

JUDY; PHILIP THOMASON

NPS Form 10-900-b  
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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form**

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

New Submission  Amended Submission

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Historic and Architectural Resources of the Mark Twain National Forest

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Administrative Sites of the Mark Twain National Forest, 1935-1939

**C. Form Prepared by**

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organization Thomason and Associates date May 15, 2000

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**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Table of Contents for Written Narrative**

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Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 120 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The multiple property group submittal for the Historical and Architectural Resources of the Mark Twain National Forest, includes the context of Administrative Sites of the Mark Twain National Forest, 1935 - 1939. This nomination discusses buildings and structures and no archaeological resources are included within this multiple property group.

**THE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF THE MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST**

**Overview**

The Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri's only National Forest, is located in Southern Missouri in the state's Ozark Mountains Region. The Forest consists of approximately 1.5 million acres within eight sites. Viewed as a "recovering forest, the Mark Twain was established in the early 1930s at a time of diminishing natural resources and the mounting economic constraints of the Great Depression. Administrative sites within the Forest were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a federal program to aid both unemployment and natural resource protection. The architecture and design of these sites reflect the period's emphasis on rustic designs intended to blend with their environment. They have continued to be significant centers in the Mark Twain National Forest, which has remained an important resource to the state.

The history of the Mark Twain National Forest is rooted in the development of the National Forest Service (NPS). The movement to protect and conserve the nation's timberlands began in the late 19th century as a conservation movement arose in the face of increasing exploitation of natural resources. Upon their arrival to this land, colonists were faced with a vast wilderness of seemingly endless timber. From its inception, the United States national policy toward administering public lands was designed to increase settlement, promote ownership of homes and develop resources for business and individual initiatives. Timber proved to be a viable source for building materials and, ultimately, played a major factor in the development of the railroad system providing the railroad ties that connected the continent to virtually any sector of the United States. A powerful logging industry grew from this demand for building materials and railroad ties.<sup>1</sup> By the mid-1800s, resources of all sorts, particularly the forests, were being ruthlessly exploited with no thought for future needs.

In the early 1870s, concern over the loss of natural resources evolved, and the conservation movement came into being. Prominent environmentalists and conservationists such as Franklin

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<sup>1</sup>David E. Conrad, The Land We Cared For: A History of the Forest Service's Eastern Region, (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USDA Forest Service, Region 9), p. 17.

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Hough, Bernard Fernow, and Gifford Pinchot, began to question unrestricted use of natural resources on public lands and expressed concern for the preservation of future supplies. In response, a series of actions was set into motion that eventually led to the establishment of the National Forest System.

In 1876, Congress designated Dr. Franklin B. Hough as the first Federal Government forestry agent. Working within the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, he conducted a study on the environmental factors of U.S. forests.<sup>2</sup> The culmination of Hough's research was presented in a report that admonished the general public for their "pioneer mentality" and the timber industry for their rapacity toward natural resources. Hough stressed the significance of the reformation of lumbering practices and setting aside of forest reserves.<sup>3</sup>

In 1881, the Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) was created and Hough was appointed chief of the Division. Hough's successor, Bernard Fernow, was instrumental in the passage of the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. The significance of this legislation was to give authority to the president to "from time to time, set apart and reserve" land from the public domain to form "public reservations." However, foresters of USDA did not manage forest reserves; jurisdiction over them was held by the Department of the Interior. In 1898, Gifford Pinchot became the new forestry chief and began efforts to move management of forest reserves to USDA.

Pinchot's personal connection with Theodore Roosevelt and subsequent political developments played a pivotal role in the creation of the USDA Forest Service. Theodore Roosevelt was enamored with the sport of big game hunting and having observed the absence of large game that once populated the eastern regions, he felt that the same fate would befall the game of the West. Together with other serious hunters Roosevelt formed the Boone and Crockett Club. The mission of their club was not only to assure the conservation of land for big game but also to foster respect for public wilderness areas. Roosevelt sought out forester Gifford Pinchot and brought him into the club. With Pinchot's involvement in the club, the forestry aspect gained new importance. Pinchot's revolutionary concepts such as "multiple use" accommodated the wilderness ideals yet formulated the theory of management of resources for other uses such as grazing, cutting, and recreation.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Terry L. West, Centennial Mini-Histories of the Forest Service, (Washington, D.C.: USDA Forest Service, 1992), p. 7.

<sup>3</sup>Conrad, The Land We Cared For, p. 18.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid, 20.

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When Pinchot became the chief of the Division of Forestry in 1898, he was keenly aware of the shortcomings of the existing system and sought to create a new division with control of forest reserves. In 1901, President William McKinley was assassinated and Theodore Roosevelt assumed the office. Pinchot's work with the Division of Forestry was of vital importance to Roosevelt, and Pinchot's alliance with Roosevelt proved to be instrumental in the formation of the National Forest Service. Consequently, Roosevelt took a stance in favor of forest conservation despite pressures of corporate interest groups and thus created the Forest Reserves or USDA National Forest Service in 1905.<sup>5</sup>

Although, primary efforts had been aimed at stopping depletion of timber resources in the western region, the eastern and southern regions were faced with economic crises brought on by "lumber barons." Legislation in the form of the Weeks Act of 1911 and the Clarke-McNary Law of 1924 enabled cooperative efforts between states and the federal government to identify suitable lands to be purchased for protection of watersheds and production of timber.

During the initial two years of the passage of the Weeks Act, 700,000 acres were purchased for approximately five dollars an acre. Working with federal agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Land Management, the National Forest Reservation Commission acquired approximately 20 million acres during a fifty-year period. Early acquisitions were from lumber companies. The Clarke-McNary Act broadened the scope of the Weeks Act by allowing the Forest Service to purchase land that had either been timberland or was potential timberland.<sup>6</sup>

Two regions targeted for development during the Great Depression were the North Central (Region 9) and Eastern (Region 7). The economic conditions of the Great Depression acted as a stimulus to the establishment of National Forests in these areas. Vast quantities of eroded land were made available through low land prices while the potential to bolster the local economies acted as incentives to the formation of the National Forests.

The evolution of the forest system in the Missouri Ozarks spans a period of approximately 70 years. The history and development of the Mark Twain National Forest started in 1914 when Forest Service specialists advocated the purchase of acreage in the Ozarks. The purchase was stymied by the lack of an enabling act, which provided for intervention by the Federal government to acquire the land. In 1926, Charles F. Hatfield, General Manager of the St. Louis (Missouri) Convention, Publicity, and

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<sup>5</sup>Ibid, p. 22.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid, p. 32-35.

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Tourist Bureau, lobbied to create two National Parks in the Missouri Ozarks. From Park Service and Forest Service officials Hatfield realized that it was necessary to have an enabling act in Missouri in order to benefit from the Weeks Acts. Upon his return to St. Louis, Hatfield set out to establish two National Forests by working with the Governor of Missouri and state legislators to pass an enabling act in Missouri. Edward A. Sherman, Assistant Chief Forester, also worked towards the act's passage stressing the economic benefits of improved forestry. However, Missouri foresters such as Frederick Dunlap balked at the idea of Federal government involvement in the Missouri Park system much to the dismay of Chief Forester William B. Greeley.<sup>7</sup>

After many years of controversy over the "National Forest Question in Missouri," the Missouri legislature ratified the Consent Act thus paving the way for the Weeks Act. Initially, the Act limited the tracts of land to 25 acres with a total of 2,000 acres. Due to extreme limitations of this act it proved to be futile until limits were raised in two amendments that first raised the acreage to 100,000 and then in 1935 removed the restrictions altogether. Ultimately, the dire economic conditions during the Great Depression worked to outweigh the objections of State Forester Dunlap.<sup>8</sup>

Regional Forester Earl W. Tinker (Region 9) had been seeking to institute federal cooperative forestry programs in Missouri as well as the inclusion of Missouri in Region 9. In 1931 the Missouri Park system became part of Region 9. Between 1933-1935, with the passage of the enabling act and subsequent amendments, Region 9 initiated the formation of eight purchase units in Missouri.<sup>9</sup> In 1934, officials authorized the establishment of four of these units—the Clark, Fristoe, Gasconade, and Pond Fork areas. Gardner and Wappapello were approved in 1934, and St. Francois (La Motte) and Table Rock were added in 1935.<sup>10</sup>

Two separate Presidential Proclamations, on September 11, 1939, formed the eight purchase units into two separate entities. The four western units, Table Rock, Pond Fork, Gardner, and Gasconade, were first known as the Gardner National Forest and with Presidential Proclamation No. 2362, were recognized as the Mark Twain National Forest. The Forest headquarters initially in Rolla, Missouri,

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid, p. 82.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid, p. 82.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid, p. 82-83.

