

WIND RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE SITE, BUILDING
No. 2325
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Near Lookout Mountain Road
Carson Vicinity
Skamania County
Washington

HABS WA-232-E

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WA-232-E

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 #2325 HABS No. WA-232-E

Location: Wind River Administrative Site, Skamania County, Washington. This building is set in the open Nursery Fields.

U.S.G.S. Stabler 7.5' Quadrangle, 1983 Provisional Edition. Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 10.583240.5072070

Significance: Building 2325 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 Building 2325. 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.

Description: The lower lunch room or machine shed was constructed in 1928 and faces west in the nursery fields. Besides being known as the lower lunch room and machine shed, the structure is numbered 2325 by the Forest Service as another form of identification. Originally built as a machine shed, the lower lunch room of the Wind River Nursery has been internally and externally altered.

The wood-framed structure is built on a poured cement slab foundation that is twenty by thirty-four feet on an east-west axis. On the west entry facade, the lunch room has been altered by permanently affixing an iron rail sliding garage door. Around the front door, plywood masks a once open space on this facade previously covered by another outside sliding door. Six simple triangular brackets ornament the west and east facades and exposed rafter tails peek from a wood shingled gable roofline on the south and north facades. On the north facade are two small six lite casement windows, approximately three feet in width. The east facade is identical to the west facade, excluding the sliding garage doors that have been removed. A hollow core door has been added to the space where the sliding garage

door once existed. On the south facade of the building, there is another door and a small three feet wide six lite casement window, similar to the windows on the north facade. In addition, there is a small covered shed structure, which is attached to the south facade at the west end near grade level. On the south side of the wood shingled gable roof is a sheet metal pipe flue, leading down to the heating system within the building. On the four corners of the building are three-inch corner boards as a form of additional ornamentation. The ornamentation around all the doors and windows of the lunch room are simple one by three-inch boards.

The interior of the lower lunch room is equipped with a long workbench and cabinets on the north wall. A boxed -in sink is also located on this same wall underneath one of the six lite windows. In the northeast corner of the building is a modern water heater and a modern heating system is located south of the eastern door on the east wall. All of the interior walls are covered with plywood paneling. The ceiling of the building is also plywood with battens covering the seams. Florescent lighting panels take up large areas of the ceiling. A small hatch in the ceiling close to the south wall leads to the attic, which was inaccessible at the time of this survey.

Historic Context:

In the middle of the nursery field, the machine shed was built in 1928 for the maintenance of vehicles at the Wind River Nursery. This workshop signaled the end of using horses and wagons at the Nursery. This building was equipped with a drive through access for the maintenance of vehicles, including a 1927 Cletrac Model W tractor. During this time, the machine shed rounded out the storehouse/bunkhouse complex in the nursery field. It is unknown when the building was converted to serve as the lower lunch room. The building retains much of its historic fabric, and a good level of integrity. It is representative of the utilitarian structures at the Wind River Administrative Site that were developed prior to the Depression. Utility structures were common constructions at the site, and this is the oldest large structure remaining from this period. A root cellar and battery house also exist that were constructed prior to the machine shed, but they do not match this structure in terms of scale and visibility within the current Administrative Site context.

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.

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

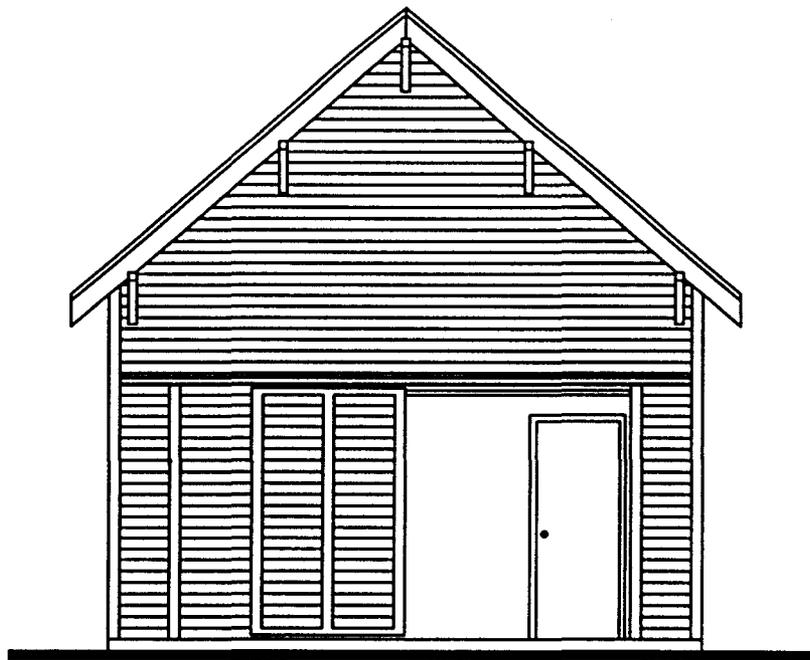
McAlester, Virginia and McAlester, Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1995.

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.

