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OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

ROOSE'S PRAIRIE HOMESTEAD

AND

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD



DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

1989

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK, WASHINGTON

ROOSE'S PRAIRIE HOMESTEAD

AND

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

A STUDY OF TWO HISTORIC HOMESTEADS

CONDUCTED FOR THE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
AND
OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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PREFACE

The understanding and protection of historic landscapes is receiving increased attention throughout this country. As the Federal land-managing agency most responsible for historic preservation, the National Park Service has recently assumed the governmental lead in this emerging area of interest. While NPS sets national standards, no where are these guidelines tested more rigorously than in the Parks themselves.

The project contained within these pages represents the efforts of ten Landscape Architecture students and one graduate student in Historic Preservation. This was not an easy task. The students were asked to address issues and problems which are fundamental to the National Parks, as well to assist is defining the role of historic landscapes within contemporary American society. Rural landscapes pose especially difficult problems, focusing on issues of continuity, succession, and the impulse to view as romantic that which others may see as tragic. The demise of viable communities in portions of rural America is of concern to many people. The understanding that National Parks do not exist in cultural isolation is heightened when we see that what we now call a National Park was once a home to others. It is to the credit of the Pacific Northwest Regional Office and Olympic National Park that attention is now being paid to the need to sensitively manage a variety of resources, both natural and cultural.

As evidenced by the work, the students considered these and other planning and design issues with interest and rigor. While they were aided by a growing literature in this field, they often challenged the premises of that literature and tested its assumptions through their own understandings of people and landscapes.

Throughout this effort, we received the encouragement of a number of people. We would like to thank, especially, Stephanie Toothman, Chief, Division of Cultural Resources, Pacific Northwest Region, and Regional Historian, National Park Service; Cathy Gilbert, Historical Landscape Architect, Pacific Northwest Region, National Park Service; and John Teichert, Assistant Superintendent, Olympic National Park, and his staff. Without the guidance and cooperation of these people this project would not have occurred. We would also like to thank our colleagues in the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon, for their comments, questions, probings, criticisms, and helpful advice.

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Landscape Architecture 489, Fall 1989

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Problem Statement and Studio Process

The central focus of this studio has been the development of an understanding of rural historic landscapes within both their historical context and their role in current and future society. Under the auspices of the NPS and the Olympic National Park, we have been presented the opportunity to study and develop designs for two sites, Roose's Prairie and the Kestner-Higley Homestead. A critical element of this project has been the NPS mandate of resource protection, cultural and historic as well as natural, and visitor access and interpretation. It has been the challenge of this studio to not only refine our understanding of historical landscapes but to design ways to balance resource protection with visitor access.

To this end, we have used the methodology recently adopted by the National Register of Historic Places(NRHP) to evaluate rural historic landscapes. Listing on the NRHP can have significant consequences for the design and management of historic sites so a thorough exploration of the NRHP process and criteria became the foundation for much of our work. Because Roose's Prairie had previously been listed on the NRHP and the park wished to keep the site closed to all but incidental visitor use, our work at the site was limited to developing a list of collectively agreed upon management recommendations. In addition, because our agreement with the NPS included the production of a camera-ready document of our work, we have collectively structured the format of the drawings, researched and written the commentary and have explored graphic technologies.

Our work began with the documentation of the historical context and physical fabric of the homesteads. From unpublished memoirs, interviews, historical photographs, and NPS histories, the site's histories and the general history of homesteading on the Olympic Peninsula were pieced together. Historical photographs and air photos were used to document and interpret the changes to the landscape over time. We visited the site to gather data and verify the air photo interpretation. All the built physical components of the landscape (buildings, fence lines, roads, and small scale artifacts) were mapped and evaluated for current conditions. These components were later analyzed for their response to natural features, spatial organization, and as a revelation of historical land use. Vegetation was mapped for introduced species, native plant communities, and the extent of succession. Views, evidence of wildlife, circulation, natural features and project boundaries were identified and mapped. Meetings with park personnel provided further contextual information, connections to existing park services, proposed expansion of facilities, as well as current and projected visitor use. In addition, small teams and individuals began research into special topics such as rainforest ecology,the historic conflicts between the NPS, USFS, and private interests, and the economic history of the peninsula.