<sup>10</sup>Richard T. Malouf, "Thematic Evaluation of Administrative and Fire Lookout Tower Sites on the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri," (Resource on file at the Supervisor's Office, Mark Twain National Forest, Rolla, Missouri, 1991), p. 5.

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was moved to Springfield in 1935. Presidential Proclamation No. 2363 created the second entity consisting of Clark, Fristoe, Wappapello and St. Francois, which assumed the name of Clark National Forest.

Establishment of the USDA Forest Service in Missouri coincided with the Great Depression and an era of strong federal relief programs. Unemployment soared throughout the nation and millions of people took on lives of vagrancy. Also during this period, the United States continued to face consequences of diminishing natural resources. Land-use ethics governed by economic self-interests resulted in soil exhaustion, dwindling forests, and over-grazed grasslands. In response to the problems of unemployment and loss of natural resources, President Franklin D. Roosevelt set up a series of federal programs collectively known as "the New Deal."

The first New Deal act was the Emergency Work Program, also known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It was created in March 1933, when Roosevelt proposed "to create a civilian conservation corps to be used in simple work . . . confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects. . . ." <sup>11</sup> Various federal agencies assisted in implementing the program. Enrollees were selected by the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Agriculture planned and organized the work to be done. The War Department oversaw administration and transportation while providing food, clothing and shelter for enrollees.

The CCC quickly became one of Roosevelt's most popular programs and became known for its conservation work including the construction of park and recreational facilities inspired by natural surroundings. In Missouri, CCC employees built lookout towers, planted trees, constructed recreational facilities, cleared and built roads, re-introduced turkey and deer to wildlife areas, built fish hatcheries, and fought forest fires. In addition, the CCC provided a considerable amount of labor to the Forest Service including the construction of administrative sites such as ranger offices and dwellings, protective structures such as lookout towers, and recreational facilities such as campgrounds, dams, and lakes. Throughout the nine years of the program's existence, an average of forty-one CCC camps operated in Missouri, and approximately one-third of these camps were assigned to Forest Service work. In addition, skilled local men were also frequently hired for projects in an effort to share the work and pay with the local community. These recruits brought relief to regular CCC workers and brought the opportunity to train junior enrollees.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>Ibid, p. 4.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

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Other New Deal relief programs included the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian Works Administration (CWA), Emergency Relief Administration (ERA), and National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA). Many of these programs concentrated on the building of roads, bridges, and telephone lines. The ERA was organized to provide funds to employ local people near work projects and to purchase needed construction materials.

Roosevelt's relief programs provided the manpower necessary to support the conservation movement and enabled the Forest Service to grow and develop a systematic and effective management capability. Local communities benefited through employment opportunities, sale of construction materials, and the gain of well-built practical structures. The CCC also instilled a respect of, and appreciation for, natural resources in many of the persons associated with the program.

**Administrative Sites**

In July of 1935, the four purchase units of the original Mark Twain National Forest were divided into six Ranger Districts and administrative sites were located in the largest nearby town. Mark Twain administrative sites were located in Willow Springs, West Plains, Rolla, Houston, Ava, and Cassville. The first office complex in the Mark Twain National Forest was established at Willow Springs with construction commencing in December of 1935. Construction of subsequent office complexes began in the spring of 1936. Each complex was comprised of a ranger's office, ranger's dwelling and garage, warehouse, and oil house. In a decision made by Forest Supervisor Galen Pike, the buildings were of limestone veneer and the construction of all six sites was completed by June 30, 1937.<sup>13</sup>

Purchase units of the Clark National Forest were divided into nine Ranger Districts with administrative sites located in Centerville, Potosi, Salem, Doniphan, Van Buren, Winona, Fredericktown, Poplar Bluff, and Piedmont. The Clark National Forest followed a similar plan for the structures as the original Mark Twain National Forest. The most significant difference was in the use of wood siding rather than limestone veneer. Construction at the Clark National Forest administrative sites did not follow a consistent pattern. Each of the nine districts contained a warehouse by June 30, 1937 and office buildings were constructed at each site by 1940. However, ranger's dwellings were only completed at four of the nine sites by this time.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>Ibid, p. 13.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid, p. 13-14.

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The Poplar Bluff and Piedmont districts were consolidated in 1937, and the administrative site at Piedmont was later removed from Federal ownership, and many of the buildings there were dismantled and rebuilt at other USDA locations. The West Plains office was closed in 1937, and the district was combined with Willow Springs. The office at Centerville was closed in 1974 and the property was exchanged out of Federal ownership in 1982.

ADMINISTRATIVE SITES      DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

Willow Springs	1935
Potosi	1936
Salem	1936
Doniphan	1936
Cassville	1936
Fredericktown	1936
Poplar Bluff	1936
Ava	1936
Houston	1936-1937
Van Buren	1936-1937
Rolla	1937-1938
Winona	1938-1939

In 1952, the Clark and Mark Twain National Forests were combined under one administration. In another administrative action a decade later, the two Missouri Forests were again separated and Division lines varied from the original with Fristoe, Gardner, Pond Fork, and Table Rock under the Mark Twain administration with the headquarters once again in Springfield. The Gasconade, Clark, St. Francois, and Wappapello units fell under the Clark National Forest administration with the office in Rolla. On February 16, 1973, the offices of the two Forests were again combined in Rolla and ultimately were consolidated under the present system of the Mark Twain National Forest.<sup>15</sup>

A number of organizational changes have taken place within the Ranger Districts of the Mark Twain National Forest since its inception in the 1930s. These changes have resulted in district consolidations and administrative site closings. Of the sixteen original office complexes, four have been closed and transferred out of USDA ownership. New construction has occurred at many of the complexes that remain in federal ownership, and many original buildings have been extensively modified, removed or replaced.

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid, p. 6-7.

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Ranger stations remaining under federal ownership within the Mark Twain National Forest that have been significantly altered from their original design are those located at Salem, Doniphan, Potosi, Fredericktown, and Poplar Bluff. At each of these sites extensive modification or demolition of original structures, or extensive construction of new buildings has occurred. The extent of these changes is such that they greatly lessen the historical integrity of the sites, and they no longer meet National Register criteria.

In 1998, the Salem Ranger Station was determined ineligible for the National Register.<sup>16</sup> At the Salem Ranger Station, the original ranger office was extensively remodeled in 1964, and this building no longer retains integrity of its original design. The ranger's dwelling is standard plan #B-36 of frame construction. However, the exterior design has been compromised by the addition of replacement wood siding. The ranger's dwelling garage has been altered with the addition of new siding and replacement garage doors. The warehouse building is not original to the complex. The oil house has had its original siding replaced. Due to the extent of these alterations, this complex was determined to no longer retain integrity.

The Doniphan Ranger Station complex retains its original office, garage, warehouse, and oil house. These buildings were extensively remodeled in 1957 and no longer retain integrity of their historic design. Also in 1957, a new residence was constructed on the site. In 1994, the Doniphan Ranger Station complex was determined to no longer meet National Register criteria due to its loss of integrity.<sup>17</sup>

In Poplar Bluff, the original ranger's dwelling and ranger office were removed in the early 1970s, and replaced with a new office building. Of the original buildings, only the warehouse, garage, and oil house remain extant, and both the garage and warehouse have been altered with replacement doors. A Determination of Eligibility Study undertaken at Poplar Bluff in 1996, determined that the site was ineligible for the National Register due to the loss of original buildings, and its overall diminishment of site and setting.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> "Determination of Eligibility and Effect for the Salem Administrative Site, Dent County, Missouri." Report No. 09-05-0-218 on file at the Headquarters, Mark Twain National Forest, Rolla, Missouri, 1998.

<sup>17</sup> Determination letter from David Shorr, Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer to Jerry Gott, Acting Resources Staff Officer, Mark Twain National Forest, Rolla, Missouri, 28 July 1994.

<sup>18</sup> Cynthia R. Price, Shared Service Archaeologist, "Determination of Eligibility and Effect for Poplar Bluff Administrative Site, Butler County, Missouri." Resource on file at the Supervisor's Office, Mark Twain National Forest, Rolla, Missouri, 1996, p. 5.

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Extensive modifications have occurred to all of the structures at the Fredericktown complex. Originally of frame construction, these buildings have been altered with new masonite siding and replacement windows and doors.

The Potosi Ranger Station did not originally include a ranger's dwelling. One was constructed in 1958, and an assistant's dwelling was constructed in 1963. Also in the early 1960s, a new ranger office replaced the office built in 1936. Original buildings retained at the Potosi Ranger Station consist only of the warehouse and oil house, and these buildings have been altered through the addition of replacement exterior siding. Due to the loss of historic buildings at this site, it no longer retains sufficient integrity to meet National Register criteria.

