evaluation Report and Determination of Effect. Randle Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Ritter, C.F.

1935 Letter to M.M. Lewis, District Ranger, Randle Ranger Station. Dated December 13, Forest Supervisor's Office, Columbia National Forest, Vancouver.

1936 Letter to M.M. Lewis, District Ranger, Randle Ranger Station. Dated January 7, Forest Supervisor's Office, Columbia National Forest, Vancouver.

Teed, Ryle

1936 Memorandum to K.P. Cecil, Forest Supervisor, Columbia National Forest. Dated March 11, Randle Ranger Station.

Throop, Elizabeth G.

1979 Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: A Federal Response to the Depression. Unpublished MA thesis, Department of History, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

USDA Forest Service

1950 Project Work Budget and Inventory, Fiscal Year 1950, Randle Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Randle Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Pacific Northwest Region Six, USDA - Forest Service, is the Federal agency responsible for initiating the project, which is the disposal of the former Randle Ranger Residence.

Section 101-47.802 of the Federal Property Management Regulations requires each Federal agency to annually review its real property holdings to determine the extent of utilization, prepare a written record of its findings, and, if appropriate, dispose of underutilized property.

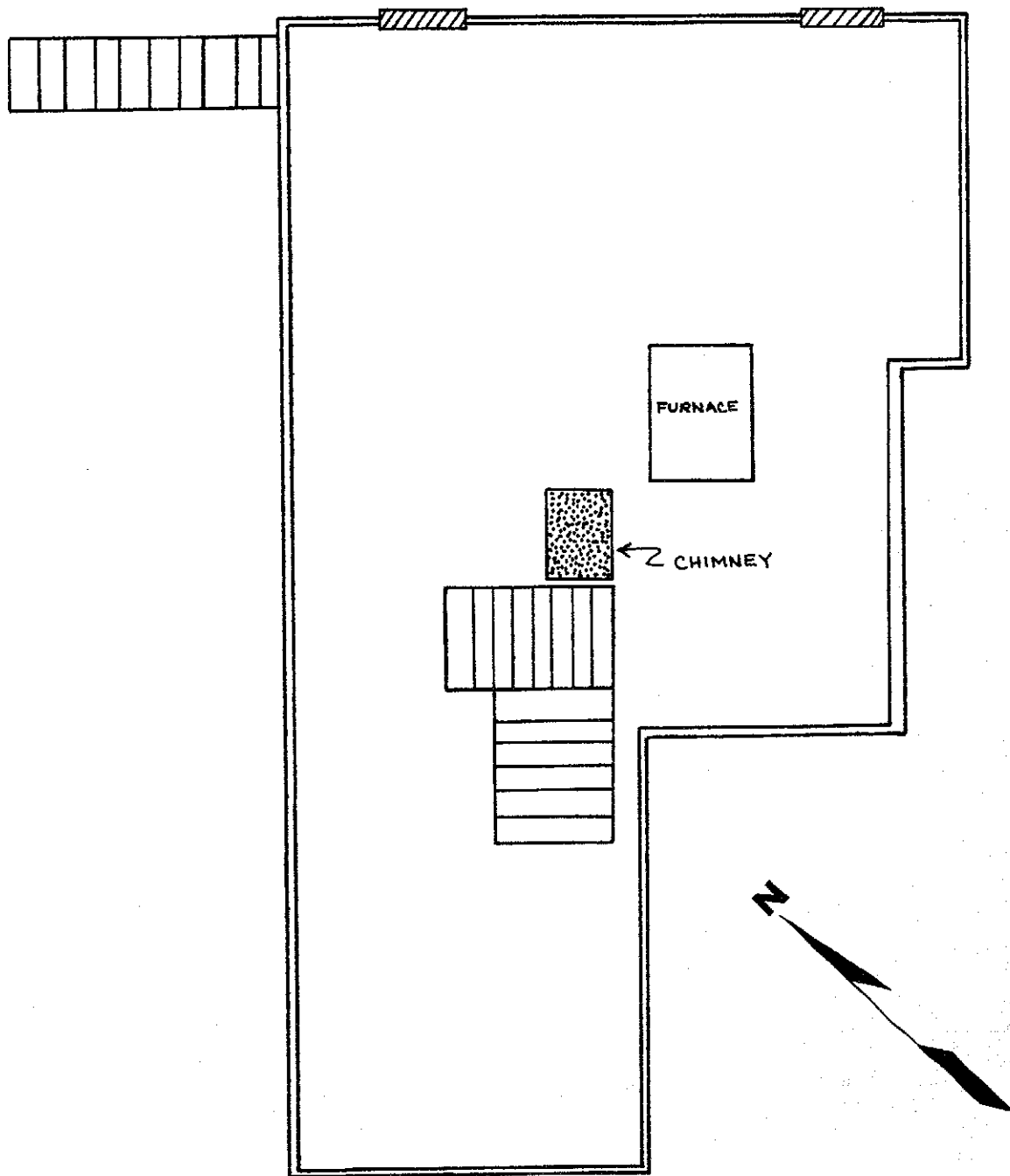
Federal Property Management Regulations 104.G-47.602 gives the Forest Supervisor the authority to destroy or sell surplus improvements (e.g. buildings) for off site use if the appraised value of the excess property is less than \$1,000.00 or if the value is so low that the cost of care and handling does not justify its retention. Although the value of the Randle Ranger Residence is given at \$2,904.11 (Real Property Ledger), the cost of stabilizing the building or making it habitable would not be justifiable unless it were useable for additional Forest Service housing or office space. This is unlikely due to the distance (one half mile) from the present Ranger Station. An itemized cost estimate to repair the Randle Ranger Residence to usable condition, made by a facilities engineer in 1983, totaled \$37,591.00. This cost would be somewhat higher now.

