

ENGLE FARM, BARN
89 South Ebey Road
Coupeville vicinity
Island County
Washington

HABS WA-247-A
WA-247-A
HABS
WA-247-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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ENGLE FARM, BARN

HABS
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(page 1)

Location: Whidbey Island, Island County, Washington

Present Owner: David Engle

Present Use: Agricultural storage

Significance: With the passing of the Donation Land Claim (DLC) Act in 1850, Congress agreed to grant land in the Oregon Territory to American settlers willing to farm it. During this time, settlement of Central Whidbey Island accelerated, and John Alexander claimed 320 acres of land between Ebey's Prairie and Penn Cove. Alexander's first house on the property was the site of the first Island County Commissioners meeting on April 4, 1853.

After John Alexander's death, the land passed to his wife, who sold the southern-most 160 acres to Bathalina Harmon in 1859. The Harmons constructed a house on the property before selling it to Daniel Pearson in 1869. Following the death of Mr. Pearson, the property passed to his daughter, Flora A. Pearson Engle. It has remained in the Engle family for four generations, and is currently owned by Flora's great-grandson, David Engle.

The original barn on the property burned in 1954. That same year, a hastily constructed addition was put on the property's hog barn to serve as a temporary structure and provide hay bale storage. This structure is the barn on the property today.

The property is an excellent example of the typical cluster plan seen throughout the area. The barn is surrounded by crop fields, remains of an orchard, the family's home, and additional agricultural buildings typical of the area: tower house, granary, milk house, and carriage house.

I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of construction: ca. 1900 with a 1954 addition
2. Original owner: Ralph Engle
3. Subsequent owners: The barn sits on land that was the southern half of the original Alexander DLC. In 1859 it was sold to Mrs. Hill Harmon, who sold it to Daniel Pearson in 1869. Pearson's daughter, Flora A. Pearson Engle, inherited the property after Pearson's death in 1892. From that time, the property passed from generation to generation in the Engle family. After Flora's death in 1935 it was inherited by her son, Ralph. The property passed to Ralph's only child, Burton Engle, in 1968. After Burton's death in 1993, and his wife's death in 1996, it became the property of David Engle, who still owns it today.
4. Builder: The architect of the hog barn is unknown. The addition was built by Farlen Sahli in 1954.
5. Original plans and construction: The hog barn was built as a one-story wood-frame building with a gable roof. Its dimensions are 18'-5-1/4" x 70'. The building was originally used to house hogs, but was converted into a calf barn in the 1940s and a milking parlor in 1954.
6. Alterations and additions: In 1954, after a fire destroyed the main barn on the property, an addition was added to the hog barn to temporarily provide storage space for hay bales. The addition was constructed as a 1-1/2 story wood-frame space that covered the north slope of the hog barn's gable roof and the slaughterhouse, a small space attached to the north façade of the hog barn.

B. Historical Context:

"From A.D. 1300 until white settlements in the 1850s, Salish villagers occupied Whidbey and Camano Islands. When the whites arrived, four groups of Salish Indians – the Skagit, Snohomish, Kikialos, and Clallam – shared the island."¹ These groups, classified as saltwater or canoe Indians, built three permanent villages along Penn Cove on Whidbey Island. Their lifestyle and settlement patterns relied heavily on salmon, although they also hunted and gathered berries and roots. Along with salmon, their diets consisted of: steelhead, rainbow trout, shellfish, cattail,

¹ Richard White, Land Use, Environment, and Social Change: The Shaping of Island County, Washington (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1980), 14.

salmonberries, strawberries, camas, wild carrots, rose hips, bracken ferns, acorns, hazelnuts, crab apples, elk, and deer.²

Before white explorers reached the area, the Salish did not cultivate the prairies of Central Whidbey Island, but rather manipulated them to fit their needs. They repeatedly burned the prairie lands and into the surrounding woods. This encouraged the growth of bracken and camas in the prairie and renewed undergrowth in the woods that became habitat for game animals.³ The Salish Indians also used the forest wood to build their canoes and villages.⁴

Captain George Vancouver carried out the first effective European exploration of Central Whidbey Island, claiming it for the British Empire on June 4, 1792.⁵ In 1833 the Hudson Bay Company explored Whidbey Island in search of game to trap and hunt, and in 1839 the first missionaries reached Whidbey Island.⁶ By this time, after contact with sailors, hunters, trappers, and missionaries, the Native populations in the area were devastated by smallpox and syphilis.⁷ By the 1850s syphilis was credited with a hundred deaths in the Puget Sound area every year. And in 1852 and 1853 the last great smallpox epidemic to strike the area took the lives of entire villages.⁸

Along with disease, the white explorers and settlers brought potatoes to the area and by 1830 the British at Fort Nisqually recognized potatoes as a staple in the economy and diet of the Salish villages.⁹ The potatoes' easy growing cycle and high production brought the Salish Indians to first cultivate the prairies of Central Whidbey.¹⁰ This cultivation was documented and continued by the first American settlers to the area. Within a few years most Native Americans had moved on to the reservation in La Conner, and by 1904 only a few Salish families remained in Central Whidbey Island.¹¹

In 1850 the United States Congress passed the Donation Land Claim Act which accelerated settlement of Central Whidbey Island, Washington. Settlers that were compliant with certain conditions¹² were granted 320 acres if single or 640 acres if married. Colonel Isaac Neff Ebey was the first to stake a DLC in Central Whidbey Island. On October 15, 1850, Ebey claimed "640 acres on the rich black loam of the prairie that now bears his name."¹³

² Land Use, 17-18.

³ Ibid., 20-21.

⁴ Ibid., 16. "In each village a single row of three to five large cedar houses, together with smaller buildings, faced the water with the forest looming at their backs. Often from 100 to 200 feet long, these buildings normally housed several families who partitioned the interiors into separate living quarters."

⁵ Jimmie Jean Cook, A Particular Friend, Penn's Cove: A History of the Settlers, Claims and Buildings of Central Whidbey Island (Coupeville, WA: Island County Historical Society, 1973), 11.

⁶ Ibid., 11-13.

⁷ Land Use, 26-29.

⁸ Ibid., 27.

⁹ Ibid., 32.

¹⁰ Ibid., 33.

¹¹ Mimi Sheridan, *How Coupeville Grew: A Short History of Town Development: Excerpts from the Town of Coupeville's Historic Preservation Plan* (Coupeville, WA: McConnell/Burke, Inc., 1998), 7.

¹² Conditions included: age, sex, nationality, and race, along with the date of arrival in the area, and the agreement to cultivate the land for four years.

¹³ A Particular Friend, 19.