The Van Buren Ranger Station retains an original standard plan frame ranger station office, warehouse, oil house, and garage. The overall design of the complex was altered in the 1950s through the construction of two ranger's dwellings. The Van Buren Ranger Station was determined to meet National Register criteria in 1997. This property was transferred out of the ownership of the Forest Service, and the complex was recorded in accordance with stipulations in a Memorandum of Agreement between the Forest Service and State Historic Preservation Office.<sup>19</sup>

Presently, administrative sites within the Mark Twain National Forest that remain intact and retain integrity of their original character and design are those at the Willow Springs, Ava, Cassville, Houston, Rolla, and Winona locations. The Willow Springs Ranger Station was previously evaluated and deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office. A National Register nomination was completed in 1993, but the property has not yet been listed. The Willow Springs Site is no longer under the ownership of the Federal Government, but is leased by the Forest Service. The Willow Springs Ranger Station retains all five of its original New Deal era buildings, which are of limestone veneer construction. The buildings display excellent craftsmanship and have undergone few alterations.

The Ranger Station located at Ava is composed of five original frame and limestone buildings constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during 1936. These buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity and exhibit their original craftsmanship and design.

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<sup>19</sup> "Documentation Submitted to Carry Out the Terms of a Memorandum of Agreement, Van Buren Ranger Station." Cultural Resources Report # 09-05-26-236 on file with the Headquarters, Mark Twain National Forest, Rolla, Missouri, 1997.

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The Cassville Ranger Station is located in Barry County, Missouri, just to the east of the Cassville city limits on State Highway 248. The complex property is composed of five frame and limestone buildings constructed by the Shell Knob Camp of the CCC in 1936. The Cassville site is one of the most intact examples of administrative sites within the Mark Twain National Forest. Few changes have occurred since initial construction during 1936, and the overall character and integrity of the site have been retained.

Construction of the Houston Ranger Station was begun in 1936 by the Lynchburg Camp of the CCC. A District Ranger had been stationed at Houston since 1933, and the District office was initially established in his home. The site retains all five of its original New Deal era buildings, which are of frame and limestone construction. Few exterior changes have occurred to the buildings since their construction in the 1930s, and the site maintains its historic character.

The Rolla Ranger Station is located in Phelps County, Missouri. The site is composed of five original frame and limestone buildings constructed by the CCC during 1937 and 1938. The Rolla Station is no longer occupied by the Forest Service, and is now owned by the Rolla Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce occupies the original ranger's office, and the ranger's dwelling is leased. The warehouse and oil house are used for storage. A visitors' center was constructed on the site in 1994. However, this new construction does not significantly detract from the historic character of the site, and the original buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity.

The Winona Ranger Station is located in Shannon County, Missouri and is set in a residential neighborhood with a wooded, gently rolling terrain. The complex is composed of four frame buildings constructed by the CCC during 1938 and 1939. These buildings include a ranger's dwelling, garage, warehouse, and oil house, which all have original exteriors of wood shingle siding. The original Ranger's office at Winona burned in 1957 and was replaced with a one-story frame building in 1960. The Winona Ranger Station is the only administrative site of frame construction within the Mark Twain National Forest that retains a high degree of its original construction, character and design. The site also consists of a frame annex, which serves as an additional office and dwelling, and a frame garage. Both of these buildings were completed in 1957. These post-1950 buildings have been constructed in-keeping with the original character of the district and also have wood shingle exteriors.

These six administrative sites of the Mark Twain National Forest retain a high degree of their historic character and design. Other than routine maintenance, few exterior alterations have occurred at these sites and their settings remain intact. These sites retain their New Deal era architecture and CCC craftsmanship, and represent the historic development of USDA Forest Service in Missouri. They remain important administrative sites of the Mark Twain National Forest, and are the few remaining intact examples of the Forest's 1930s beginnings.

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**Protective Facilities**

Forest fires were a serious threat to the Mark Twain and Clark Forests. According to local farming practices, tradition held that setting fires drove out insects and pests and freed the undergrowth for cattle and hogs to forage in the winter. One of the primary goals of the Forest Supervisors was to set up fire prevention programs to educate the public about the harmful effects of fire. Through raising the awareness level of the populace and vigilance by the Forest Supervisors and their staff, the level of fires dropped dramatically in the late 1930s.<sup>20</sup>

To detect and suppress fires, lookout towers were constructed throughout the forest. By June 30, 1939, the CCC had constructed a total of forty-nine towers in the Clark National Forest and thirty-eight in the Mark Twain National Forest. As of 1991, only twenty-four fire towers remained in Federal ownership in the Mark Twain National Forest.

Fire towers were equipped with telephone and radio communications and were connected by a system of truck trails by which firefighters could be quickly transported to fire scenes. Forest Service towers varied according to the site. The towers had different heights such as 50-foot towers and 100-foot towers and were of either wood or steel. Variations included pole towers with or without crow's nests, wooden towers with open platforms, and steel towers with open platforms or with enclosed cabs.<sup>21</sup> The tower site had two-room lookout tower cabins, and a garage/shed. Picnic grounds were established near many of the fire towers, but these facilities were discontinued by or before 1962 due to lack of funds. A picnic shelter in the Buzzard's Roost area in Mark Twain State Park was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The structure is T-shaped and is of native limestone and hewn beam construction.

A thematic evaluation of Administrative and Fire Lookout Tower Sites in the Mark Twain National Forest was completed in 1991. This evaluation identified numerous fire towers and ancillary buildings which appeared to meet National Register criteria. As of early 2000 no formal National Register nomination for this property type had been submitted to the Missouri SHPO.

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<sup>20</sup>Conrad, The Land We Cared For, p. 83-84.

<sup>21</sup>Malouf, "Thematic Evaluation of Administrative and Fire Tower Lookout Sites," p. 29.

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**Recreational Facilities**

Recreational facilities were built throughout the Mark Twain National Forest to provide opportunities for public use and enjoyment. These facilities included picnic grounds, campgrounds, and scenic overlooks. Sites for recreational facilities were chosen for their scenic views, available water supply, rustic environment, and accessibility to automobile traffic. In campgrounds, buildings were constructed such as picnic pavilions, shelters, and bathrooms. Tables, benches, and fireplaces were built of wood, concrete, or stone, and were designed to be attractive and durable.

As of early 2000 no formal National Register nomination for this property type had been submitted to the Missouri SHPO.

**State Park Facilities**

Within the boundaries of the Mark Twain National Forest are numerous parks created and owned by the Missouri state park system. Although within the forest, these buildings and structures are under state jurisdiction and are not included within this context. These facilities share many of the same characteristics as the Administrative Sites in their design and architectural forms. A nomination addressing these properties, "Emergency Conservation Work (E.C.W.) Architecture in Missouri State Parks, 1933-1942, Thematic Resources," was listed on the National Register in 1985.

**Civilian Conservation Corps Facilities**

In 1935, there were eighty-eight camps established by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) within the Mark Twain National Forest. These camps consisted of barracks, mess halls, administrative offices, warehouses, garages, and other support facilities. The majority of these buildings were built of wood, and were considered to be of temporary construction. Following World War II, most CCC related buildings and structures were razed or abandoned. The number of surviving properties is unknown. As of May 2000, no systematic survey of these CCC camps had been undertaken within the Mark Twain National Forest. Buildings and structures associated with this property type may be significant for their association with New Deal programs of the era, and/or for their architectural design.

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**PROPERTY TYPES**

The property type for this Multiple Property Document is Administrative Sites in the Mark Twain National Forest, 1935-1939. This property type relates to the development of the USDA Forest Service in Missouri, and the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) within the Mark Twain National Forest during the 1930s.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SITES OF THE MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST, 1935-1939**

Administrative Sites of the Mark Twain National Forest are Ranger Station sites constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from 1935 to 1939. These sites were constructed to house the personnel and equipment required to conduct a wide range of Forest Service activities. Each site was designed in a similar plan developed by the Forest Service and consists of the following buildings: a Ranger's dwelling, a Ranger office, and a garage, warehouse, and oil house. These buildings are either of frame or limestone construction with gable roofs.