Disposal of the building, as specified in the Memorandum of Agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer and the Regional Forester, may take two forms. The preferred method of disposal would involve sale of the building to the highest bidder who would then move it to another site and restore it to historic condition. If sale under these stipulations is unsuccessful, the building will be reoffered for sale to the highest bidder for scrap. It would then be dismantled and removed from the site.

Prepared by: Richard H. McClure, Jr.
North Zone Archaeologist
Randle Ranger Station
Gifford Pinchot National Forest

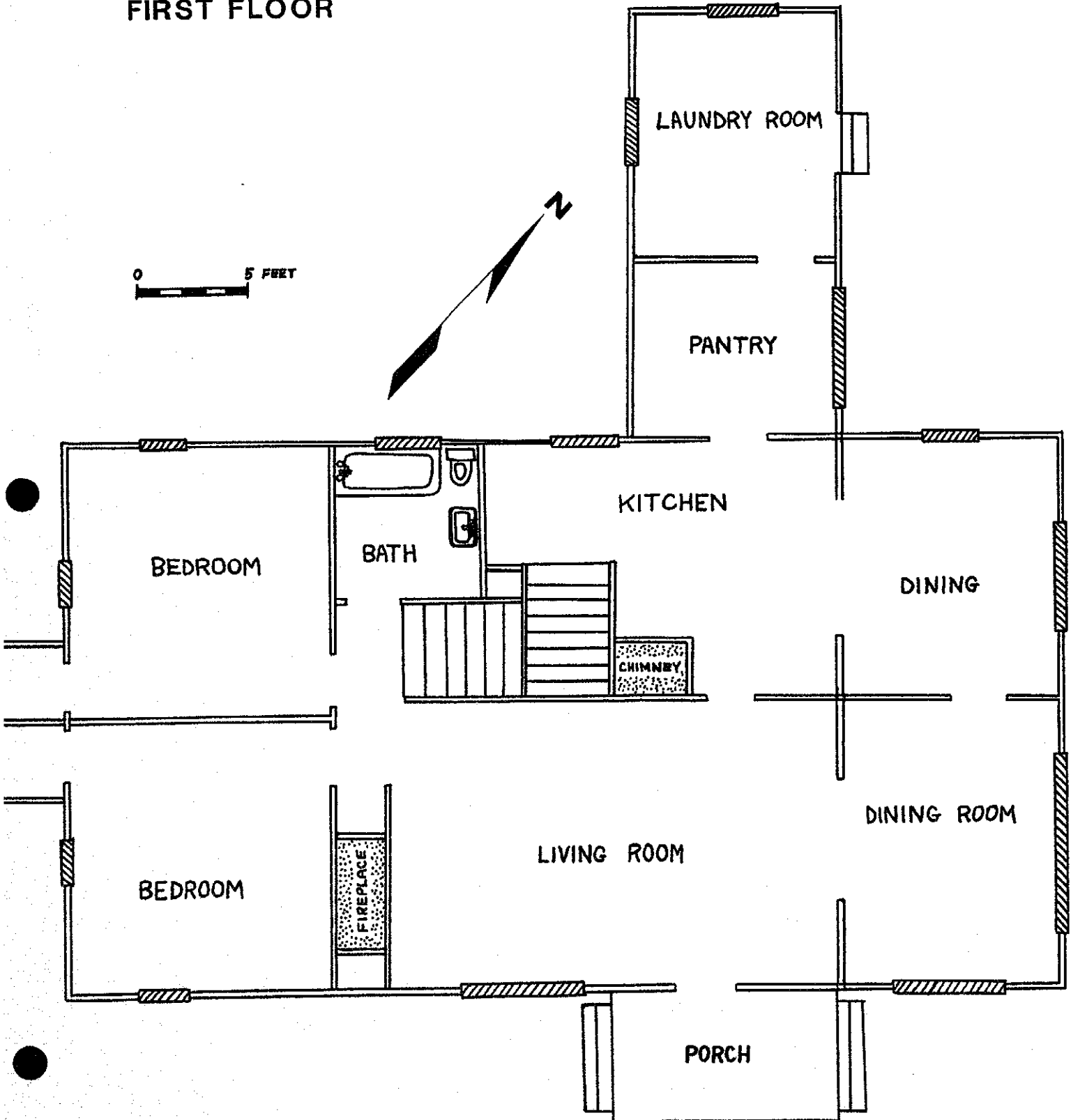
October, 1989

sketch floor plan
BASEMENT

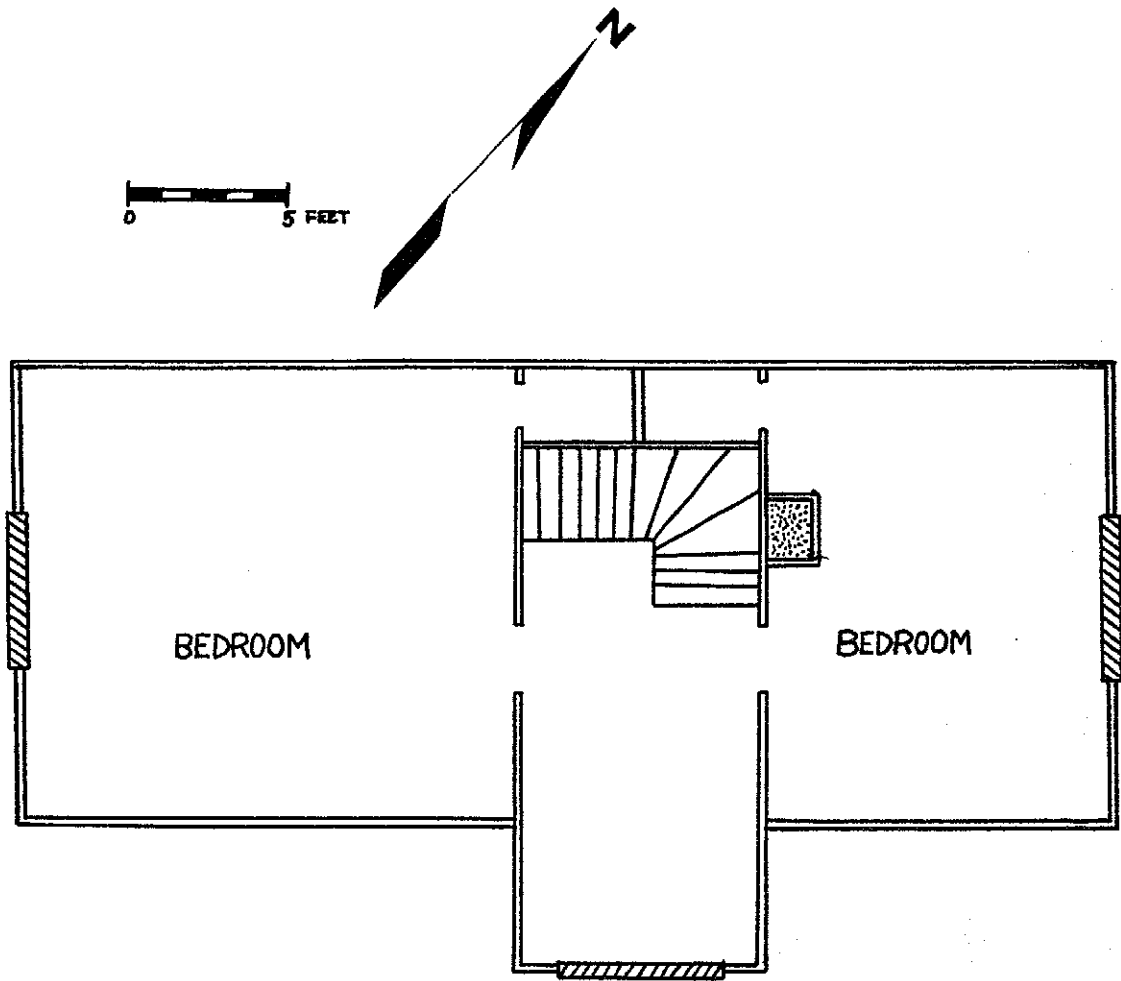


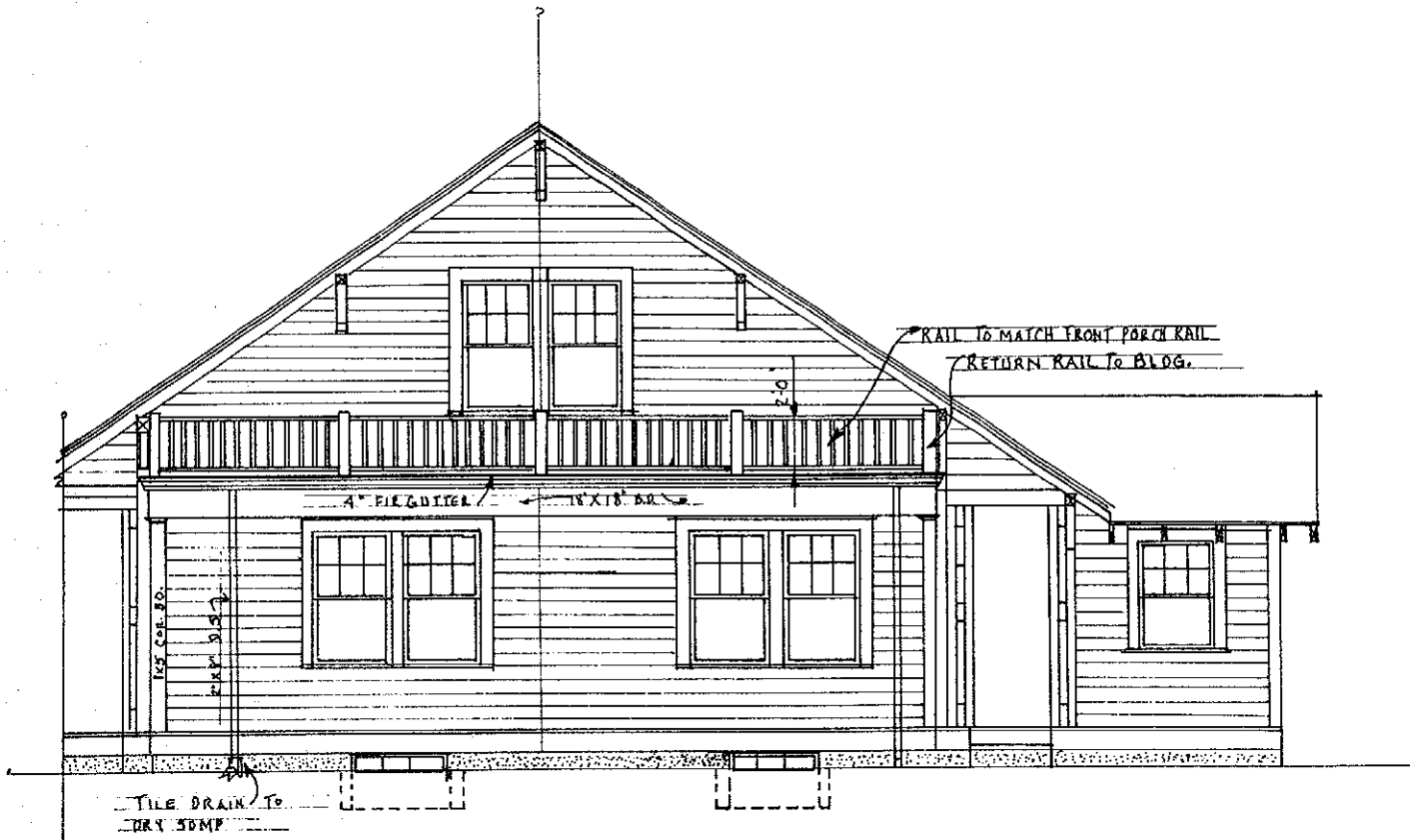