On June 22, 1852, after a winter in Olympia, John Alexander arrived on Whidbey with his wife, Frances Sharp Alexander, and their three young sons. A year before, the Alexander family had traveled west from Iowa in a wagon train with fifty other men and their families. They arrived in Portland, Oregon after more than three months of travel. On August 1, 1852, Alexander staked his DLC in Central Whidbey Island on a long, thin slice of land that ran from Penn Cove to the eastern corner of Isaac Ebey's land.¹⁴ The Alexander's next son, Abraham Lansdale Alexander (named after the local doctor, Dr. Richard H. Lansdale), was born on November 13, 1852 and was the first white child born on the island.¹⁵

One week later, Captain Thomas Coupe arrived on the *J.S. Cabot* with William Ballinger Engle and the Hill brothers, Nathaniel and Robert. Engle and the Hills claimed their DLCs on November 20, 1852. Coupe staked his 320 acres directly east of Alexander's claim, along Penn Cove.¹⁶ The Hill brothers and Engle, all unmarried, took claims of 160 acres on the land south of Isaac Ebey's claim. For the first few years, the Hills and Engle lived together in a small log cabin on Engle's DLC, while each worked to clear their land and begin farming.¹⁷

In February 1853, Humphrey and Nathaniel Hill helped Alexander raise his first house. Its exact location remains disputed, but this spot was the site of the first Island County Commissioners meeting on April 4th of that year. During his early years on the island, John Alexander held positions as County Commissioner and County Coroner, while he farmed with the help of his sons.¹⁸

Although 1200 Skagit Indians lived peacefully in the area alongside the white settlers, a rising fear of hostilities from outside native populations lead Alexander to build a blockhouse in 1855. He built the blockhouse at the northern end of his DLC, with the help of nearby families, the Coupes and Lovejoys. Colonel Isaac Ebey helped the Alexanders construct their second home near the blockhouse in 1856.¹⁹

John Alexander died on December 9, 1858, and his land passed to his wife, Frances Alexander. The following year, Frances sold 160 acres on the southern end of the Alexander DLC to Bathalina Harmon, wife of Hill Harmon, for \$2,000.00.²⁰ The Harmons built a house on their new property from lumber logged on the same land using oxen, and began to farm.²¹

¹⁴ A Particular Friend, 35-36.

¹⁵ George Albert Kellogg, A History of Whidbey's Island (Coupeville, WA: Island County Historical Society, 1961), 21.

¹⁶ Flora Augusta Pearson Engle, Recollections of Early Days on Whidby [sic.] Island (Coupeville, WA: Joanne Engle Brown, August 2003), iii, 59.

¹⁷ Ibid., 60.

¹⁸ A Particular Friend, 35.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid., 76.

²¹ There are date discrepancies here. It is commonly understood that the Harmon house was built in 1858, before the family bought the land. There is a possibility that they were leasing the land before they purchased it from Mrs. Alexander. The family came to the island as early as 1856. *Building and Landscape Inventory: Part C* (Seattle, WA: Cultural Resources Division, National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Summer 1983, reprinted in 1995), 289.

In 1869, the Harmons sold the house and land to Daniel Pearson for \$5,500.00 and moved their family off the island.²² Five years earlier Pearson and his two grown daughters, Josephine and Georgia, had set sail on the first Mercer Expedition.²³ They left Mrs. Pearson and two younger children at home in Massachusetts. Upon arriving in the area the Pearson sisters boarded with the Harmons, while Mr. Pearson worked as a night watchman for a lumber mill at Port Gamble.²⁴ Both Pearson sisters found teaching jobs in the area: Josephine on Ebey's Prairie, and Georgia on Smith's Prairie. On August 21, 1864, twenty-year-old Josephine died suddenly of heart failure.²⁵

Soon after the death of his daughter, Daniel Pearson received the position of lighthouse keeper at Admiralty Head Lighthouse, one mile south of Coupeville. Georgia became his assistant, and in 1866 Pearson's wife and their two youngest children, including fifteen-year-old daughter, Flora A. Pearson, arrived on the second Mercer Expedition.²⁶

With the purchase of the Harmon property in 1869²⁷ the family moved from the close quarters of the lighthouse to the farm, though Daniel kept his position as lighthouse keeper for another decade. It was while living in the Harmon house that the youngest Pearson daughter, Flora, met William B. Engle. Engle, almost twenty years her senior, had been back and forth between his Coupeville farm and his hometown in New Jersey. In 1864, Engle rented his farm in Coupeville and returned to New Jersey. After only six months, however, he returned to Coupeville to farm and raise livestock. In 1866 he sold his DLC to Captain O.H. Morgan, who farmed the land, but after Morgan defaulted on payments it was deeded back to Engle. Engle made a second trip to New Jersey in the early 1870s, and invested in a grist mill before returning to Whidbey in 1873.²⁸

On May 8, 1876, William B. Engle married Flora A. Pearson in Victoria, Canada. The Engles first child, Charles Terry (also known as Carl), was born at Admiralty Head Lighthouse on October 30, 1877. The couple and their new son, moved into the Harmon house on Ebey's prairie in 1878, where Engle began to farm his father-in-law's land along with his own DLC.²⁹

By this time, Daniel Pearson had ended his tenure as lighthouse keeper and become a prosperous businessman and tradesman in town. In 1877 he bought waterfront property from O.H. Morgan, Engle's defaulted land owner, and opened a general store. By 1884 he completed construction of

²² A Particular Friend, 76.

²³ Asa Shinn Mercer came to Whidbey Island on August 29, 1871, settling north of Coupeville in San de Fuca, on the west end of Penn Cove. He hoped to plat a new city and "to enable those who had suffered in the Civil War, particularly widows and daughters of the soldiers, to begin life anew in the then far distant Pacific slope." To achieve this, he planned to bring widows and children from the east, around Cape Horn, to the Pacific Northwest. However he was soon accused of chartering ships to bring wives for the miners and sheepmen on the west. Mercer only made two expeditions: 1864 and 1866. A Particular Friend, 103.

²⁴ Joanne Engle Brown, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd (Coupeville, WA: 14 March 2007), 4.

²⁵ Recollections, 85-86.

²⁶ Flora, who arrived on a Mercer ship at the age of fifteen, was too young to be considered a "Mercer Girl." *Ibid.*, iii.

²⁷ For ten years the family owned this land while Daniel remained lighthouse keeper. It's uncertain which family members were living in which location during this overlap of time.

²⁸ A Particular Friend, 45-46; Recollections, 61.