All information from the documentation phase was synthesized for evaluation in terms of the NRHP criteria. It was the responsibility of each student to evaluate the Kestner-Higley Homestead and to decide whether it should be listed on the NRHP. The two primary elements of the NRHP process, historic significance and integrity, fueled an ongoing debate within the studio about the merits of the site. What is the benchmark period of significance for a homestead in continuous use since 1892? When does a homestead cease to be a homestead and becomes just a home? Do modern buildings and additions constitute a lack of integrity or are they a reflection of the landscape as a land-use continuum?Is a tree farm still a part of a subsistence agricultural land use or does it introduce a new land-use on the site.? And what effect does inclusion on the NRHP have on management and use of a historic landscape.?

The resolution of these issues became the foundation for our design phase. Because we were designing for the NPS, management recommendations were seen as one type of design decision that affects all other design development . Levels of intervention in historic preservation were

introduced and explored from restoration to a 1890's working homestead to adaptive re-use. Each student developed a design consistent with a conceptual response to the site, park management goals, visitor use and programmatic and interpretive design. The variety of responses to the Kestner -Higley Homestead site is a reflection of the range and depth of issues in the evaluation and design of historic landscapes.

Landscape Preservation

Preservation of our nation's history has predominantly enhanced the components of the built environment with little regard to its environmental context. The second half of the 19th century and the first six decades of the 20th century primarily dealt with the preservation of architectural resources; house museums, national monuments, and battlefields. Preservation has traditionally embraced elements of the urban scene with little or no acknowledgement to the surrounding landscape. The past 20 years has witnessed the movement of landscape preservation into the realm of the historic preservation arena.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established guidelines for the preservation movement. It was an act of legislation to reverse the effects of post World War II urban renewal and suburban flight. Urban areas across America had undergone extensive revitalization with blatant disregard for the historic values of the old neighborhoods and city centers that the new freeways and skyscrapers were replacing. The National Historic Preservation Act created the National Register of Historic Places which provided a standardized format for nominating historic sites, buildings, structures, districts, objects, archaeological remains, and landscapes. Originally, landscape preservation within the guidelines of the National Register, dealt with designed landscapes by important landscape architects, master gardeners, or that represented a specific style. Landscape preservation has evolved to include rural landscapes. This evolution is partially a result of the environmental movement of the 1970's. Farmland and agricultural areas were taken over by subdivisions, industrial parks, and interstate highway systems. Traditional landscapes were being destroyed and the natural environment was endangered by uncontrolled urban growth. Rural landscape preservation has taken an ecological approach and endeavors to protect "our environmental heritage from the technological advances of the future."[1]

Rural landscape preservation combines the issues of historic preservation with the ecology of the land. The characteristics of a rural historic landscape contains "the tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who occupied, developed, used and shaped the landscape to serve human needs, they reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions, and values of these people."[2] A rural historic landscape may reflect the patterns of activities within an agricultural, industrial, or maritime environment. It may include transportation routes, ceremonial sites, or recreational areas. To document a rural historic landscape we must study the "interplay of cultural and natural resources, and the social construction and celebration of places."[3]

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[1] Erwin H. Zube and Margaret J. Zube, editors, **Changing Rural Landscapes** (The Univ. of Mass. Press, Amherst, 1977) p. 26.

[2] Linda Flint McClelland, National Park Service and J. Timothy Keller, ASLA, Genevieve P. Keller, Robert Z. Melnick, ASLA. **National Register Bulletin 30: How to Identify, Evaluate, and Register Rural Historic Landscapes**, Draft 1988, p. 7.

[3] Matthew Potteiger, "Preserving the Experience of Landscape." **Landscape Architecture,** July/August 1987, p.42.

