

WIND RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE SITE, BUILDING  
No.1053  
Gifford Pinchot National Forest  
Chapman Avenue, near Lookout Mountain Road  
Carson Vicinity  
Skamania County  
Washington

HABS WA-232-A

HABS

WA 232 A

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**

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

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### WIND RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE SITE

BUILDING #1053

HABS No. WA-232A

- Location:** Wind River Administrative Site, Skamania County, Washington. This building fronts Chapman Avenue, the main north-south street through the site. It is the southernmost of the three historic residences near the center of the Avenue.
- U.S.G.S. Stabler 7.5' Quadrangle, 1983 Provisional Edition. Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 10.583020.5072010
- Significance:** Building #1053 was built as the Wind River Experiment Station Director's Residence in 1914. Its significance lies in its relationship to the development of the Administrative Site, especially the Wind River Experiment Station. The early growth of this agency is reflected in this structure, the fourth built by the Experiment Station for its own use. It is one of two buildings that survive from the first wave of development by the Experiment Station that occurred prior to 1920. It has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as it retains integrity of design, location, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building embodies the feeling of the Arts and Crafts movement, common in residential construction at the time.
- Description:** Building #1053 is a symmetrical bungalow with V-groove rustic drop siding. It faces east on Chapman Avenue with a central gambrel roof porch with four square posts. The walls and base of the porch are of the same siding; and they both rise half way from the porch floor to the eave over the porch. The porch has a plywood floor. The front door is recessed into a bay and is flanked on either side by 14 pane sidelights. The doorframe is simple and a new screen door has replaced the original. There are brackets under the porch roof where the gambrel roof changes slope and exposed rafter tails are visible. A vergeboard with pointed ends decorates the porch. A 12 pane fixed window decorates the gambrel end. Paired one-over-one sash windows face the east. The fixed upper panes are smaller and have lambstongues. An historic fixed 4 pane storm window covers each pair of these windows. Cornerboards decorate the north and south ends of the façade.
- The exposed rafter tails and vergeboard seen on the porch are carried throughout the other elevations. Along the north wall at the northeast corner is a 3-sided bay cantilevered out over the foundation. The storm windows here on the smaller side windows are one-over-one. To the west of the bay is a 12-pane fixed horizontal window. To the west of this are paired double-hung kitchen windows with 12-pane uppers and single pane lower sashes. A wide board acts as a string course between the 2 floors on both the north and south facades. Four brackets are located on each of these sides, as are square louvered vents under the gable portion of the

roof. The windows on the south façade are also paired, at both the east and west ends. These are one-over-one double hung sash with the sashes of equal size. The interior chimney is visible in the southern end of the hip on gable roof. It is centered on this façade, projecting through the hip end.

The rear of the house, the west side has a 1-story addition at its northern end. This gambrel-roofed addition has the same siding as the rest of the house. There is a horizontal 4-pane fixed window in the north wall and a door with a single glass pane over a single wood panel base on the west side.

The interior of the house is accessed from the porch through a wide front door with eight small beveled lights in its upper half. It opens into a large living room/dining room area that takes up the entire eastern half of the house. Most prominent is the black brick fireplace canted out in the southwestern corner. It is in the living room area and has three sides with bricks that overlap and interlock at the corners. The mantel is a 5 inch solid board with three small corbels made of brick below it. A wood-burning stove insert has been placed in the firebox opening.

To the north of the front door is the dining room area with its bay window. Located on the west wall of this room is an original built in china cabinet with a pass-through to the kitchen, which has been closed off. A door to the south of the cabinet leads into the kitchen, a small room with a dropped tile ceiling and new vinyl floor. A door in the west of the kitchen leads into a utility room containing the washer and dryer. This room is not original to the house. Also in the kitchen is the door to the basement stairway. This is the only original door in the house and it leads to the unfinished partial basement. To the south of the kitchen is a door that enters into a small room that is used as an office. A one-over-one window in this room faces west. Continuing to the south, another door leads into a hallway. To the immediate right is a bathroom and directly ahead is a small bedroom. A closet is inset into the eastern wall of the bedroom. The hall is oriented on an east-west axis and it leads back into the living/dining area. On its south wall is a small built-in linen cabinet.