sketch floor plan
FIRST FLOOR



0 5 FEET



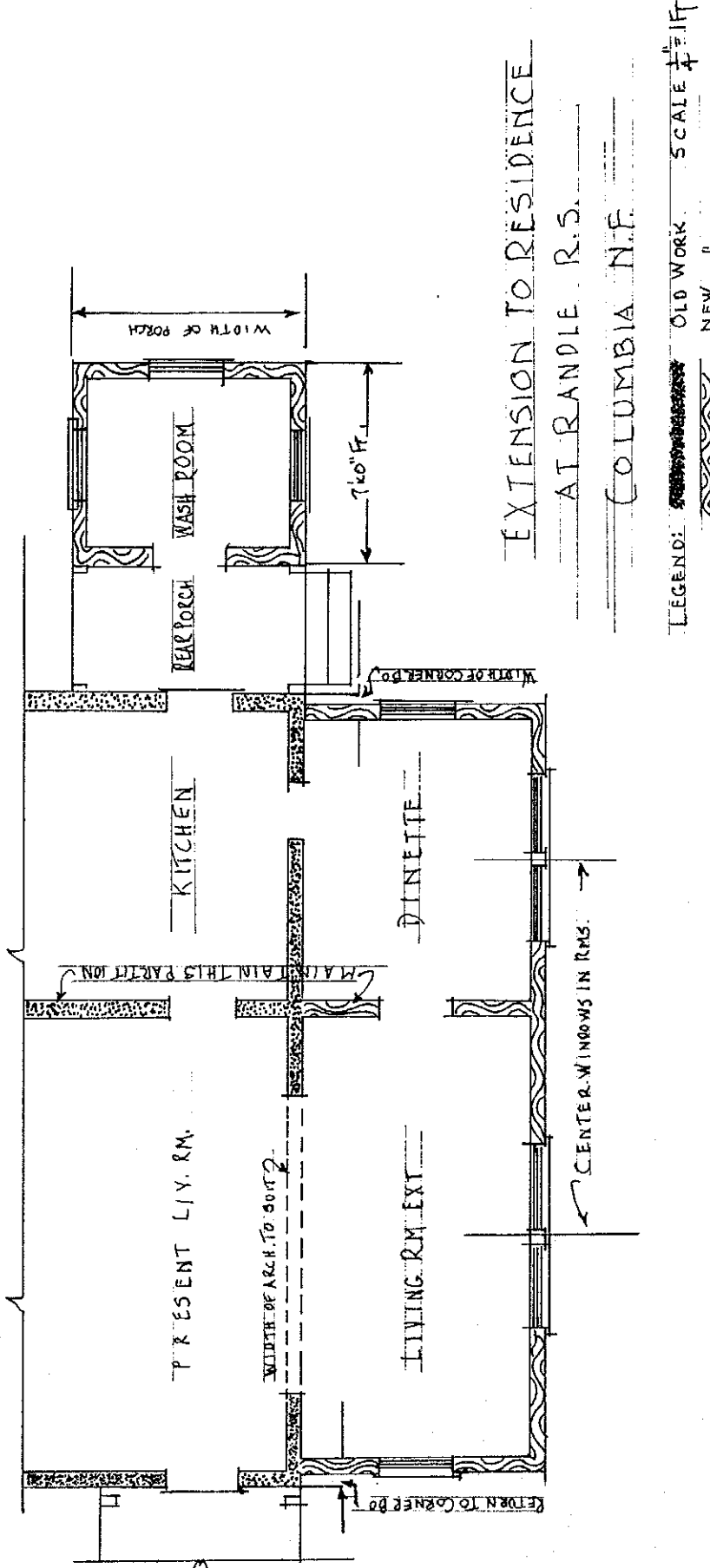
sketch floor plan
SECOND FLOOR





EXTENSION TO RESIDENCE
AT RANDLE R.S.
COLUMBIA N.E.
LEGEND:  OLD WORK  NEW SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1'-0"