The National Register has defined eleven processes and components by which to evaluate a rural landscape. These processes and components help us to understand the interrelationship between natural and cultural resources that created the rural historic landscape. The four processes to consider within the landscape are patterns of spatial organization, land uses and activities, response to the natural environment, and cultural traditions. The seven components that may be analyzed are circulation networks, boundaries, vegetation, buildings, structures, objects, building clusters, archaeological remains,and small scale elements.

The challenge we encounter when documenting and evaluating the rural landscape is the element of time. To establish the significance of a property we must realize that the landscape and the processes of the environment are ever changing and cannot be preserved to a certain moment in history as artifacts within a museum. "Landscapes cannot be contained in a glass bubble. They are dynamic processes of living organisms."[1]

The conflict that arises in the field of rural landscape preservation is the management of these 'dynamic processes' combined with the interpretation of the historic value of the site and the impact within the future social and economic structure of the area. The following six concepts provide design methodology of resource protection for a historic landscape.

Preservation- is a process of stabilizing, rebuilding, maintaining, or improving the condition and specific qualities of a historic landscape so that the landscape is protected and the design intent fulfilled.

Restoration- connotes return of the site to its original appearance during a selected period. Strict authenticity of overall form and detail requires extensive research and funding.

Rehabilitation- returns a historic landscape to useful condition, generally bringing it to a state of good repair and possibly including some adaptation. The degree of authenticity is secondary.

Reconstruction- applies to the reproduction of a complete landscape setting which may not be on an original site. It starts form the ground up. Evidence of former conditions is gathered from documents, photographs, sites, and other resources. Authenticity depends on the research base and funding available.

Interpretation- can be defined as basic retention of the original landscape form with the integration to accommodate new uses, needs, and contemporary conditions. It involves research of the original design intent and use. The design should reinforce historic integrity while integrating a contemporary site program.

Conservation- is a passive process of preservation it protects a historic landscape from loss or the infringement of incongruent uses. Basically, it is stewardship of a site.[2]

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[1] Catherine Howett, "Second Thoughts" **Landscape Architecture**, July/August 1987, p. 53.

[2] Lisa Kunst and Patricia M. O'Donnell, "Historic Landscape Preservation Deserves a Broader Meaning", **Landscape Architecture**, July 1981, p. 55.

Each of these concepts rely upon the available documentation of the site and the goals for preserving the historic property. Protection of the rural landscape may be considered a planning tool to guide the urbanization of the countryside.[1]

Rural landscape preservation within the context of the National Park Service, as entertained in this project, explores the issues of resource protection, both cultural and natural, combined with interpretation of the site for visitor use. The Kestner-Higley homestead provides the opportunity to investigate the historic value of a site located in Olympic National Park and the rainforest environment of the Olympic Peninsula.

The National Park Service

The first National Park was created in the year 1872 with the establishment of Yellowstone National Park. Within the next forty years, thirty-four other areas were designated as National Parks, but with no central administration. This lack of any central authority began to be a problem as battles between developers and conservationists intensified during the first part of the twentieth century over what exactly a National Park should be. Every Park was responsible for setting its own policy and, as a result, policies varied widely from park to park and from year to year. Finally in 1916, with a push from conservationists, the National Park Service was formed and was given the task of setting policy for all parks. Specific policies would still vary among the parks, but would always follow the basic mandate: "to preserve the resource for generations to come, while at the same time providing for enjoyment by the general public."

Today the Park System has grown to include Monuments, Historic Parks, Battlefields, Parkways, Recreation Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers, along with the original large natural areas. The National Park System now includes over 76,000,000 acres of land nationwide. The National Parks have served as a model for nations around the world, and today there are National Parks and Reserves in more than 100 countries.

Olympic National Park

Conservation efforts for portions of the Olympic Peninsula date back to 1897 with the creation of the Olympic National Forest, and 1912 with the Mount Olympus National Monument. The idea of a National Park on a portion or all of the Olympic Peninsula was debated for years. First suggested as early on as 1890 by explorer James Wickersham, it did not become a reality, or even a possibility, for many years. The battle over the Olympic Peninsula was a classic debate between those seeking short term economic gain and those with a long term conservationist viewpoint.