**Description:**

The design for the Forest Service buildings reflected the approach of the National Park Service (NPS) during the 1930s. In 1938, the NPS publication Park Structures and Facilities, stated the goals and ideals of rustic architecture as the feeling "of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools," and thus achieving sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past.<sup>22</sup> These facilities were to be designed to blend in, rather than intrude on, the environment. Earth tones such as browns and tans were to be utilized, and buildings should also have low, horizontal lines. Materials should have the qualities of ruggedness, durability, practicality, and "nativeness" in order to create the impression of the building or structure as a natural outgrowth of its surroundings.<sup>23</sup>

Missouri's Forest Service facilities were initially created to serve utilitarian purposes. Buildings and structures were constructed primarily to house personnel and equipment needed to complete a wide range of work activities. Standards and guidelines for construction efforts were provided in a 1937 publication issued by the Forest Service's Division of Engineering entitled Improvement Handbook.

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<sup>22</sup> Albert H. Good, Park and Recreation Structures (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1938), Part I, p. 5.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., p. 6-7.

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Schedules, work plans, building materials, and procedures were described and illustrated in detail as were preferred techniques and materials.

Throughout the New Deal era, regional forest offices were held responsible for the preparation of site plans, design of individual structures and landscape planning. Individual forest stations performed site selection and developed individual building plans. Sites were usually selected based upon their access to utilities, transportation, schools, and overall costs in relation to topography, soil, cover and exposure. Once a site was selected for development, plans were drawn up based on a fifteen year planning period. The Forest Service provided standardized building plans deemed appropriate for the needs of each site.

Uniformity of style was also important in planning new forest facilities. Although each building or structure was constructed to serve a specific function such as administrative, utilitarian, or recreational, similarity in character and appearance were specified for all building plans. Basic roof shapes were repeated throughout a region, taking care to avoid monotony through variation in size and position. Homogeneity was achieved through the repetitive use of exterior wall and roof materials. Decorative elements were minimal in Forest Service projects, and usually limited to details such as vertical boards on gable ends and massing of multi-light sash windows. Decorative detailing in the Mark Twain National Forest Administrative Sites includes wooden lintels above doors and windows, arched gable vents, and doors with tapered glass panels. Although regional offices provided specific guidelines, some deviations occurred as directed by the local administrator.

Site layout was also important. Administrative offices were to be located centrally, demonstrating the prominent position of the building and offering ease of public access. Offices were provided with adjacent flagpoles, emphasizing the administrative nature of the building. Offices served as control points for traffic entering and leaving the forest compound. Public parking was provided adjacent to the office. Service courts, also located within the ranger's compound, were located in an area which allowed expansion. Layout of the service area was dictated by topography, property lines, existing cover and the position of the main road. Ideally, the service court was to be screened from public view. Buildings within the court were designed to maximize efficiency. Gas and oil buildings were located at least fifty feet from all other facilities. Warehouses, shops and equipment storage buildings were placed at least twenty feet apart for the sake of appearance and fire protection. Dwellings were usually located within a private area of the compound, free from noises and sights of work activities. Landscape planning, an integral component of planning, stressed the use of native plants, shrubs and trees, as well as economy and enhancement of the natural surroundings.

The overall design for the ranger station office and dwelling reflected the Colonial Revival style of the early 20th century. The Colonial Revival style was one of the most popular designs for

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governmental buildings during this period. Throughout America in the 1930s, the Colonial Revival style was utilized in the construction of post offices, schools, federal courthouses, and military bases. The Colonial Revival style was seen as a truly national style providing a "reassuring symbol" of the country's past.<sup>24</sup> The standard plans developed for the Administrative Sites reflect modest examples of this style in their symmetry, use of multi-light sash windows, Doric pilasters at the main entrance, and Doric porch columns.

The standard plan for ranger station office buildings (#B41 and #B42) consist of a one-and-one-half story frame or limestone building. Typically, the offices have an interior stone chimney, side low-pitched gable roofs, and exteriors of wood siding or limestone veneer. On the main facade is a projecting front low-pitched gable entry bay with a door consisting of a six-pane window over a wood panel. Windows are both six-over-six, and eight-over-eight wood sash. Although on the original plans, Doric pilasters at the entrances were generally omitted during the actual construction of the ranger's offices.

The interior of the ranger station office consists of five rooms on the first floor; the offices for the ranger, the assistant ranger, a dispatcher, clerk, and bathroom. The second floor consists of one large room with built-in cabinets for storage. The offices were designed to be built with exposed wood floors, and plaster walls and ceiling. In some instances, knotty pine panels were used on the walls instead of plaster. On the second floor the staircase opening was designed with a beveled railing.

The standard plan for the ranger's dwelling, #B36, consists of a one-and-one-half story frame or limestone building. The dwelling has an interior stone or brick chimney and exterior end stone or brick chimney, side low-pitched gable roofs, and exteriors of wood siding or limestone veneer. On the main facade is a central door of six panels with a surround of Doric pilasters and an entablature. Windows are six-over-six double-hung wood sash, and at the roofline are two gable dormers. Although on the original plans, Doric pilasters at the entrances were generally omitted during the actual construction of the ranger's dwellings. Within this submittal, only the frame dwelling at Winona displays this Doric pilaster design at the main entrance.

The interior of the ranger's dwelling was designed with a living room, kitchen, bath, small dining room, and two bedrooms on the first floor. On the second floor were two additional bedrooms. Decorative features of the dwelling included stone fireplace mantels, a wood staircase with a milled newel post and balusters, and an arched opening leading from the kitchen to dining area. The interior was designed with exposed wood floors, and plaster walls and ceilings.

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<sup>24</sup> Carole Rifkind, A Field Guide to American Architecture, (New York: New American Library, 1980), p. 218.

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A secondary plan for the ranger's dwelling, #B38, consists of a one-and-one-half story frame or limestone building. The dwelling has an interior brick chimney and an exterior brick chimney, composite shingles on a side low-pitched gable roof, and an exterior of wood siding or limestone veneer. On the main facade is a partial-width incised porch, and the main entrance has a four-light, four-panel door. The original window design was six-over-six, double-hung wood sash, and at the roofline is a shed dormer with three double-hung sash windows.

The warehouse measured 31' x 70' and was built according to standard plan #B27. The structure is a one-and-one-half story frame building with composite shingles on a side low-pitched gable roof, an interior brick chimney, and an exterior of wood siding or limestone veneer. The main facade consists of five sets of garage doors of vertical paneled wood with cross bracing. One set of doors has a combination of a cross-braced door with a six-light door over cross bracing. A door consisting of four horizontal panels serves as the main pedestrian entrance. A front low-pitched gable dormer with a six-light window was an optional feature. The interior of the warehouse consisted of a concrete floor, exposed ceiling truss system, and exposed framing on the walls.

The oil storage house was also built in a rectangular plan, measuring 10' x 12' and was built according to standard plan #B14. The structure is a one-story frame or limestone veneer building with a front low-pitched gable roof with wood shingles, exposed roof rafters and exterior wood siding. The main facade consists of one set of vertical paneled wood doors with cross bracing. The eaves are exposed on the side low-pitched gable. The interior of the building consisted of a concrete floor, and exposed framing on the ceilings and walls.

The two-car garage adjacent to the dwelling was built according to standard plan #B47. The structure is a one-story frame building with a side low-pitched gable roof, and exterior wood siding or limestone veneer. The fenestration of the main facade consists of two, twenty-four-panel garage doors. A multi-light glass and wood pedestrian door was located on the side facade, and original windows were six-over-six double-hung sash. The interior displayed a concrete floor, and exposed framing on the walls and ceiling.

Six Administrative Sites in the Mark Twain National Forest have been determined to meet National Register eligibility requirements. Of these, a National Register nomination for the Willow Springs Ranger Station Historic District has been prepared. This nomination included the standard plan office #B41, dwelling #B36, garage #B47, oil house #B14, and warehouse #B27. All of these buildings are of limestone veneer. Accompanying this nomination are historic districts at the Administrative Sites of Ava, Cassville, Houston, Rolla, and Winona. Buildings and their plans and materials remaining at these locations are as follows:

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Building	Ava	Cassville	Houston	Rolla	Winona
Office	#B42/Stone	#B42/Stone	#B41/Stone	#B42/Stone	Replaced
Dwelling	#B38/Stone	#B38/Stone	#B36/Stone	#B38/Stone	#B36/Wood
Garage	#B47/Stone	#B47/Stone	#B47/Stone	#B47/Stone	#B47/Wood
Oil House	#B14/Stone	#B14/Stone	#B14/Stone	#B14/Stone	#B14/Wood
Warehouse	#B27/Stone	#B27/Stone	#B27/Stone	#B27/Stone	#B27/Wood

**Significance:**

Administrative sites in the Mark Twain National Forest may be significant under National Register Criterion A in Politics/Government and Conservation for their association with the New Deal programs of the 1930s including the USDA Forest Service and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The establishment of these programs marked a shift towards conservation and management of Missouri's forests, and away from neglect and exploitation. The policies and programs instituted by the Forest Service had a major impact on the reclamation of land, particularly in the Ozark region. These policies and programs led to changes in agricultural practices and forest management which influenced the growth and development of rural Missouri. The Administrative Sites are the physical reminders of the facilities required to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the Forest Service in Missouri.