²⁹ Recollections, 62.

a wharf that stretched into Penn Cove from the Coupeville waterfront, where he opened a new mercantile.³⁰

In 1885 Engle sold his DLC to local farmer, E.J. Hancock. Soon after, he bought 100 acres of the original Isaac Ebey DLC from Ebey's son, Ellison. This land later became known to the Engle family as the "lower place."³¹

Daniel Pearson's wife died on January 16, 1890, at which time he moved back into the Harmon house with his daughter, Flora A. Engle, and her family. On March 24, 1892, Mr. Pearson died in his sleep, leaving the house and farm to the Engles.³²

Under the direction of William B. Engle, the farm prospered. He ran a diverse operation typical of the area, growing wheat, barley, and oats, with a few family cows and chickens.³³ He sold his wheat crop in Victoria, BC for \$40.00 per ton.³⁴ He also planted an orchard north of the house with apples, pears, and walnuts, and built a carriage house behind the family home. This structure provided carriage storage on the ground floor as well as workshop space above.³⁵

With the addition of two more children to the Engle family, Ernestine and Ralph, it became increasingly necessary to expand the Harmon house. In a 1983 interview with the National Park Service, William and Flora's grandson, Burton Engle, explained the changes the family made to the house at this time,

"A bay was added to the downstairs and upstairs bedroom, a polygonal tower was added to the south-west corner of the house,³⁶ additional room was given to the front parlor and upper bedroom, a new kitchen was added behind the old kitchen, a corner fireplace was added, and a back room was taken down and the lumber re-used to build a woodshed and washroom."³⁷

Burton Engle also recalled the buildings on the property that were constructed and used by his grandfather, William B. Engle, and stated that in the early years of the twentieth century a granary and chicken house were constructed to the northeast of the house.³⁸

In 1900 the Engle's eldest son, Carl, married Kcenia L. Herrett and moved off the farm. William and Flora gave the couple a tract of farm land in Edison, WA, 40 miles north of Coupeville on the mainland. However, Kcenia died in childbirth soon after the move, and Carl returned to Coupeville. On July 3, 1902, Carl married Edith Wanamaker, and they moved onto a piece of

³⁰ A Particular Friend, 76.

³¹ Recollections, 60-63.

³² Ibid., 62; "Burial Listings," Sunnyside Cemetery, Island County Cemetery District No. 2 (<http://www.sunnysidecemetery.org/>), Website Accessed 15 May 2007.

³³ David Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd (Coupeville, WA: 30 March 2007), 5.

³⁴ Recollections, 61.

³⁵ David Engle Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 3, 21.

³⁶ This space is commonly referred to as *the octagon*.

³⁷ Building and Landscape Inventory, 289.

³⁸ Ibid.

William B. Engle's land on the east side of Prairie Center, less than a mile away from the family farm.³⁹

In 1907, William B. Engle died and the property was passed on to Flora. At this time, the Engle's eighteen-year-old youngest son, Ralph, began to farm full time. Four years later, when Ralph was ready to marry, Flora moved from the Harmon house to a house in town. Ralph married Beulah Bernice Eaton in 1911, and the couple lived in the Harmon house.⁴⁰ Their only child, Burton C. Engle, was born in the Harmon house in 1913.

The Engle brothers, Carl and Ralph, separated in age by twelve years, worked together to farm the family land. They co-owned a threshing machine and grew hay, barley, wheat and oats, and mangels and corn for silage.⁴¹

Ralph expanded the farm into an enterprise of diverse industries. He maintained the orchards and traded the fruit crop with his neighbors during the Depression.⁴² He also grew three large kitchen gardens: two south of the Harmon house and one at the "lower place." Ralph used his father's chicken house to raise Leghorn chickens and Bantams and sold the eggs commercially.⁴³ He also grew squash, a popular crop in the area, and stored it during the winters in a squash barn near the Ferry House on the "lower place."⁴⁴

In 1911 Ralph Engle built a tower house, bringing pressurized water into the Harmon house for the first time.⁴⁵ The building also provided space for a new workshop and a grain milling room, with a tower holding the large wooden water tank on the west end. It is believed that Ralph also constructed a large three-part barn on the property. The barn was divided into three distinct parts: a main barn for hay storage running north-south; a horse barn attached on its east end, running east-west; and a dairy barn attached to the latter, running north-south. It was painted red and constructed of large old-growth beams. West of the horse barn wing sat a free-standing, upright silo. A separate hog barn was constructed to the south of the three-part barn.⁴⁶

The advance of technology on the farm continued, as Ralph Engle added electricity to the Harmon house in 1921.⁴⁷ However, it was not until ca. 1940 that he converted his farm operation from horse power to electric. At this time he purchased the farm's first tractor, but the half-dozen remaining work horses lived on the farm into old age, to be enjoyed by Ralph's children and grandchildren.⁴⁸

When Flora A. Engle died in 1935, her children inherited pieces of her estate. Her daughter, Ernestine, inherited a monetary gift, while her sons, Carl and Ralph, inherited land. Carl had

³⁹ Joanne Engle Brown, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 12-13.

⁴⁰ David Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 5-6.

⁴¹ Ibid., 6; Joanne Engle Brown, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 24.

⁴² David Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Theresa Trebon (Coupeville, WA: 15 November 1995), 6.

⁴³ Dave Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 13.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 28-29.

⁴⁵ *Building and Landscape Inventory*, 289.

⁴⁶ Dave Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 17.

⁴⁷ *Building and Landscape Inventory*, 289.

⁴⁸ Dave Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 35-36.

already been given the land east of Prairie Center, where he had moved after his marriage. Ralph inherited the Harmon house and associated land, along with the “lower place” on Ebey’s Prairie.⁴⁹

Ralph hired men to help with farming his land. One hired-man house was located directly south of the Harmon house. Ralph purchased another house, directly east of the property toward Prairie Center,⁵⁰ to serve as an additional home for hired help. When his son, Burton Engle, married Coupeville local Verna Dremolski, in 1936, this house became their wedding present.⁵¹

Ralph Engle kept a flock of 200 sheep at the “lower place,” in a large barn built by his father. The surrounding land provided space for the sheep to graze in fields and woods. Twice a year the flock was brought from the “lower place” to the farm around the Harmon house, half a mile up Ebey Road. In a 2007 interview with Anne E. Kidd, Ralph’s grandson, David Engle, recounted the event:

“We would drive them up the road and the farmers’ wives would stand up on their lawns, and you could see Ada Le Sourd⁵² shaking her apron, ‘shoo shoo sheep’. And we had little kids that would stand in front of some of the places where a woman was gone...to make sure – and we moved them down the road and then brought them up” [to the Harmon house property].⁵³