The Olympic Peninsula had been used for years by native Americans as a productive hunting and fishing area. It was not until the 1850s that the first white settlement occurred, mainly on land around the east and north coastal fringes of the peninsula. During the next few decades, some of the settlements grew in size, but for the most part remained isolated from one another, as transportation routes were almost non-existent. By 1890 isolated settlement and individual homesteads ringed the entire peninsula, gradually moving up the valleys and around interior lakes to take advantage of fertile soils. Anyone with the desire could claim 160 acres for only $16. However farming in such a harsh environment never proved profitable for most and at the turn of

[1] Jane Silverman, "Rural America, Love it or Lose it", **Historic Preservation,** March/April 1981, p. 24.

the century only 341 claims had been taken, many of these soon abandoned. Trails were still the main mode of transportation, but they usually followed river courses, so were often unusable for most of the rainy season due to mud and floods. Rivers and lakes proved to be the best mode of transportation in many areas such as the Queets and Quinalt Valleys, and dug-out canoes were commonly used. Life was not easy for the settlers of the Olympic Peninsula, and the once predicted population boom never occurred. However the vast resource of timber still existed, and the desire of many to harvest this remained an obstacle to the creation of a National Park.

Finally, in 1938, after much debate, and with the support of community leaders, conservation groups, and the personal interest of Franklin Roosevelt, the dream of preservation became a reality and Olympic National Park was formed. In 1953 a coastal segment was also added to the park resulting in Olympic's present day size of 908,720 acres. Olympic National Park's vast diversity of plants, wildlife, and geologic features make it one of the most diverse areas on earth.

Mount Olympus sits within the rugged interior of the park at 7965 feet in elevation and is covered with over sixty glaciers with a total area of twenty-five square miles. In contrast to this world of rock and ice, the Western slopes extending toward the Pacific Ocean are a dense mid-latitude rain forest. This forest is made up of giant trees, including the nation's largest known specimens of Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar, and Douglas Fir. This area receives up to two hundred inches of rainfall annually. The area to the east of the mountains is quite arid in contrast to the rest of the park, and to the north and south meadows abound in the lower valleys, many of these once settled, but long since abandoned. Some 6000 elk roam the park today, along with black bear, black tailed deer, and mountain lion. The inclusion of the fifty miles of coastline greatly increased the parks already vast bio-diversity, consisting of long primitive beaches, steep cliffs, and many rugged islands, providing habitat for shore birds, sea lions and five species of seals.

Olympic National Park has received much world recognition and was named an International Biosphere Reserve in 1976 and a world Heritage Site in 1981. This has helped to insure the park's survival for years to come, and today Olympic is the fourth most visited park in the United States.

Park Goals and Plans for the Study Areas

In order to articulate long range planning for Olympic National Park, a Master Plan was prepared in 1976. It was a generalized, park-wide document that promoted cooperative, inter-agency recreation and resource planning on the peninsula, as a whole. By 1988, a series of subregional specific Development Concept Plans (DCP), with accompanying Environmental Assessments were prepared, serving as an intermediate step between the Master Plan and site-specific design proposals. Public comment on the alternatives of management and development was solicited, resulting in Final DCP documents, from which this study has used as initial guides for environmentally-sensitive design proposals.

A number of general management and design concepts have been promoted in the Ozette DCP. It emphasizes the esthetic, natural historical and recreational values of the coastal wilderness, which can be experienced in developed areas on and around Lake Ozette, and in the coastal wilderness by means of treks along the trail and boardwalk network. Cultural resources, including Roose's Prairie Homestead, have been more specifically cited. The DCP calls for the stabilization and maintenance of existing structures, and determination of dimensions and level of maintenance of the prairie surrounding those structures. By their absence in the text, it is implied that the existing nominal interpretation on the site is adequate, and non-directed cross-country trekking is preferred. By contrast, the cultural resources at Ahlstrom's Prairie and the Ozette Reservation archaeological site are considered as desirable public access sites with more thorough interpretation and protection

efforts expended. The Quinault DCP calls for expanded experiential opportunities in the temperate rainforest. Solitude and intimacy at several interpretive sites should contrast with the more-developed south shore of Lake Quinault. Multi-agency information and interpretive centers strategically located along US 101 are suggested to direct visitors to sites where rainforest ecology, and western peninsula homesteading at the Kestner property, are examined more closely. The Park desires to continue the willing seller program of home acquisition in the valley. Other long-term objectives include enhancement of elk habitat, preserving the extant old growth forests, and improving the visual quality along the lake's circumferential roads. New and rehabilitated buildings in the valley should reflect the specific architectural character of Quinault Ranger Station and Kestner-Higley Homestead.