The natural resources of the Missouri Ozarks became devastated by the late 1920s. The region's stands of first and second growth timber were logged during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many communities in the Ozarks boomed in these years as the center for logging and milling operations. Railroad lines were built throughout the region to speed lumber products to markets. Towns such as Doniphan and Grandin became centers for the production of railroad ties and planed lumber. Poplar Bluff became one of the state's leading producers of timber products, and in 1907 over fifty lumber and related manufacturing companies employing 1,300 workers were located in the city.<sup>25</sup> With the depletion of the Ozark's forest by the early 1920s, many of these mills and companies closed leaving behind damaged soils and denuded landscapes.

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<sup>25</sup> Thomason and Associates and Cynthia Price, "An Overview of the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Area," (Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, 1991), p. 235.

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Alarmed at the condition of its forests, Missouri began purchasing tracts of land for state parks. State parks such as Big Spring and Sam A. Baker were established in 1925 and 1926, and began to attract tourists back to the Ozarks. Numerous other areas were purchased by the state in the late 1920s and 1930s and these efforts complemented those undertaken by the federal government during the Depression. Many of the buildings and structures constructed at these state parks were designed in "rustic" forms emphasizing the use of native materials such as stone and unhewn logs. The historical and architectural significance of these buildings and structures was recognized in 1985 in the National Register nomination, "Emergency Conservation Work (E.C.W.) Architecture in Missouri State Parks, 1933-1942, Thematic Resources."

The response of the federal government was to purchase large tracts of Missouri's depleted forests, and utilize the resources of the CCC to build administrative, recreational, and fire protective facilities. Created in 1933, the CCC was one of the most popular and productive federal programs of the New Deal. The CCC performed a vital service in the conservation of natural resources in Missouri. By 1935, Missouri ranked sixth in the nation in the number of active CCC camps, with a total of 88. The 93,445 enrollees and their 8,646 camp officers and supervisors during the life of the CCC in Missouri built 126 lookout towers, planted over 48 million trees, and built the twelve Administrative Sites for the Forest Service.<sup>26</sup> The remaining Administrative Sites are important reminders of the role of the federal government in the history and development of Missouri's forests.

The Administrative Sites may also be significant under National Register Criterion C as an example of the Forest Service's emphasis on rustic architectural designs, and an attempt to integrate public facilities in natural environments. The standard plans developed by the Forest Service emphasized the use of native materials and blending the facilities with the natural environment. Constructed of wood and limestone, the buildings were designed to complement the surrounding landscapes, and site plans incorporated as many trees and other natural features as possible.

The Administrative Sites reflect the approach of the NPS and Forest Service to create an architecture which had the qualities of ruggedness, durability, practicality, and "nativeness," so that a building or structure seemed a natural outgrowth of its surroundings.<sup>27</sup> The use of native limestone and rough sawn lumber for the Administrative Sites was in keeping with the nationwide planning for national parks and forests. Although rustic designs had previously been utilized in national parks across the

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<sup>26</sup> "Emergency Conservation Work (E.C.W.) Architecture in Missouri State Parks, 1933-1942, Thematic Resources" (National Register Nomination on file, Missouri SHPO), Section 8, p. 5.

<sup>27</sup>Good, Park and Recreation Structures, p. 6-7.

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country, the 1930s marked the first systematic approach by the NPS to coordinate building design and construction under its jurisdiction. The result was a distinguishable and identifiable catalogue of buildings and structures, many of which continue to be utilized in our national parks and forests.

**Registration Requirements**

Administrative Sites in the Mark Twain National Forest are significant for their association with conservation efforts of the USDA Forest Service during the 1930s, and for their overall planning and architectural design. Administrative Sites will be historically significant under National Register criterion A as the administrative centers for the operations of the Forest Service in the 1930s and 1940s. By their very definition, Administrative Sites were built to house the offices, dwellings, and support facilities for forest rangers, their families, and support personnel. The offices were the hub of each district's efforts to combat soil erosion, promote tree planting and forest regrowth, direct work crews for recreational improvements, and serve as a center for fire protection. The adjacent dwelling and garage provided housing and automobile storage for the rangers and their families. The warehouse and oil house supported the fire fighting equipment and vehicles required to carry out the mission of the district. Each intact Administrative Site is significant as exemplifying the role of the federal government in forest management and conservation during the 1930s.

Administrative Sites will also be architecturally significant under criterion C for their overall planning and design. Each Administrative Site was planned with attention to incorporating the buildings into their wooded site and setting as much as possible. Planning followed certain parameters for the location of the buildings and their relationship with one another. Mature trees were preserved as much as possible, and existing landscape features were also incorporated into the site. Buildings were constructed in accordance with standardized plans. Although reflecting the popular Colonial Revival style, the buildings were also constructed with rustic exteriors through the use of unpainted wood siding and shingles, and native limestone veneer. The form and materials of the Administrative Sites are in keeping with the architectural directives established by the Forest Service for their facilities during these years.

Because they were built as interconnected complexes, Administrative Sites will meet registration requirements as historic districts if they retain a majority of their original buildings, and have limited intrusions. Due to their prominence, either the original ranger office or dwelling must be present for a complex to retain integrity of setting, feeling, and association. Administrative Sites were generally built with five buildings, and no more than two primary post-1950 buildings within a complex will be present if integrity of feeling and association is to be retained. Post-1950 buildings present within a complex must also be compatible with existing buildings through the use of natural or stained exterior siding materials, horizontal forms, and minimal decorative elements. Administrative Sites must also

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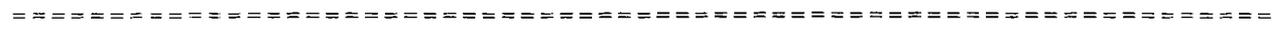
retain integrity of materials, design, and workmanship of their original buildings. Original exterior siding materials must be present along with the majority of original windows and doors.

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

This multiple property documentation form was prepared to include properties within the year 2000 boundaries of the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri.

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**SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS**

This multiple property nomination is based upon various studies and identification efforts conducted by the Forest Service in Missouri over the past fifteen years. In 1991, a thematic evaluation of Administrative and Fire Lookout Tower Sites on the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri was completed by Richard T. Malouf. This study documented the original administrative buildings constructed during the 1930s in the Mark Twain National Forest, as well as fire lookout towers and their ancillary buildings. Documented in this study were the number of original buildings still remaining at these administrative sites, and these properties were evaluated for their retention of historic fabric and integrity.

As a result of this study, the Forest Service had a multiple property National Register nomination prepared in 1993 for "New Deal Landscapes, Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF), Missouri." This nomination provided an overview of the history of the Forest Service, and discussed the types of facilities constructed within the forest during the 1930s. Property types mentioned in this nomination included administrative buildings, fire lookout towers, and recreational facilities. The nomination was reviewed by the Missouri SHPO and was found to be unclear as to a specific property type being nominated, and associative registration requirements. The SHPO recommended that the nomination be amended to address a specific property type and more fully detail the qualities necessary to be listed on the National Register. This nomination has been prepared in response to these recommendations and only addresses the property type of Administrative Sites.

Since 1993, a number of the Administrative Sites have been evaluated by both the Forest Service and the Missouri SHPO regarding their eligibility for the National Register. In several instances, this evaluation has occurred due to changes in ownership by the Forest Service. Administrative Sites deemed to be not eligible under this process included those at Potosi, Salem, Doniphan, Fredericktown, and Poplar Bluff. In 1999, the sites at Cassville, Ava, Houston, Rolla, and Winona were re-evaluated for their eligibility, and National Register historic district nominations for these sites accompany this National Register multiple property documentation form.