Lower Lunchroom (Machine Shed)
Constructed 1928

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

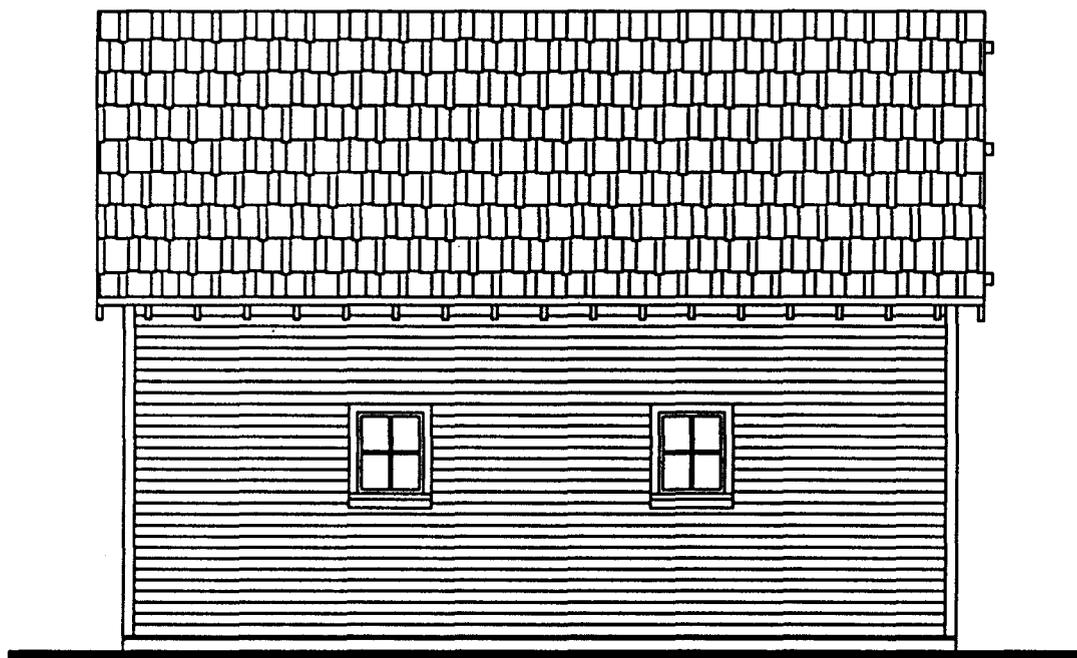


East Elevation

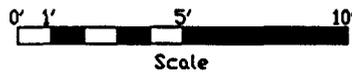


Lower Lunchroom (Machine Shed)
Constructed 1928

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

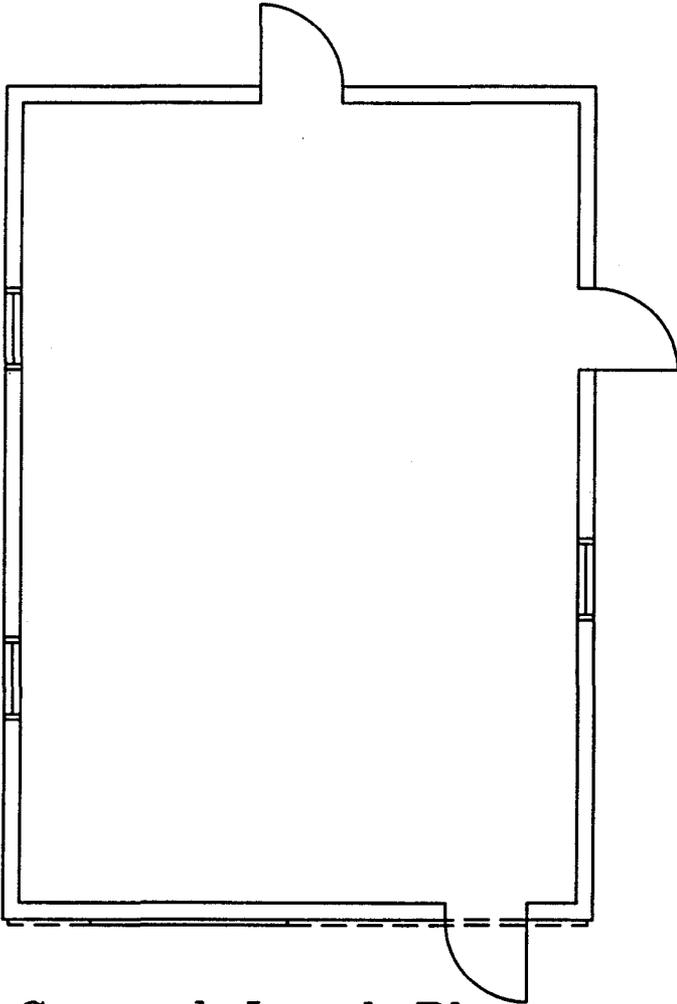


North Elevation



**Lower Lunchroom (Machine Shed)
Constructed 1928**

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



Ground Level Plan

