

William Allen White Cabins
(Work Cabin)
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park Vicinity
Larimer County
Colorado

HABS No. CO-63-D

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COLO,
35-ESPKY,
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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to
William Allen White Cabins,
Work Cabin
Bear Lake Road
Rocky Mountain National Park
Vicinity of Estes Park, Larimer County
Colorado

HABS No. CO-63-D

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM TO:
WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE CABINS, WORK CABIN

HABS NO. CO-63-D

This report is an addendum to one drawing previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

Location: Bear Lake Road, Moraine Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Vicinity Estes Park, Larimer County, Colorado

Significance: This cabin is typical of structures built by turn of the century settlers. It was use for working purposes since it was quiet and the views were stimulating. It is also important due to its association with William Allen White, a noted writer, Pulitzer prize winner, and advisor to many political figures.

Description:

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Information - Work Cabin

Architectural Merit and Interest: Beginning in 1913, when he built the log studio, William Allen White made good use of its quiet surroundings and stimulating views to progress on his writings. The studio faces southwest, sitting high on a hill behind the house. Stone and concrete steps lead up from the house. Entry to the studio is via a large open front porch of frame construction fronted with massive logs. Notable features are the large windows, and rubblestone fireplace and chimney.

Condition of Fabric: Unaltered materials in poor condition.

Summary Description: The studio is reach by thirty-one stone and concrete steps leading steeply up behind the main cabin. Although relatively small, the large proportions of the porch and chimney give it a massive appearance. The building consists of one large room with a fireplace and a small bathroom ell addition. The log walls rest on foundations of stone masonry piers, concrete piers, and wood piers. The overall dimensions are 24'-2" x 16'-1".

B. Detailed Description of Exterior

Foundation: The building has a low foundation of uncoursed fieldstone and poured concrete piers.

Wall Construction: Log, with falsely notched corners.

Structural System: Log.

Porches, Stoops, Etc.: Seven wooden steps lead to the porch which extends along the entire length of the south facade and wraps around to the west and east sides. The porch is fronted with massive horizontal undressed logs and has a wood plank floor.

Openings, Doorways, and Windows: There is one single width door which is made of vertical wood boards and having interior batts. Four wood steps on the porch lead to this door and a screen door. The door is on the south facade.

There are five large window openings all of rectangular shape having wood frames with flat arches. In the main room of the cabin, two of the windows are made up of two sliding sash, each having six lites; while the other two windows are made up of three sliding sash, with each having six lites. The fifth window is located in the bathroom addition, and is made up of two sliding sash, each with six lites.

Roof - Shape and Covering: A side gable roof with cedar shingles and exposed log rafter ends covers the main cabin. The bathroom addition also has a gable roof, with its ridge running perpendicular to the main cabin roof.

C. Detailed Description of Interior

Floor Plan: There is one large room with a fireplace which was used for a studio. One small bathroom is in an ell addition. The building is now used for storage only.

Stairways: No interior stairways.

Flooring: There is tongue and groove wood flooring.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes: The interior framework has small exposed log trusses and a split log ceiling. All interior walls are simply of the undressed log perimeter walls. However, the gable end walls are shingled on the exterior.

D. Site and Surroundings

The studio is on an open site on a hillside at the northeast end of Moraine Park. There are native grasses, soils, and pines on the site. The front facade is to the southwest with an excellent view of numerous peaks including Longs Peak, and a view of the entire Moraine Park.