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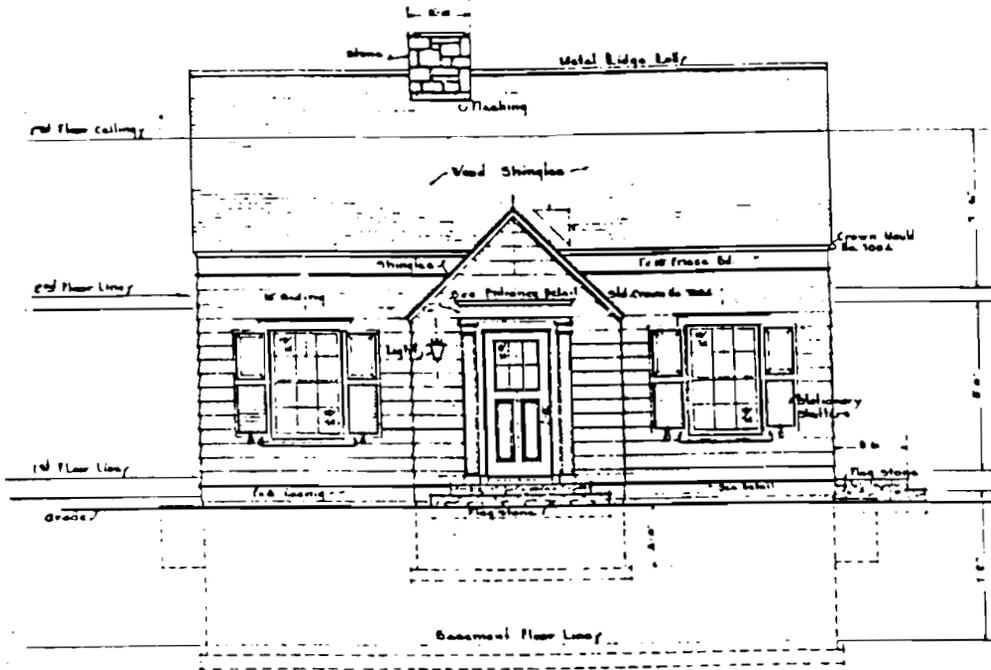
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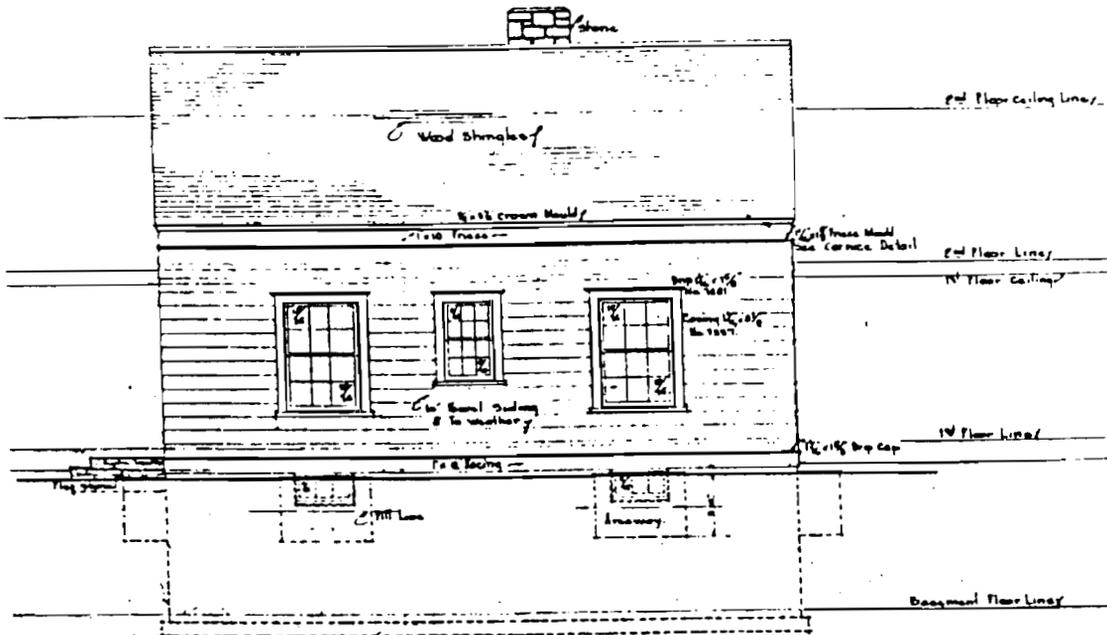
STANDARD PLAN #B41, OFFICE FRONT AND SIDE VIEWS.



STANDARD PLAN #B42, OFFICE, FRONT AND REAR VIEWS.