As specifically regards the Kestner-Higley Homestead, the DCP suggests weighting interpretation of rainforest ecology over pioneer homesteading. This should include restoration of some structures and the orchard, adaptive reuse of other buildings, and removal of yet others as necessary. By restoring the orchard with historic Quinault cultivars, active and passive interpretation, and public harvesting could expand seasonal use of the site. The existing pastures could be used for trail crew livestock. Handicapped access via close proximity parking is desirable. An expanded network of nature trails, potentially connecting with the Van der Water Homestead (Quinault Ranger Station) , are suggested. A rainforest ecosystem research center has been proposed , with adaptive reuse of some of the buildings optional. Finally, the ancillary N.P.S. residential and maintenance facilities in the area could be consolidated to a single site, relocated near Kestner, aiding efforts to restore former elk habitat.

Historical Context of the Olympic Peninsula

By the time white settlers reached the Peninsula, four Indian reservations had been established at Makah, Quileute, Hoh, and Quinault River mouths. During the 1850's "settlers. . . began claiming land around the east and north coastal fringes of the peninsula" in about 20 towns. Some of these were at Port Townsend, Sequim, and Dungeness. During the 1860-1880's "infant colonies were established." Some of these were at La Push, Clallam Bay, and Pysht. During the 1880-1890's "isolated settlements and individual homesteaders circled the uninhabited core of the Olympic Peninsula." In 1891 Homesteaders interested in farming began to move inland. "Favored sites of the 1880-1890's" were at Lakes Crescent, Ozette, Quinault, and Cushman, and along Morse and Elmis creeks and the Elwha, Doleduck, Bogachiel, Hoh, Queets, and the Quinault Rivers. Anton Kestner settled in the Quinault area in 1893. By this time, Orte Higley had built the beginning of the Quinault Lodge . Also , the first school of the Quinault area had been built in 1892.

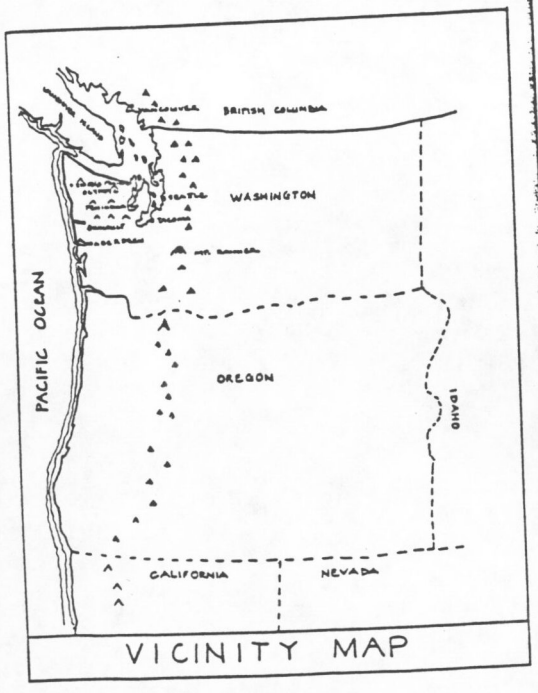
The Kestners were typical settlers who first built a small cabin and cleared a vegetable plot. This pattern was set up in the sales agreement from the U.S government which stated that the settlers must build and cultivate their land in order to claim it. The Kestners had to face the same problem as all settlers on the peninsula; this land is conducive to rain forest, and any land left unwatched would soon be filled in by succession. Most settlers of the peninsula gave up their battles with the rain forest within 10 years of starting. However, the settlers of the Quinault Valley had a few things going for them. They could transport supplies and produce by boat across Lake Quinault and on the Quinault River. The people of the community were helping each other. As new technology was introduced and added to their lives, it became easier to keep the fields clear, build sound structures, to hunt, to protect themselves, and to transport supplies and produce. The introduction of the timber industry to the area gave these people more income. Later, the Kestners cleared and slashed acreage for fields of clover/grass crop rotation. Kestner built three barns, one of which is 54' x 112'. This is considered to be the largest barn of that time. The Kestner