The sheep were put into a field across Terry Road to the north, sheared by hired men, and sent through a sheep dip behind the house. The wool was collected in huge gunny sacks that hung from the rafters in the barn.⁵⁴ Joanne Engle Brown, Ralph’s great-niece, explained the gunny sacks in a 2007 interview with Anne E. Kidd:

“They used to have these huge sacks where the wool went into, and they used to hang up from the rafters in the [barn]...fifteen to eighteen feet long, they were huge. And they dumped the wool in there. And then, when it got closer up to the top, one of the men would climb up and get inside and jump up and down to pack it down, but they had to wait until it was up pretty far because otherwise they couldn’t get back out of the sack again.”⁵⁵

The wool was sent to Mt. Vernon, WA for sale. Eventually Ralph decided there was not enough money in raising sheep, and the herd was sold in the late 1950s.⁵⁶

At the same time he was raising sheep, Ralph Engle expanded the dairy operations on the property. His 40 Guernsey cows were kept in the dairy wing of the barn. To aid the growing dairy industry, Ralph converted his hog barn into a calving shed. In 1936 a stone milk house was constructed on the property, and milk was carried in pails from the barn to the milk house and

⁴⁹ Joanne Engle Brown, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 15.

⁵⁰ This house is located at 197 SW Terry Road.

⁵¹ Dave Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Theresa Trebon, 2.

⁵² Ada Le Sourd lived at 209 Ebey Road.

⁵³ Dave Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 19-20.

⁵⁴ Ibid., 40; Joanne Engle Brown, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 22.

⁵⁵ Joanne Engle Brown, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 22.

⁵⁶ Dave Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 19.

poured over filters. It was then stored in cans and cooled until it could be shipped off the farm.⁵⁷ During its height in the 1930s and 1940s, the Engle dairy was one of the largest in the area.⁵⁸

On March 30, 1954, tragedy struck the Engle farm. A fire broke out in the barn, and was quickly fueled by high winds. In 1995 Ralph Engle's grandson, David Engle, who was working alongside Ralph when the fire broke out, retold the days' events in an interview with Theresa Trebon. Trebon summarized his account:

“When the fire broke out they were just finishing up the milking. The barn had 80 tons of hay in it. Grandpa Ralph was down in one end of the cow barn. David had taken the milker off a cow and was carrying the milk in pails down to the rock milk house...This was before they had a milking parlor. The wind was roaring. He happened to look up and saw smoke coming out from under the shingles of the main barn. He pulled open a side door, set down the pails, and climbed up a ladder to look at the hay. The whole top of the barn was filled with flames. They found the pails after the fire was out. David ran through the barn opening the stanchions to get the cows out. He yelled to his grandfather that the barn was on fire and Ralph started getting the cows out on that end. The oldest cow refused to go out as there were billows of smoke out in the yard by that time. The old cow made it out... Flames were being taken on shingles to the other buildings. Farmers got up on the roofs to try and put those out. They got in the hog barn and pitched burning straw out and were able to save most of it...People, farmers, came from all over, even from Oak Harbor as you could see the fire there. There were big piles of posts which were catching on fire and people worked to put those out. Fire was everywhere...They had to go into the barn that was right next to the barn on fire, as that one was filled with calves. David remembered breaking out all the windows and pushing out the calves...Cows were running all over the prairie. It burned all night. The next day they had to have bulldozers come in to push it in and finish burning.”⁵⁹

An electrical failure was later determined to be the cause of the fire. Every building on the property caught fire, but luckily only the barn was lost. The hog barn was saved, and still shows signs of the fire today.⁶⁰ Only one heifer was lost that day. In the confusion of the fire she instinctively headed for the calving pen, which was part of the burning building, and the farmers were unable to stop her. The herd, scattered across the prairie, was collected and taken to the Carl Engle farm, where it mixed temporarily with their Holstein herd.⁶¹

That same year, what was supposed to be a temporary addition was added to the north side of the hog barn, by local contractor Farlen Sahli. Still standing today, it serves as the main barn on the farm and is used for hay and equipment storage. Milking stanchions were also installed in the hog barn that year, which effectively converted the hog barn to a milking parlor.⁶²

⁵⁷ Ibid., 16; *Building and Landscape Inventory*, 289.

⁵⁸ Dave Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Theresa Trebon, 3.

⁵⁹ David Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Theresa Trebon, 5-6.

⁶⁰ David Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 7-8.

⁶¹ David Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Theresa Trebon, 5-6.

⁶² David Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 14.

Ralph continued to run the dairy until his death in 1960. That year the cows were sold, and the property passed to Ralph's wife, Beulah.⁶³ His son, Burton, returned to the farm after attending the University of Washington and farmed for twenty years before health problems forced him to stop. Burton then began working for the Civil Service at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Oak Harbor. He and his wife, Verna, continued to live in the hired-man house and raised four boys: David, Ralph, Paul, and Daniel. After Ralph's death, farming on the property was continued by descendants of the Carl Engle branch of the family, William Carl and Robert Ernest Engle. These Engles used the land to plant grains needed to support their dairy, including wheat, barley, and oats.⁶⁴

Eight years later, Burton inherited the farm following his mother's death. At this time, Burton's eldest son, David Engle, moved into the Harmon house with his family. In 1976 David and his family moved to California, leaving the Harmon house empty until their return in 1992. During their absence, the farm was continually leased to local farmers. Also during this time, William Carl and Robert Ernest Engle used the land for crops and stored hay bales in the barn. Other neighbors, such as Dale Sherman, used the fields to grow Hubbard squash, a popular crop in the area.⁶⁵

Burton Engle died in 1993, and following Verna's death in 1996 the property was locked in court proceedings for ten years. The land continued to be leased, but was not inherited by Burton and Verna's sons, David and Ralph until 2005. David inherited the Harmon house and all the buildings surrounding it.⁶⁶

It was there that David Engle and his wife, Dolores, lived, until an attic fire in March 2006 caused damage to the house. It was reroofed in the fall of 2006, but remains vacant. Currently the barn is the only building on the property still being used to service the farm. The house and outbuildings are employed as storage space by David and his family.

II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This barn is divided into two distinct time periods and construction techniques: the hog barn, dating to the early decades of the 20th century, and the addition that was hastily constructed after the main barn on the property burned to the ground in 1954. Both parts are lacking in architectural character. The hog barn was converted into a milking parlor in 1954, which caused it to lose its integrity as a hog barn, and the addition is void of any special characteristics.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor. The north wall of the original hog barn still exhibits severe fire damage. However, the fabric of the original hog barn, though heavily used by livestock, is intact. The single-sash windows along the south façade

⁶³ Ibid., 9.

⁶⁴ Ibid., 32.

⁶⁵ David Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 12.