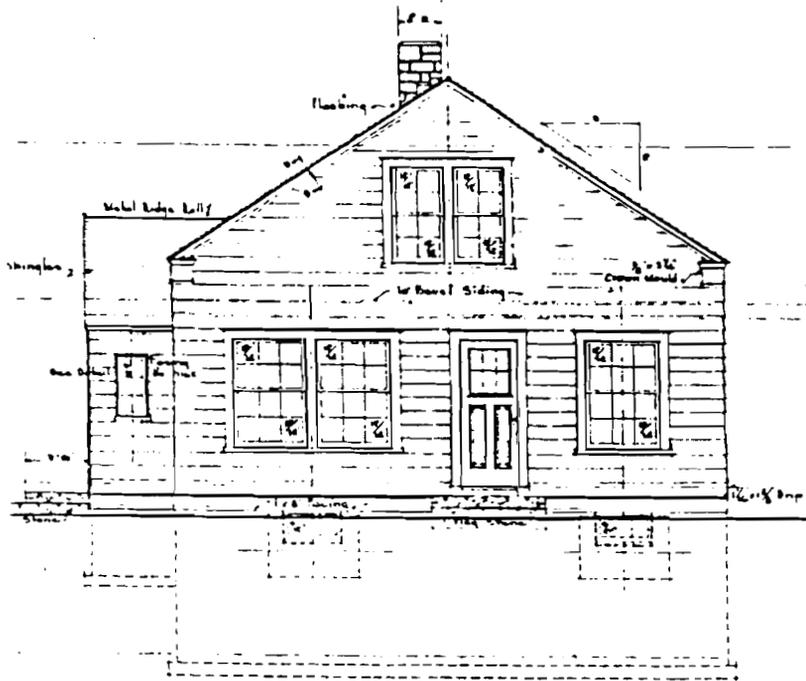


FRONT ELEVATION

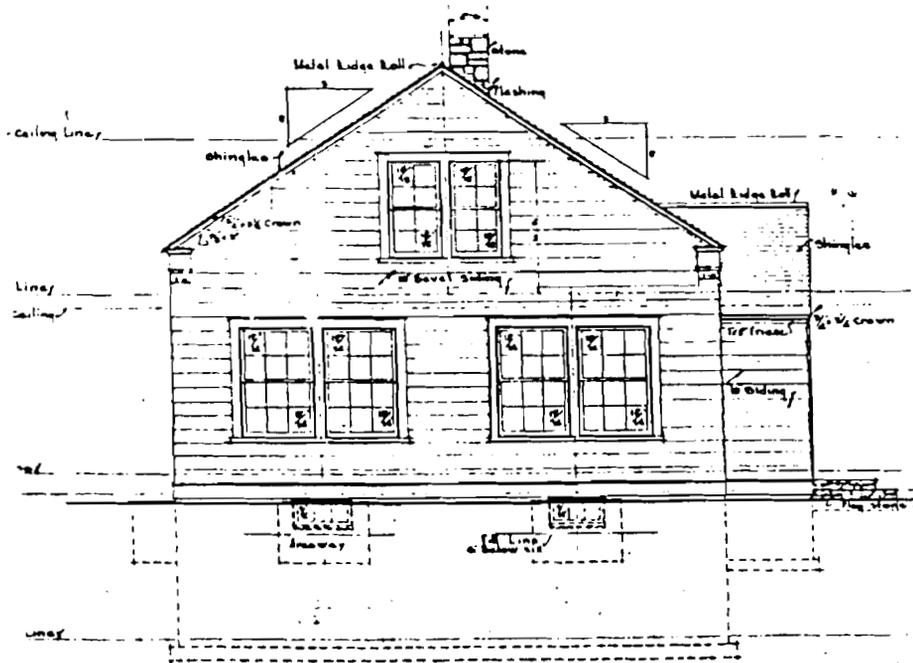


REAR ELEVATION

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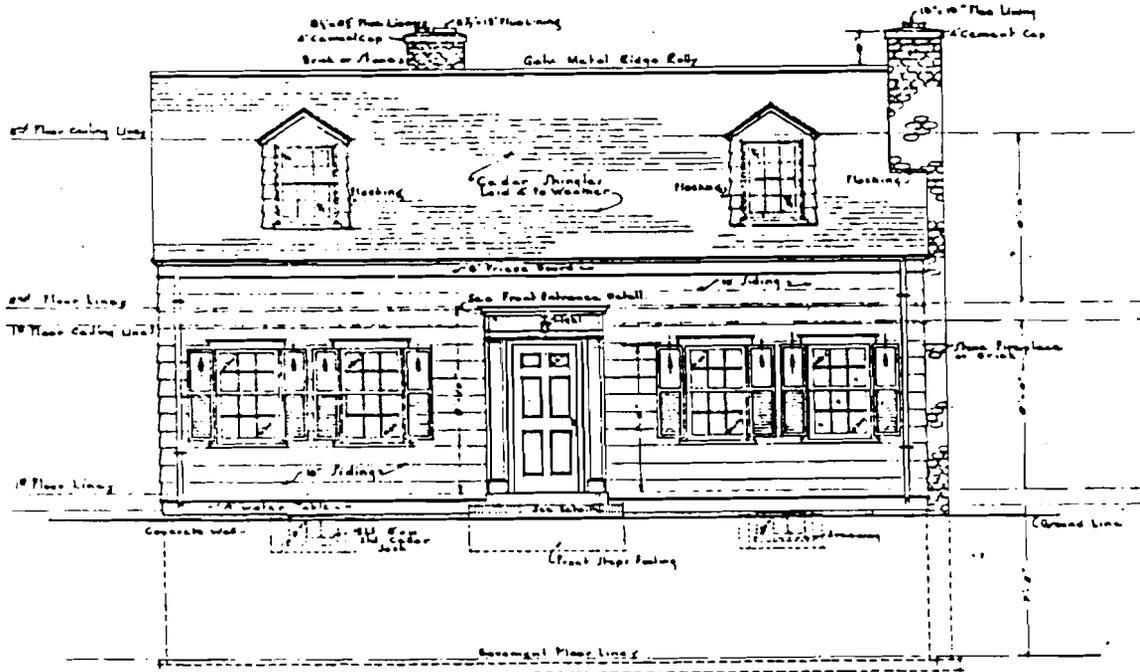


• SIDE ELEVATION •

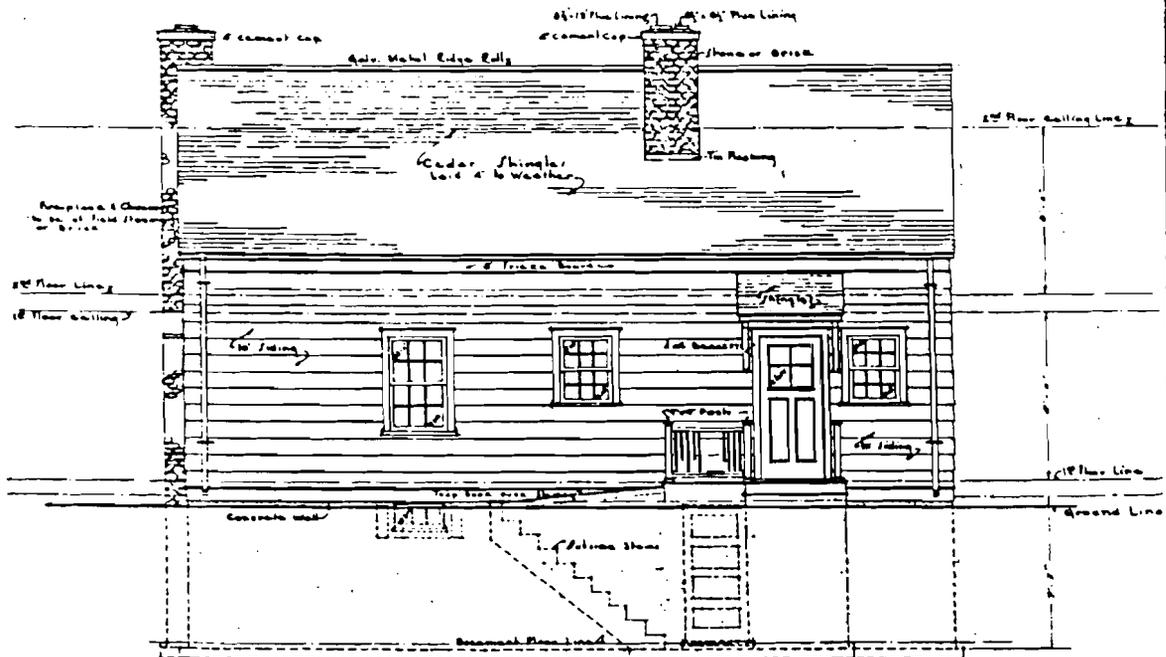


• SIDE ELEVATION •

STANDARD PLAN #B36, RANGER'S DWELLING, FRONT AND REAR.

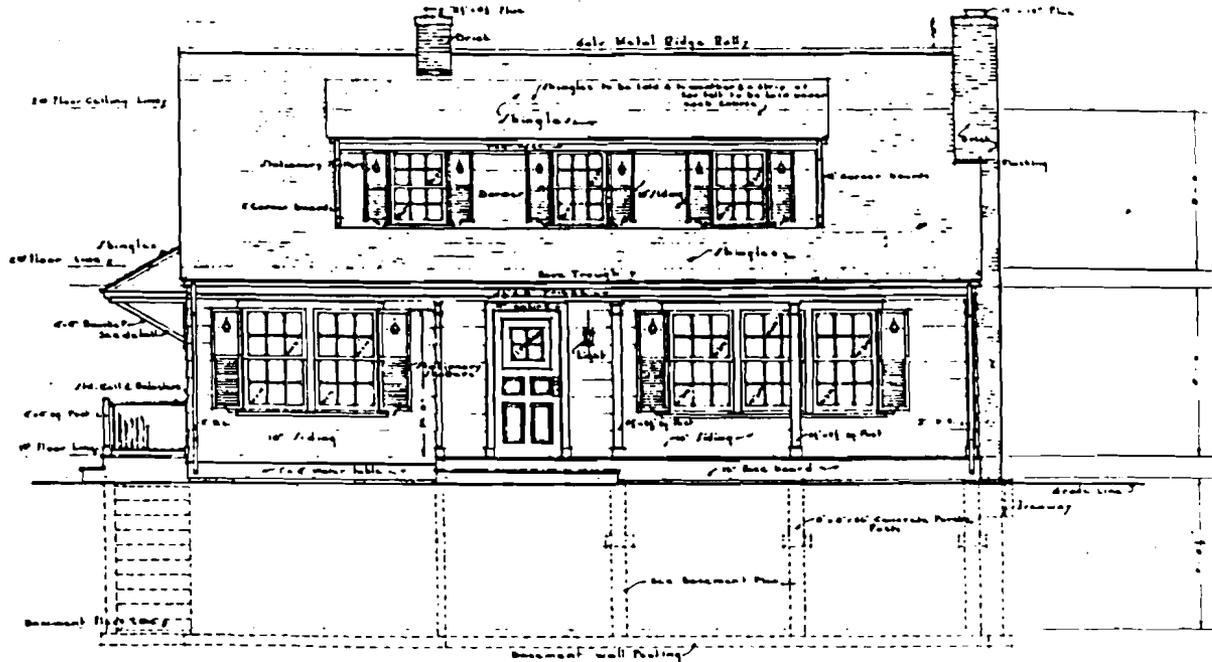


• FRONT • ELEVATION •

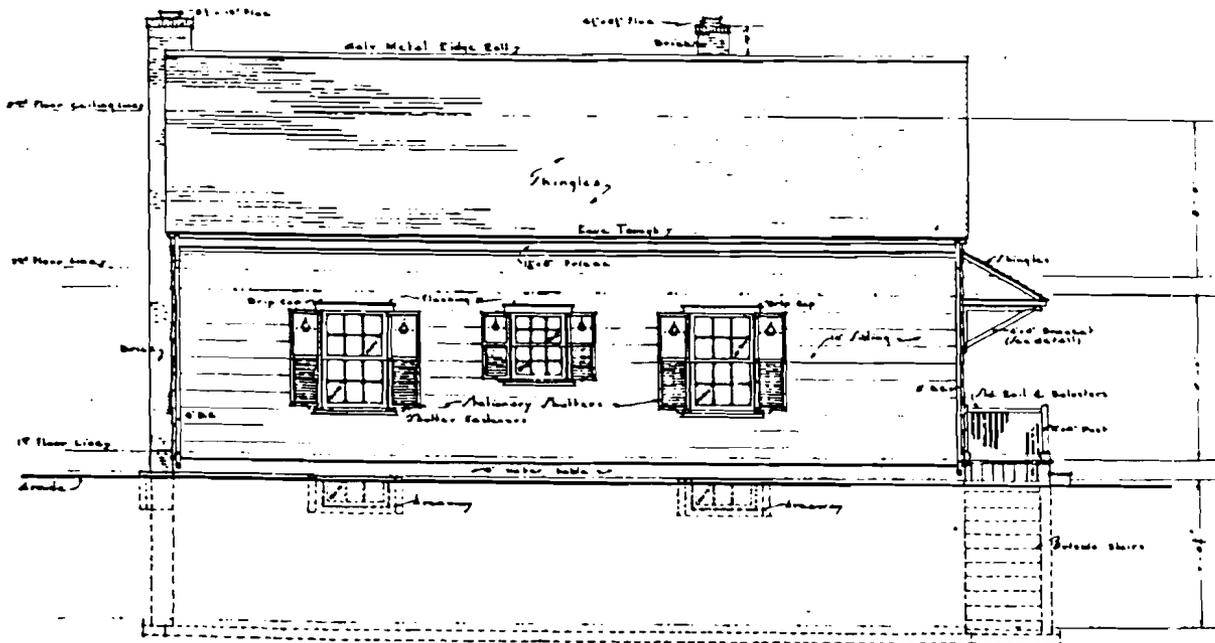


• REAR • ELEVATION •

STANDARD PLAN #B38, RANGER'S DWELLING, FRONT AND REAR VIEWS.