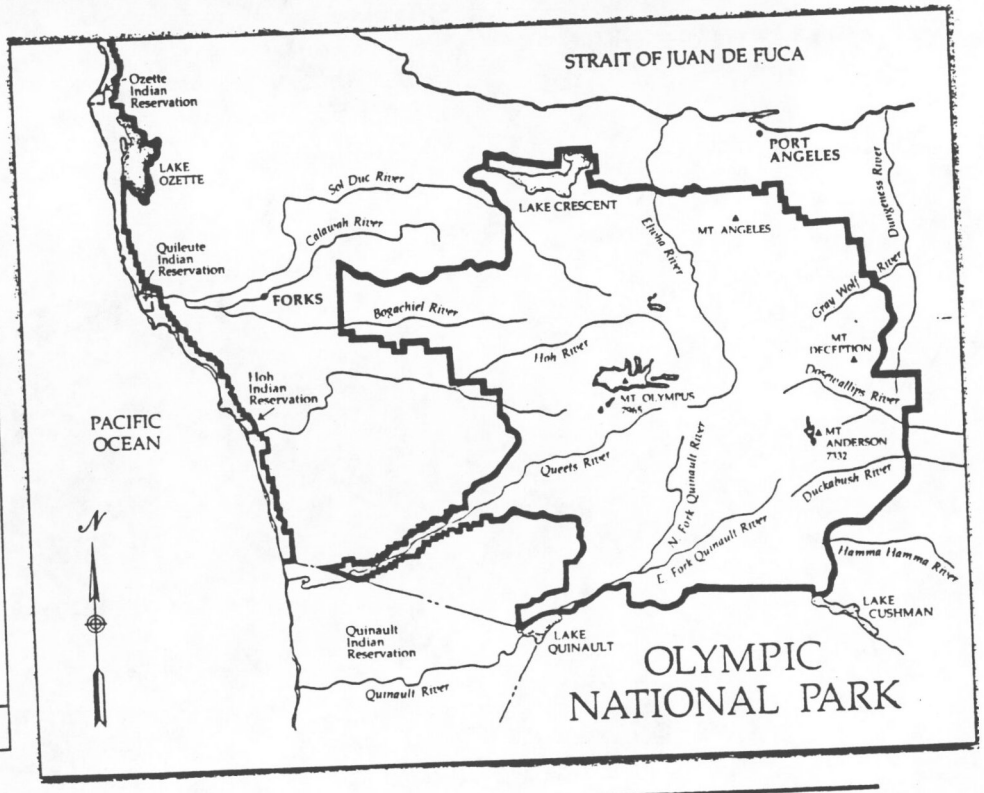
homestead supported cattle and sheep. Until the roads were built in the 1920's , the most reliable means of transportation for produce and supplies was boat. Therefore , a factor of the Kestner homestead's success was its locality near Lake Quinault and Quinault River. Also, before these more reliable roads were built, a puncheon road was built in 1895 which connected Quinault to Humptulips.

Anton Kestner died in the early 1930's. His wife Josephia lived on the homestead for nine more years until she died. Josephia was the sixth woman settler of the peninsula. The Kestner's children were Orlo, Josephine, Carrie, John, Clara, and Rose. These children became the heirs of the homestead. They tried to rent it with destructive results. Finally, the homestead was abandoned until it was sold to Orlo Higley in 1944.