The steps to the upper floor are located west of the front door, slightly off-center. The bottom steps face east, but they take an immediate turn to the north. The stairs end in a fairly open sewing room/bedroom. The windows in this finished attic space are close to the floor. There are 3 sliding windows, each with 4 panes. The ceiling reflects the hip on gambrel roof in its form. A wall divides the attic space along an east-west axis. The room to the south serves as the master bedroom and has the same low sliding windows as the north room. Upon entering the room, there is a walk-in closet immediately to the west. The interior chimney is freestanding towards the southern end of the room, where it partially blocks the windows.

All walls and ceilings have been refinished with a textured finish. There is virtually no ornament, as the mouldings and baseboards were removed during renovation. Except for the kitchen, the downstairs rooms have 9-10

foot ceilings. The window and door frames are original, but are very simple with no ornamentation.

**Historic Context:** Building #1053 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local history. It is an integral part of the Wind River Administrative Site, which contains several historic components. The Administrative Site contains representative structural examples from throughout its development, mirroring the development of the Forest Service as an agency. The Hemlock Ranger Station was established in 1906, the earliest Ranger Station office constructed on the Forest. The Wind River Nursery was one of the first of its kind in the country, growing trees for the reforestation of burned and logged over areas. The Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station originated at the Wind River site to provide scientific expertise to the early Nursery operation. These two entities worked hand in hand in developing the basic body of knowledge on which modern reforestation and forestry practices have been built. The Wind River Arboretum was also developed at the site, the oldest in the Pacific Northwest. Several buildings associated with the early development of the site have survived to the present, including this residence. These early structures, in addition to the CCC era buildings, provide a clear history of the development of the built environment at the Wind River Administrative Site.

**Sources:** Clark, Rosalind. Architecture: Oregon Style. Portland: Professional Book Center, Inc. 1983.

Harris, Cybil M. Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture. New York: Dover Publications, Inc. 1983.

Horn, Jonathan. 1983 DRAFT National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Wind River Administrative Site. Manuscript on file, Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

McAlester, Virginia and McAlester, Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1995.

Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: Penguin Books. 1980.