⁶⁶ Ibid., 33-34.

have broken lights, and the roof sags in the middle between the second and third pair of windows. The addition has been heavily used by farming equipment for fifty-four years, and shows signs of wear. The posts on the west end have shifted off their foundations, and the sill logs have decayed. Pieces of the plank siding are missing on both gable-ends of the addition, and the sliding barn doors are sitting off their tracks.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 63'-5-1/4" x 70'-0"
2. Foundations: The hog barn sits on a poured concrete foundation with sill logs. The barn addition was constructed on grade, with posts attached to pre-formed concrete foundation blocks. Its walls were constructed on sill logs.
3. Walls: The walls of the hog barn are made of 4-1/8" x 3-1/2" studs clad in 1" diagonal sheathing on its north, east, and west façades, with 1" horizontal lap siding. The south wall has studs with lap siding only. The addition has walls constructed of 6" studs and 1" vertical plank siding. Two chest boards span between the studs, and on the north façade, additional diagonal bracing reinforces the wall. The building's exterior is unpainted.
4. Structural systems: The hog barn has a gable roof supported by four 5-3/8" square posts. The 1954 addition has four exposed Fink trusses spaced 14'-2" apart. The trusses are supported by 6-1/4" x 5-1/2" posts.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The hog barn is accessed from the exterior through two doors on the west and one on the east side of the building. The door on the east façade is a 2-1/4" thick paneled door with horizontal braces attached to the exterior. On the west façade a sliding door with a metal track mounted to the exterior is constructed of 1-1/8" thick bead boards, with 1-1/8" bracing that forms two 'X' shapes. This opening lacks trim and the door is no longer attached to its track. North of this door, on the west façade, is a hinged door constructed of 3/4" bead boards with 3/4" bracing in the shape of two 'X's. Directly north of this door, opening into the 1954 barn addition, is a Dutch door. Only the bottom half of this door remains. It is constructed of 1" vertical planks to match the exterior barn cladding, with 3/4" horizontal bracing on the interior. The barn addition is accessed by

two identical pairs of 7'-0" sliding doors; one pair on the east façade and one on the west. The doors are constructed of vertical planks with bracing attached in two 'X' shapes. The metal tracks are attached to the exterior of the barn; however none of the doors are mounted on their associated tracks. None of the doors are painted.

- b. Windows: The south façade of the hog barn holds eight pairs of matching two-over-two single-sash windows. Each pair has a 5'-8-5/8" x 2-1/4" wood sill on the exterior. The window pairs are unevenly spaced in the south façade. Each pair has 6-3/8" x 1" trim boards along the exterior and between the sashes, defining the mullions. The barn addition has one window opening located on the west façade, between the Dutch door and sliding doors. The remains of a three-over-two single sash are evident over the opening. It has no lights, and only partial muntins are intact.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Both the hog barn and the 1954 barn addition have gable roofs. The hog barn's roof, covered in wood shingles, is only exposed on the south side. The barn addition is roofed in corrugated metal sheets and covers the hog barn's north slope. As a result, the hog barn looks like it is covered in a shed roof from the exterior.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Both roof lines have 4" fascia boards that run the length of the cornice. These boards remain unpainted.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: See measured drawings HABS No. WA-247-A for complete plans of this barn. The barn has a rectangular floor plan that consists of three distinct interior spaces. The hog barn's floor plan is divided into eighteen milking stanchions. A feeding trough runs the full length of the space on the north side of these stanchions. The barn addition has an open plan, to maximize the space available for hay storage. The third space is created by a structure that originally sat on the exterior of the hog barn. When the addition was constructed, the new roof line covered this space. The space is 15'-11" x 13'-1" and originally served as the slaughterhouse for the hogs, but was later used as a calf barn and chicken coop.
2. Flooring: The hog barn has a poured concrete slab floor. Along the south wall a trough formed in this floor allows for the

removal of waste from dairy cows. The addition sits on grade and has a dirt floor.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: There is no finish on either the walls or ceiling. The posts, beams, joists, and rafters are all exposed.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The barn has three interior doors. Each door is constructed of vertical bead board with horizontal bracing. A Dutch door opens in the west wall of the slaughterhouse, and two doors are located on the original north façade of the hog barn. One opens into the addition, the other into the slaughterhouse. All three door openings are trimmed with 4-5/8" x 1" boards. The doors and trim are unpainted.
 - b. Windows: The hog barn's north façade has four windows. Each opening is covered with a two-over-two single-sash nailed into place. The openings have 6-1/2" x 1" trim boards and 3'-0" sills, on what was originally the exterior but is now the space created by the barn addition. The slaughter room has one window opening on the west façade. It has no trim, sill, or sash, and is currently covered in chicken wire.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design: The Engle farm sits at the southeast intersection of Ebey and Terry Roads, west of Prairie Center. The site is accessed by vehicles along a dirt road running south from Terry Road. A small pull-off from Ebey Road gives access to a sidewalk leading pedestrians to the front door of the Harmon house. The complex is made up of the barn and nine additional buildings, with remains of an orchard, crop fields, hedgerows, and an overgrowth of berry bushes.

The Harmon house, a 2-1/2 story Queen Anne style house with classic details sits along Ebey Road. Its wood frame rests on a timber and stone foundation, and is covered in clapboard siding with decorative shingles under the gables on the east and west façade. The house has an irregular shape, after many additions. Its off-center main entrance is on the west façade, accessed by a sidewalk leading from Ebey Road. The front porch is covered by the second story balcony, off the main bedroom. On the southwest corner of the house sits a two-story octagonal tower. Porches wrap the south and

west façades. From the back of the house a sidewalk connects to accompanying buildings.

South of the house is a wood-frame chicken coop with walls clad in plywood. Behind the coop are the remains of a hired-man house. These remains consist of four wood-framed walls and a brick chimney. The walls are clad in lap siding with corner boards. The hired-man house has no roof, is overgrown with berry bushes, and is inaccessible. Both structures are unpainted. The area between them is fenced-in to provide brooding space for chickens.

Directly behind the house is a “generator house”⁶⁷ that was originally used to store ice. It sits on a stone foundation and has a gable roof. The building is clad in lap siding with corner boards. On the east façade is a hinged door made of lap siding that matches the cladding. The building is unpainted, though evidence of white washing remains.

Northeast of the “generator house” is a chicken house, which sits on a poured concrete foundation and has a dirt floor. Its walls are clad in horizontal planks with corner boards. It also shows evidence of having once been white washed. The chicken house is covered in an asymmetrical gable roof with wood shingles. On the north façade are six openings at the ground level. Originally used as passages in and out of the building for the chickens, these openings are trimmed in 4" boards on the exterior. On the south façade are a series of alternating louvered openings and two-over-three single-sash windows. South of the chicken house is a series of wire fencing once used to pen sheep. Still further to the south, remains a concrete slab foundation marking the original site of the sheep dip.