Alfred Higley settled on his homestead about the same time the Kestners settled. His homestead was near Kestner's at the northernmost tip of Lake Quinault. Alfred supported his homestead by holding the job of postmaster. He also transported people and their things across the lake. He continued to be important to the Quinault community until he died. He helped with the road to Humptulips and was the justice of the peace at some point. Alfred's son Orte started the Quinault Lodge in 1890. Orlo is Orte's son. By 1897 Quinault was a town with approximately 100 settlers. The purchase of the Quinault area for the Olympic Forest Reserve ended the settlement boom.

The same science and technology advances which were helping these people with continuing in the Quinault Valley, was helping people in general understand the need to protect, preserve, and manage our natural resources. This understanding eventually lead the National Park Service to realizing the importance of the Olympic Peninsula in its original state of rain forest. This natural resource is needed to create oxygen on a whole earth view, and to house a local ecology which we are responsible to continue as well as the human culture which depends on this local ecology. In 1940 a Presidential Proclamation added the north side of Quinault Lake to the Olympic National Park. This act hindered the occupants of that land from making long term plans of development. However, the Higley's did have tourism to the park to thank for the success of the Quinault Lodge. As far as there homestead was concerned, the Higleys put their energy into carrying on controversy with the Department of the Interior. The homestead was sold to Olympic National Park in 1987.





• ROOSE'S PRAIRIE HOMESTEAD •

Site History

Roose's prairie homestead was settled around 1908 by Peter Roose, a Swedish immigrant who came to America in the early 1900's. He was with the second wave of Scandanavian settlers to come to the Ozette Area of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state.

Eric and Nels, Peter's brothers, and one sister also immigrated to the U.S.A. and it was Nels who built the first cabin on Roose's Prairie.

Peter had first settled in Everett or Puyallup, Washington . His girlfriend was a school teacher in the community and according to a written account of his life by his niece, "he owned a car and dressed nicely." When Peter found out that he had tuberculosis and ulcers, he left his girlfriend and moved to the cabin on the prairie about 1908.

The homestead was located near Lake Ozette, about two miles from the Cape Alava trail. Another Trail from the prairie to the Pacific ocean ended near Cannonball Island, where Washington State now has an archaeological site. Peter's neighbor was Lars Ahlstrom another Swede from the same town of Volman, Sweden. Lars settled on a prairie just south west of Roose's Prairie. Although Peter had a good relationship with brother Eric, who settled in Port Angeles, his relationship with Ahlstrom was less than friendly. They quarreled constantly and often did not get along even though they did work at the same mill camps.

Roose's prairie included a number of structures which were built from the timber cut on Roose's property. The history of the first cabin is uncertain, however, in the late 1920's, Peter built his own small house. He also constructed a saw mill, perhaps prior to his cabin which housed a motor from a floundered ship and brought to the prairie on the Cape Alava trail by a Go devil, a triangular horse drawn sled. Peter also built a barn which housed sheep and a horse, an Australian sheepdog named Spence and a chicken. His livelihood depended on his resourcefulness including raising sheep selling the pressure cooked and canned mutton to the lightships located off of Cape Alava. He had between 20 - 30 ewes and at one time, had as many as 70 sheep. The prairie was probably fenced to keep animals out of his vegetable gardens. They grazed in the open ares of the prairie which possibly had been cleared by Indians prior to his occupation of the site. He also sold strawberries and raspberries that he grew on the homestead.

Peter was a good carpenter like his father and he built the structures that are on the homestead site. He was hired to supply wood for the school at Lake Ozette that was built in 1927.

Roose had a good relationship with the Indians of the peninsula. To prove they were not hostile, they would put their weapons on the wood block when they visited Roose at the homestead. They would come to Roose when they needed things and they would bring items to trade for their necessities.

Roose was thought to be eccentric by his niece who often visited and invited Roose to visit her family. He was a good conversationalist when the mood struck him and he got along with most people who referred to him as 'Prairie Pete'. He would receive letters from his sister in Sweden asking him why he lived alone and away from other people and this bothered him. Gertrude, his niece constantly reassured him that it was fine to live the way he did.