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

**Experimental Station Director's Residence  
Constructed 1914**

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

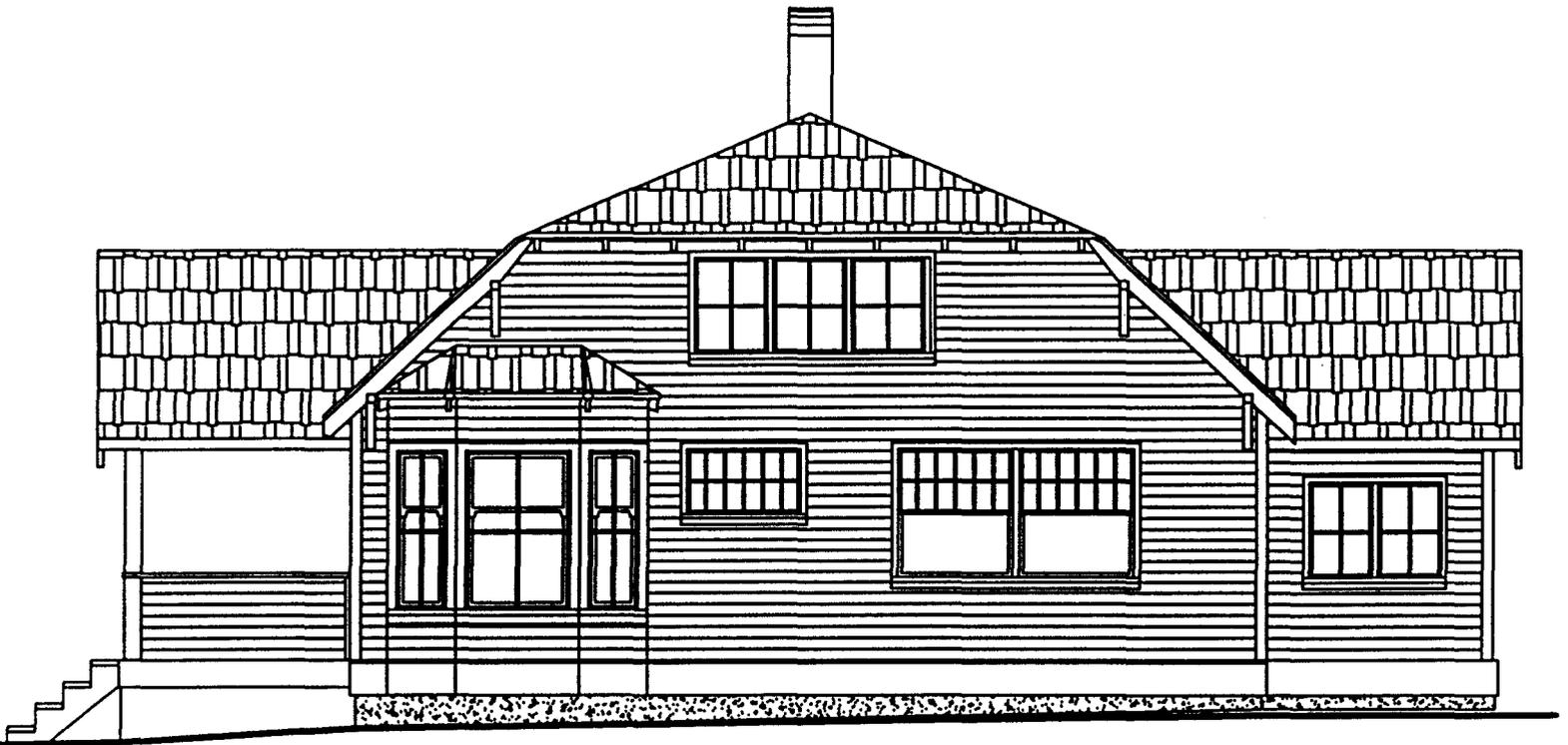


*East Elevation*

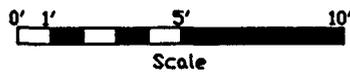


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Building elevation adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.