A two-story carriage house sits east of the sheep dip, on a concrete slab foundation. The building has horizontal plank siding and a shingled gable roof. The building originally provided carriage storage on the ground floor, and a workshop above. It has three-over-three double-hung windows on the gable ends and a shed addition attached to the east façade.

⁶⁷ “We called it the generator house. That word had nothing to do with it. It was once a -- its walls were filled with saw dust. They put ice in it.” David Engle, Transcription of Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 19.

Directly east of the carriage house is the milk house, which is unique in both building materials and orientation on the site. Its walls are constructed of large field stones, which is very uncommon in Central Whidbey Island. The building also sits at a slight angle to the other buildings on the Engle farm. Each façade of the milk house has a three-over-three single-sash casement window. The north and south facades also have wood doors with four lights. The building has a gable roof with wood shingles, and has wooden boxed eaves.

To the north, across the dirt access road, is the granary. This building is also at a slight angle to the other buildings on the property. The granary has a post-on-pier foundation with walls clad in lap siding and corner boards. It is covered in a gable roof. The building has two doors: one on the east and one on the west façade. Both doors are constructed of vertical planks with horizontal bracing on the inside, though the door on the west façade is covered in plywood.

There is a well and spigot on the east side of the access road, between the granary and the barn. From there, the access road continues south past the barn, and ends at the crop field.

West of the barn sits the tower house, a one-story rectangular building with a two-story tower on its west end. The building is covered with a hipped, shingled roof and clad in lap siding. It is accessed from the north by a single door leading into the workshop, and double doors into the mill room and tower room. The doors have bracing in the shape of two 'X's that match the look of the barn doors. The tower house also has three-over-three double-hung windows on all four façades.

The entire property is covered in berry bushes, which span the area between the chicken house and the carriage house, stretching all the way to Ebey Road to the west. Berry bushes also cover the south side of the tower house, extend past the hired-man house, and on towards Ebey Road. There is a hedgerow running along Terry Road, on either side of the dirt access road. East of the access road, this hedgerow fills the space between the road and the granary. Also present on the property are a large chestnut tree and a maple tree.

III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Engle farm property was documented by Anne E. Kidd, candidate for Master of Science in Historic Preservation at the University of Oregon, (Kingston Heath, Director) during the 2006 and 2007 school years. The project was executed as a terminal project under the guidance of Donald Peting, Professor Emeritus in Architecture at the University of Oregon; Hank Florence, National Park Service Historical Architect; Leland Roth, Professor of Art History at the University of Oregon; and Dan Powell, Professor of Art in Photography at the University of Oregon. The National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association sponsored the project. Anne E. Kidd performed the field recording, large format photography, and historical documentation. Karen L. Kidd assisted with the field recording. Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve and the community of Coupeville, Washington, provided additional support and assistance.

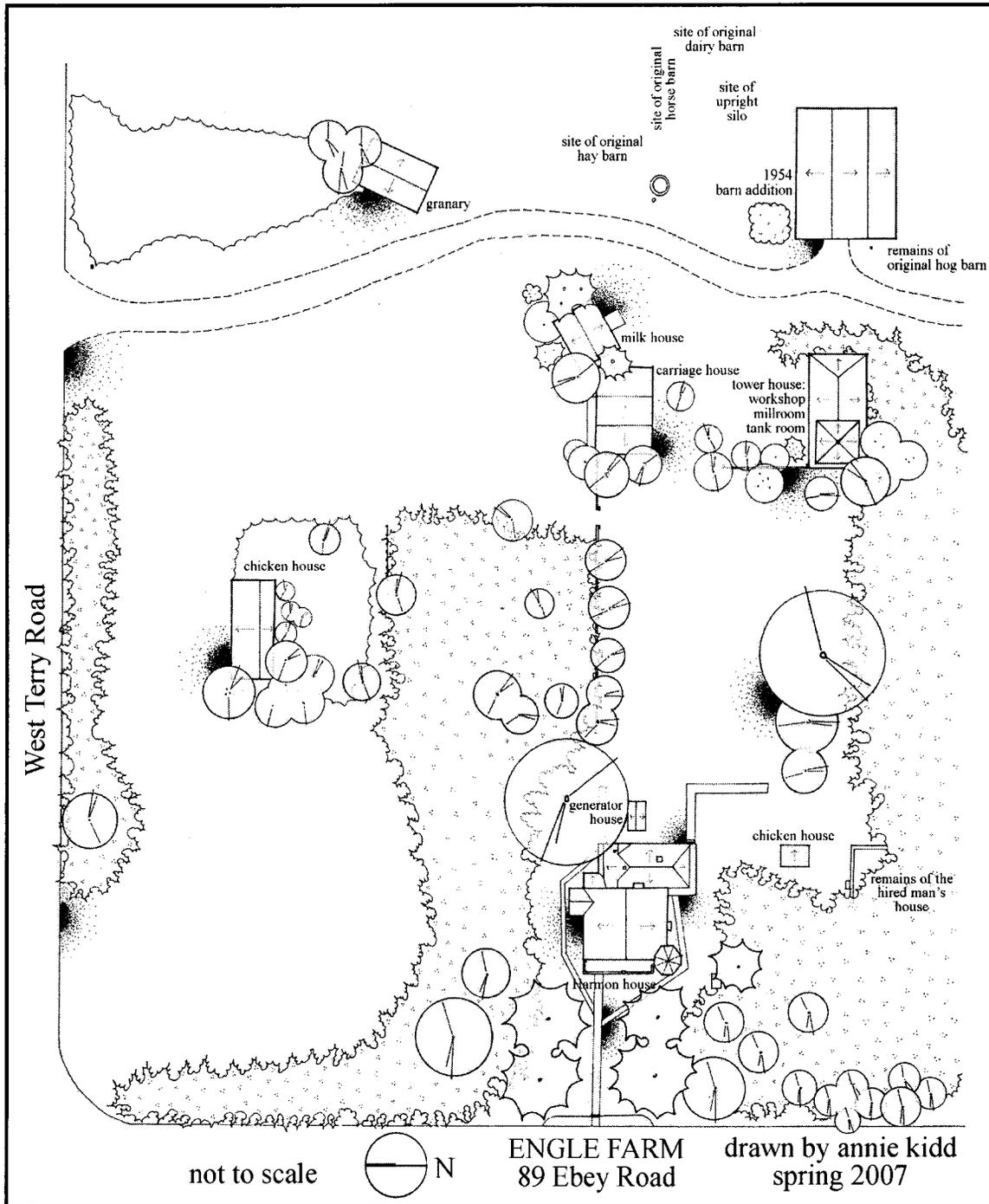
ENGLE FARM
89 Ebey Road
Coupeville Vicinity
Whidbey Island
Island County
Washington