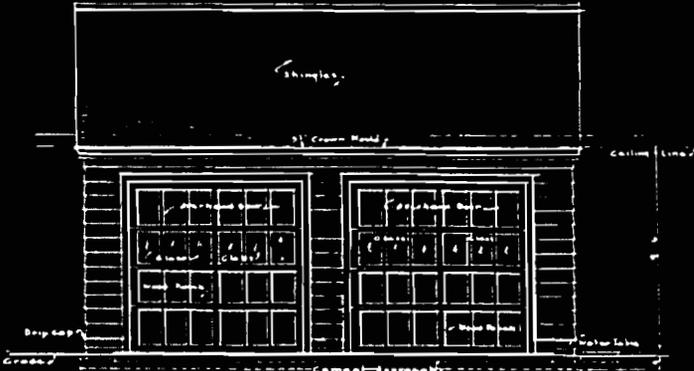


FRONT ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION

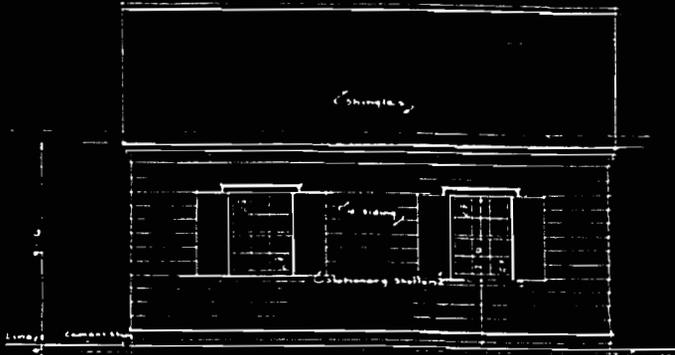
STANDARD PLAN #B47, TWO-CAR GARAGE, FRONT, SIDE, AND REAR VIEWS.



"FRONT ELEVATION"

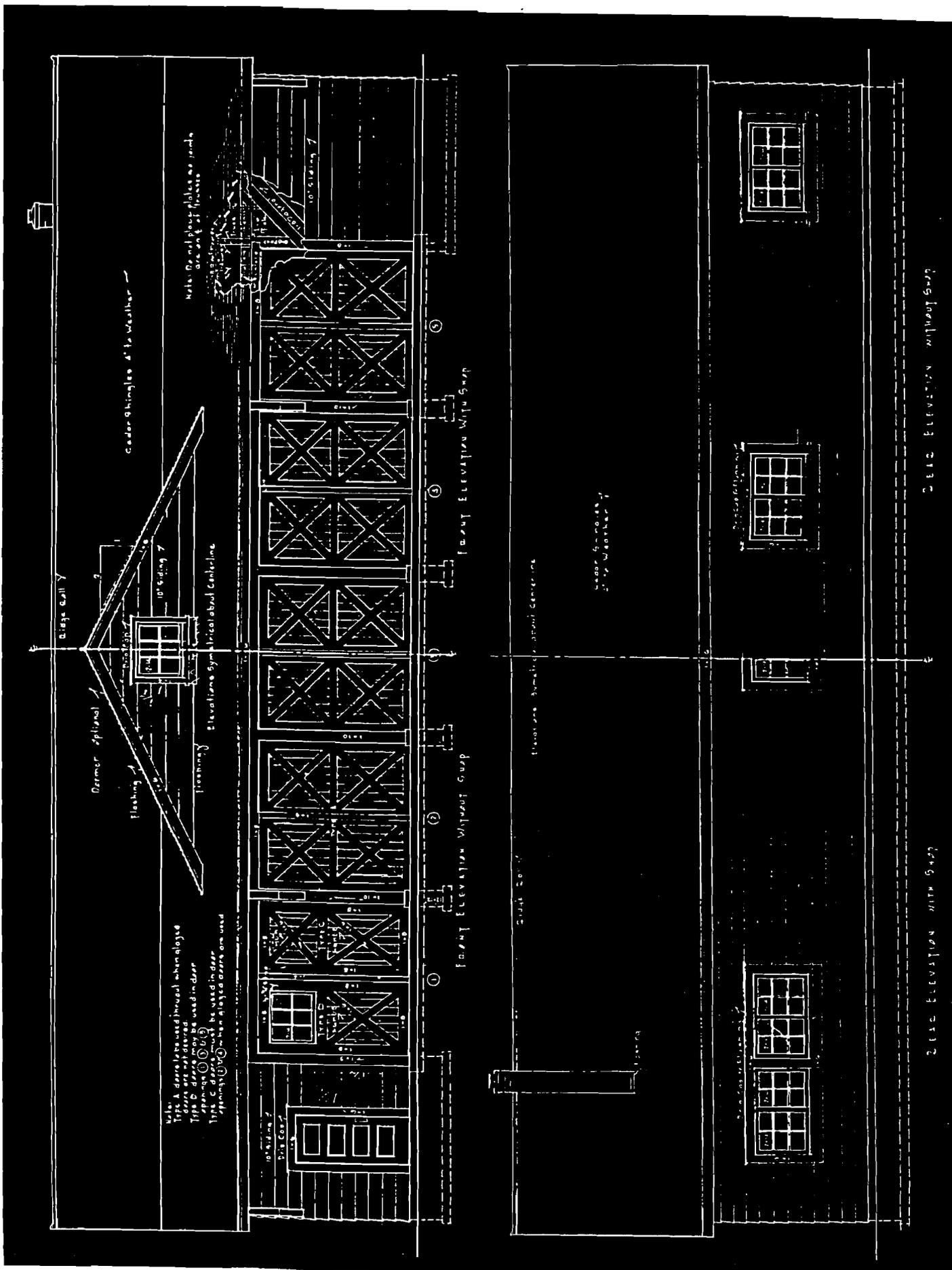


"SIDE ELEVATION"



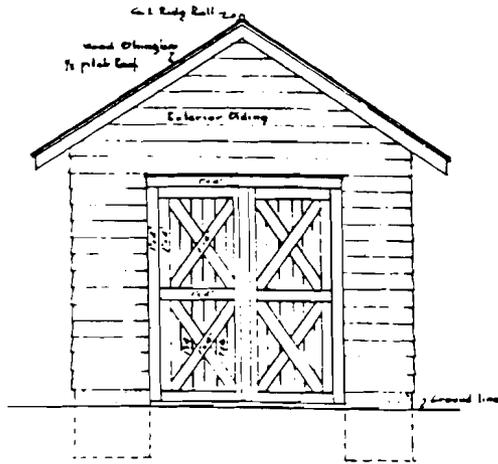
"REAR ELEVATION"

STANDARD PLAN #B27, WAREHOUSE, FRONT AND REAR VIEWS.

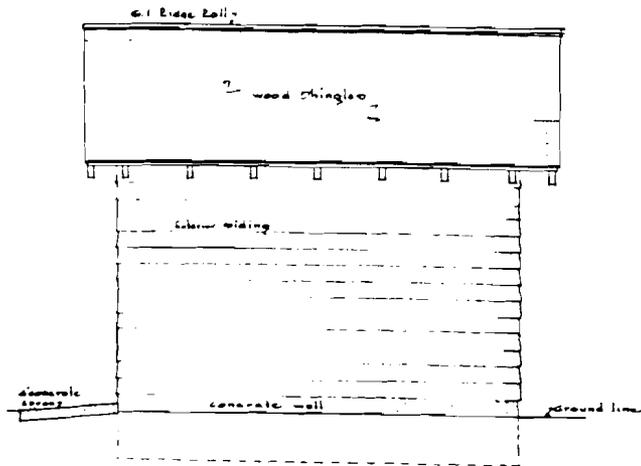


STANDARD PLAN #B14, OIL STORAGE HOUSE, FRONT AND SIDE VIEWS.

Siding to match other bldgs.  
on same premises



- FRONT ELEVATION -



- SIDE ELEVATION -