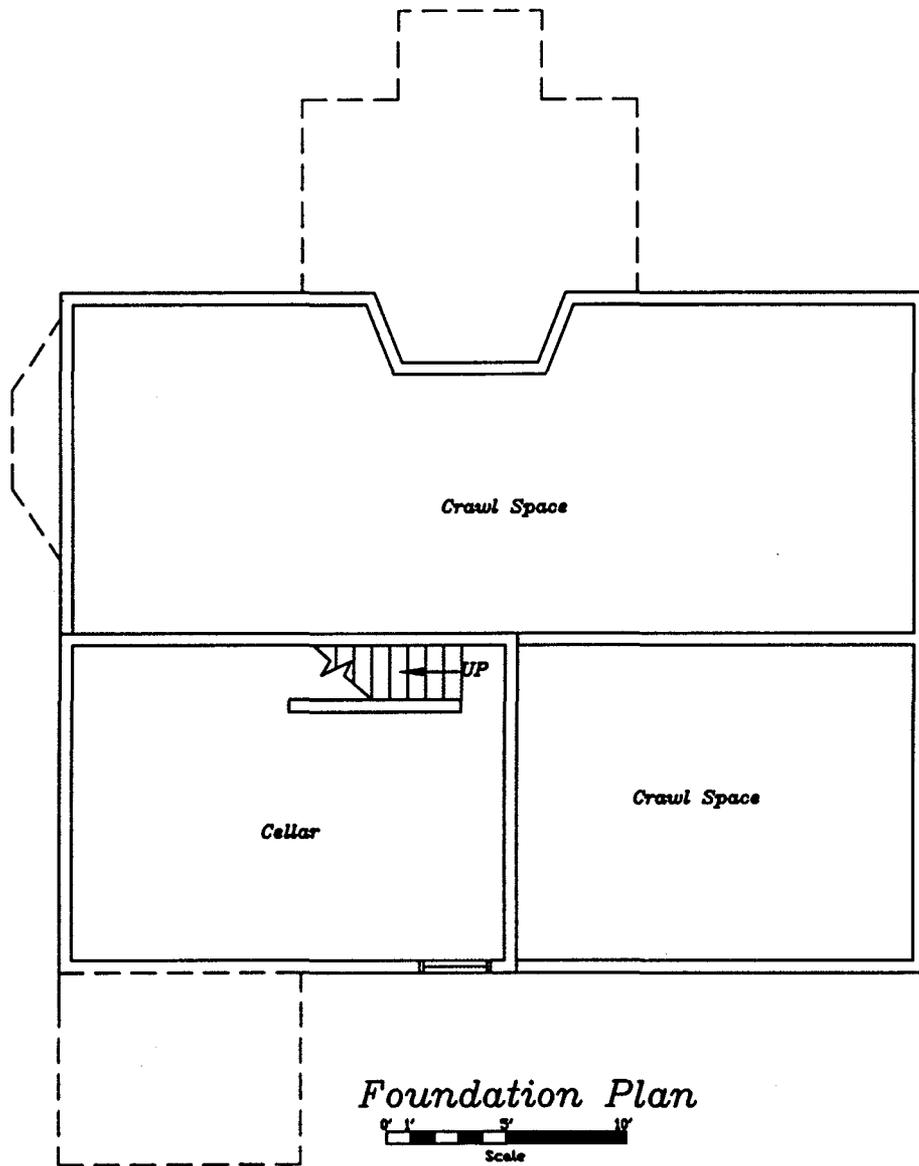


*North Elevation*



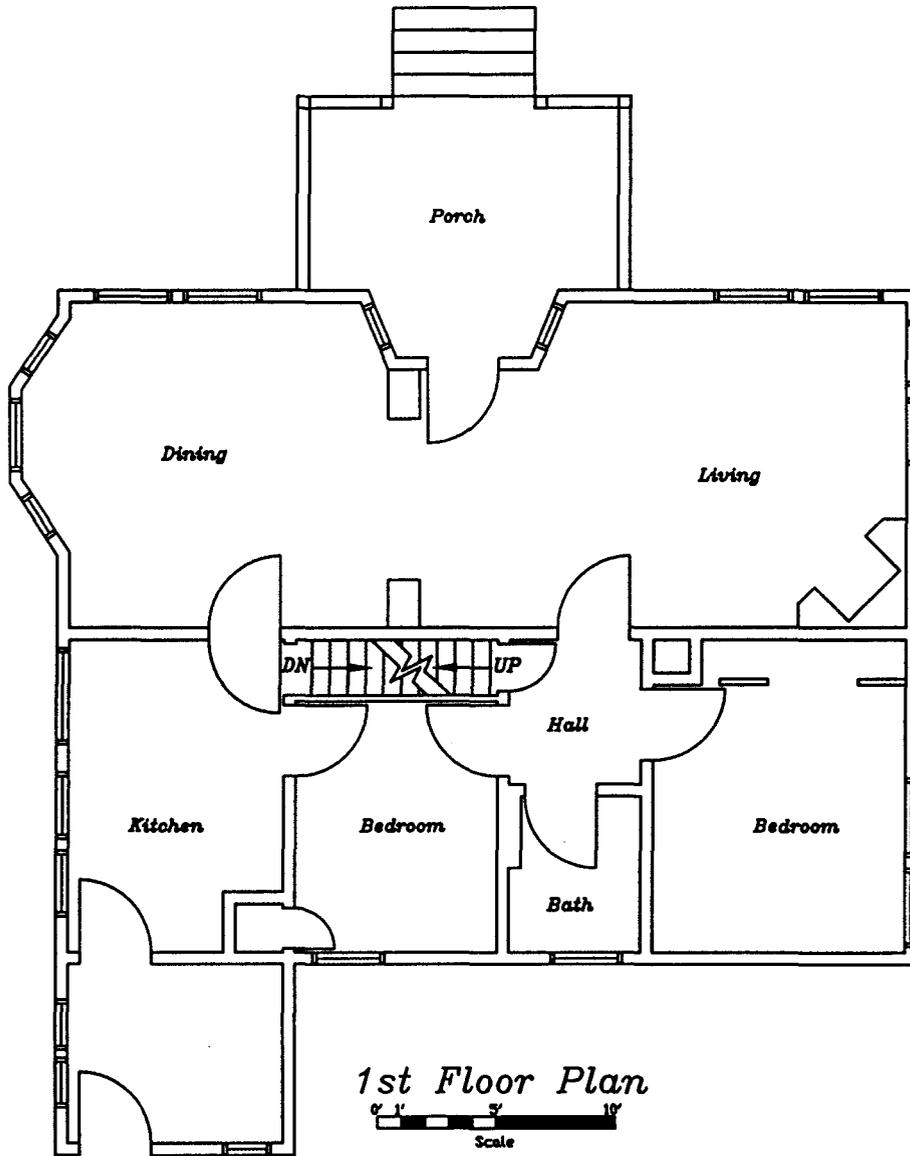
**Experimental Station Director's Residence  
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Building foundation plan adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.



**Experimental Station Director's Residence  
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Building floor plan adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.



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