HABS No. WA-247

APPENDIX

HABS No.	
WA-247	Engle Farm
WA-247-A	Engle Barn
WA-247-B	Harmon House
WA-247-C	Carriage House
WA-247-D	Milk House
WA-247-E	Tower House

Anne E. Kidd
162 Cemetery Road
Coupeville, WA 98239



WA-247

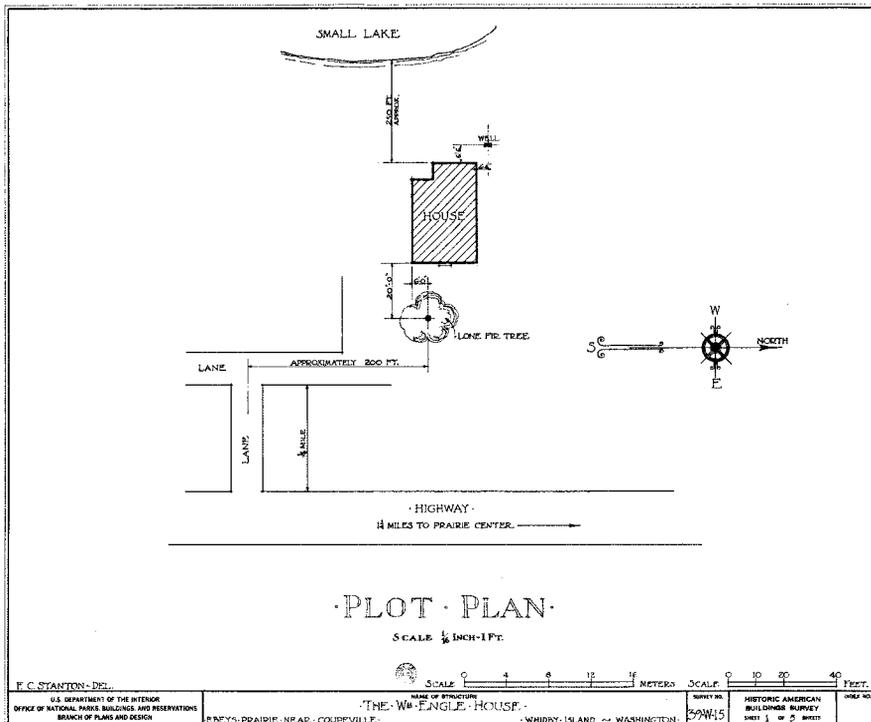
Engle Farm Site Plan

THE WILLIAM ENGLE HOUSE

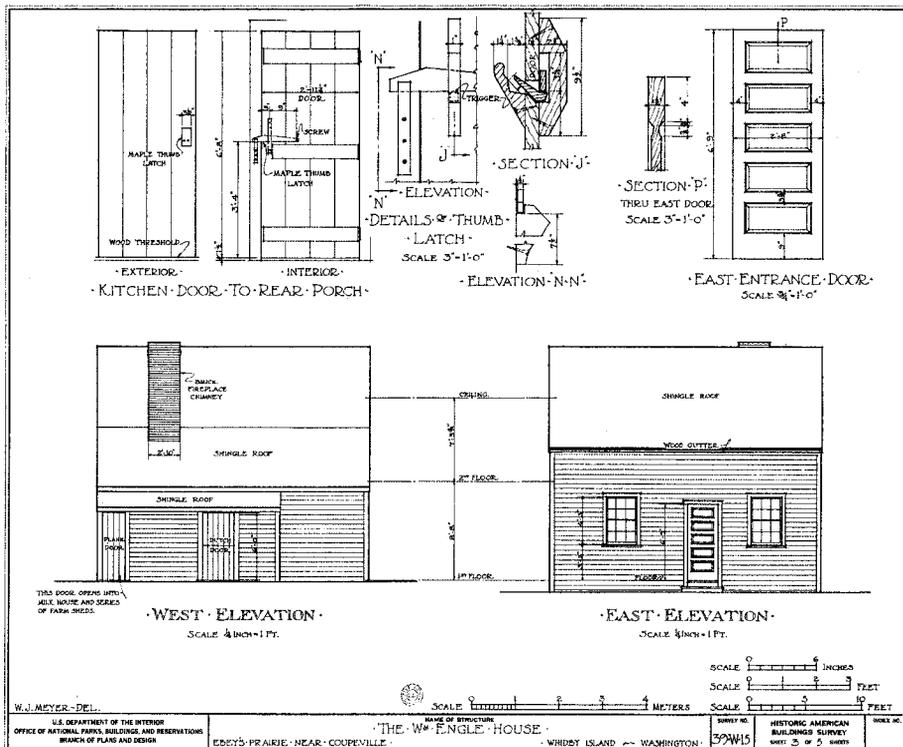
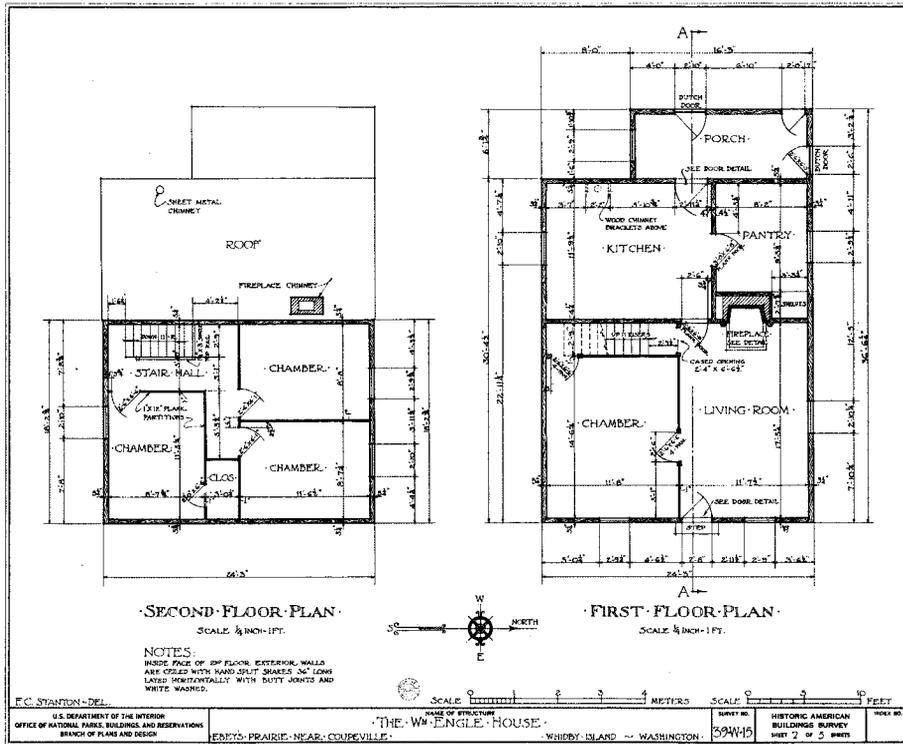
EBEY'S PRAIRIE NEAR COUPEVILLE
WHIDBY ISLAND. WASHINGTON