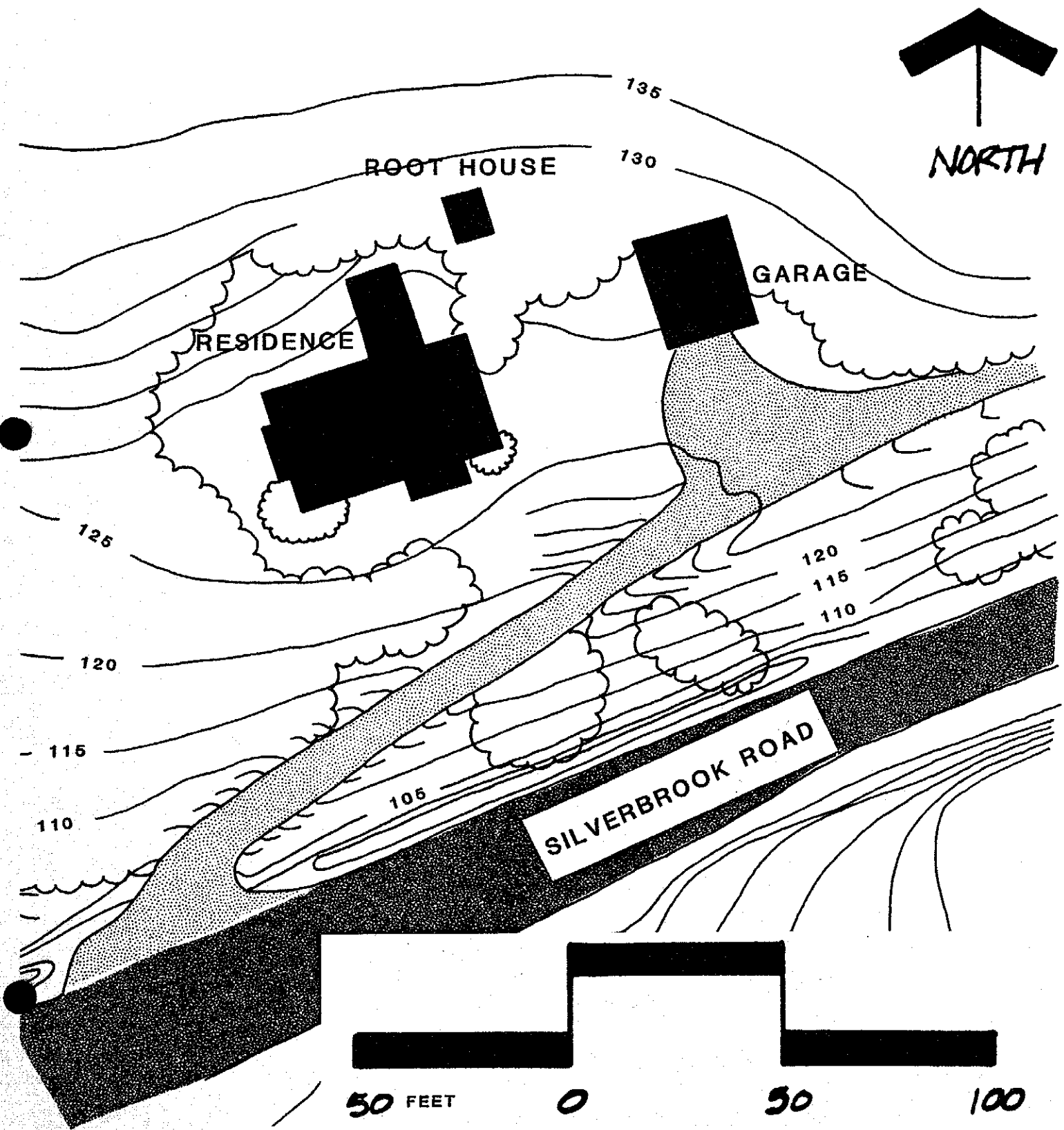
REDUCED COPY OF 1935 BUILDING ADDITION PLANS



REDUCED COPY OF 1935 BUILDING ADDITION PLANS

Site Plan

CONTOUR ELEVATIONS FROM ARBITRARY DATUM





1935 photograph of Randle Ranger Residence (left), associated garage and Protection Assistant Residence (right). View is to NNE from junction of Silverbrook and Slagle Roads.



1937 photograph showing the 1936 addition to east side of Randle Ranger Residence. View is to NW.