ERECTED - BETWEEN 1840-1860
ARCHITECT - UNKNOWN
BUILDER - UNKNOWN

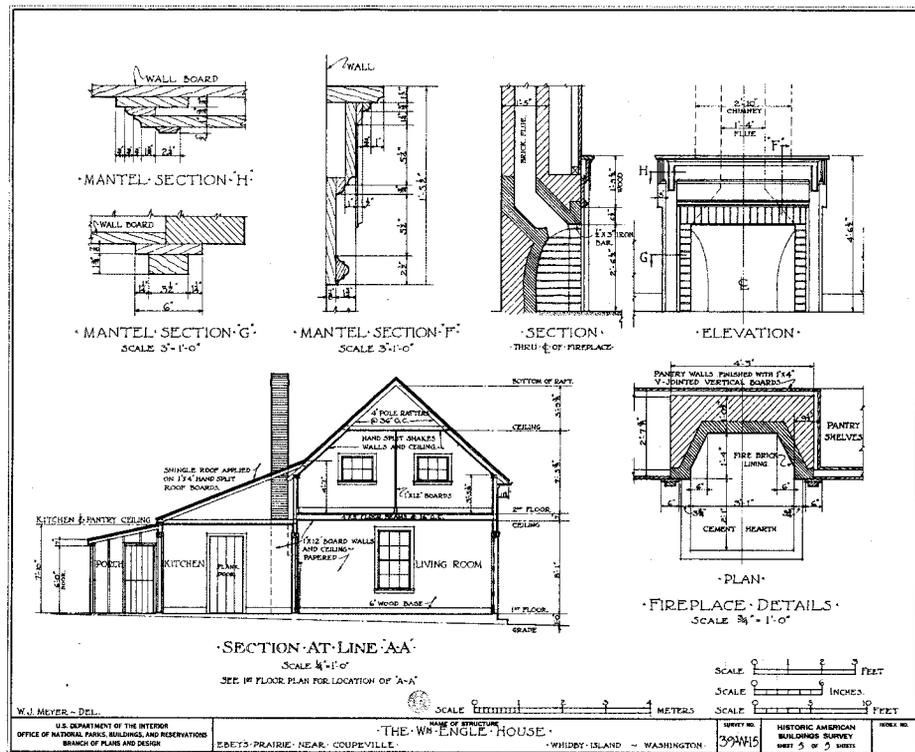
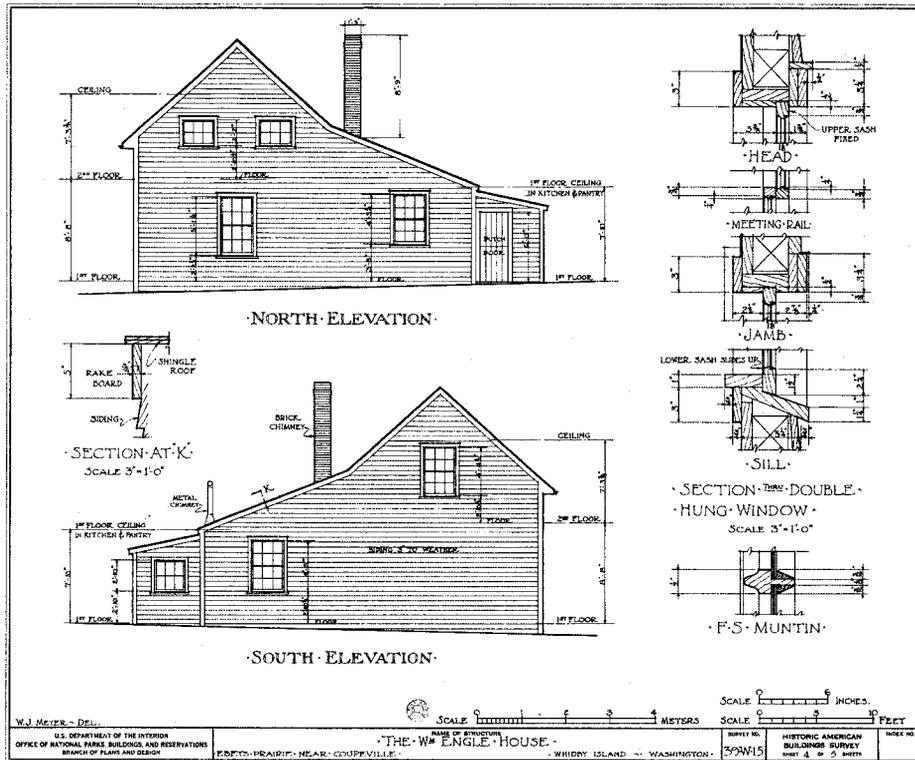
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN	DESIGNED: 1934 DRAWN: 1934 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	DRAWING APPROVED: <i>[Signature]</i> CHECKED APPROVED: <i>[Signature]</i> ADAPTED FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: <i>[Signature]</i>	DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON LAWRENCE WARDEN, DIST. OFF. 507 SPALLING BUILDING BUREAU OF LANDS FIELD PARTY: W. J. HENES, A. C. STANTON	SURVEY NO. 39-W-15 SHEET NO. 1	INDEX NO. 100-1000 100-1000 100-1000
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HABS DRAWINGS OF WILLIAM ENGLE HOUSE, WA-39-W-15, Title page and page 1 (Image from: "Built in America: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering, 1933-Present," Library of Congress (http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/)).



HABS DRAWINGS OF WILLIAM ENGLE HOUSE, WA-39-W-15, pages 2 and 3
(Image from: "Built in America: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering, 1933-Present," Library of Congress (http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/).



HABS DRAWINGS OF WILLIAM ENGLE HOUSE, WA-39-W-15, pages 4 and 5
(From: "Built in America: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering, 1933-Present," Library of Congress (http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/))