In 1940, Roose was told by a doctor that he had cancer. He had never wanted to see a dentist and tended to his own dental needs himself by using a hammer and chisel to pull his own teeth. He would not get false teeth. This self-inflicted dentistry may have been the cause of his mouth cancer. Although he received treatment, his cancer seemed to have spread more rapidly after this. He thought the cancer may have been caused when he scalded his mouth while drinking something to

hot. He lived only two years after this. Although there is some discrepancy about this, Gertrude said he died about 1943-4, while his great nephew thought he died in 1948.

Roose did not want anyone to pay for his funeral because he knew the state would pay for it. Gertrude and her husband did not think this would be a proper funeral so they paid for a better one. Relatives were said to have taken few possessions after he died and Lars Ahlstrom shot Roose's old chicken. Peter Roose is believed to be buried at Sea View Cemetery in Port Angeles, Washington.

Site Description

Located within the rainforest on the Olympic Peninsula, Roose's Prairie exists as a cleared area in a landscape of lush vegetation. The site is an intriguing, mysterious place. It has a sense of abandonment that compels the visitor to explore and interpret what might have been when it was a working homestead. A description of Roose's Prairie begins at the trailhead leading to the site.

Parking is available at the Ozette Ranger Station and from here a boardwalk trail leads off into the dense rainforest. The trail is very old but is well maintained. There is evidence of new structural reinforcements along the trail. The boardwalk follows the natural topography of the landscape carrying the visitor through the forest, past lichen covered trees and thickets of huckleberries.

About forty-five minutes down this trail one leaves the boardwalk and heads northward along another trail. This second trail is not nearly as well defined and at points is no more than a suggestion of a cleared path in a landscape of thick shrubby growth. Approximately fifteen minutes into the walk the trail seems to end at a thick stand of salal. At the other side of this vegetation the landscape suddenly opens up into the clearing of Peter Roose's homestead. The main house and the well can both be seen from this point. There is a sign on the house explaining some of its history, and although it is locked, viewing though the windows is encouraged (See Photos). From the front of the house, looking north, one can see the immediate prairie and a barn in the distance. The prairie, as well as the site in general, is in a state of transition. The surrounding rainforest is fast encroaching on the formerly cleared area. Evidence of succession including small trees, overgrown fencelines,and a thick shrubby layer can be found throughout the site (see photo). Many of the special mysterious qualities that characterize the homestead are due to this "state of transition".

About 150 feet west of the main house is a root house (see photo). The structure is reasonably intact and one can find relic tools inside of the building. Thirty feet north of this building are the remains of what was once a sawmill (see photo). In the surrounding wooded area are piles of cut wood, shingles, and various pieces of old machinery.

Back out on the prairie it is difficult, but possible to follow the fencelines defining the perimeter of the area. There are both picket and split-rail fences. Their condition ranges from relatively intact to rotting posts and fallen rails.

The barn on the homestead is located in the northeast corner of the prairie (see photo). There is evidence of a former extension of the barn visible on the north side of the structure. East of the barn the land takes on the characteristics of a bog and bracken ferns become the predominant vegetation. Throughout the site signs of wildlife are apparent.

South of the barn, almost completely engulfed by vegetation, is the outhouse. By picking one's way through the shrubs, it is possible to gain access to and inspect this rapidly decaying structure.

Directly west of the outhouse, around a large stand of trees and shrubs, are the well, a birdfeeder, and the main house. To the north of this area, completely obscured by a band of hemlock and spruce, there is a second prairie. This second prairie is much larger, but like the first it is undergoing a natural successional process.

Spruce and hemlock comprise most of the surrounding woodlands. Salal exists in abundance throughout most of site, often forming dense, virtually impenetrable mats. There is a large cherry tree northeast of the main house, and additional cherry trees towards the northwest corner of the immediate prairie. Nettles surround the edges of the barn, with ilex and digitalis also noted in this area.

Roose's Prairie is a site that few people know about, and fewer still have experienced. It exists as a relic homestead within a dynamic landscape depicting the pioneer history of the Olympic Peninsula.

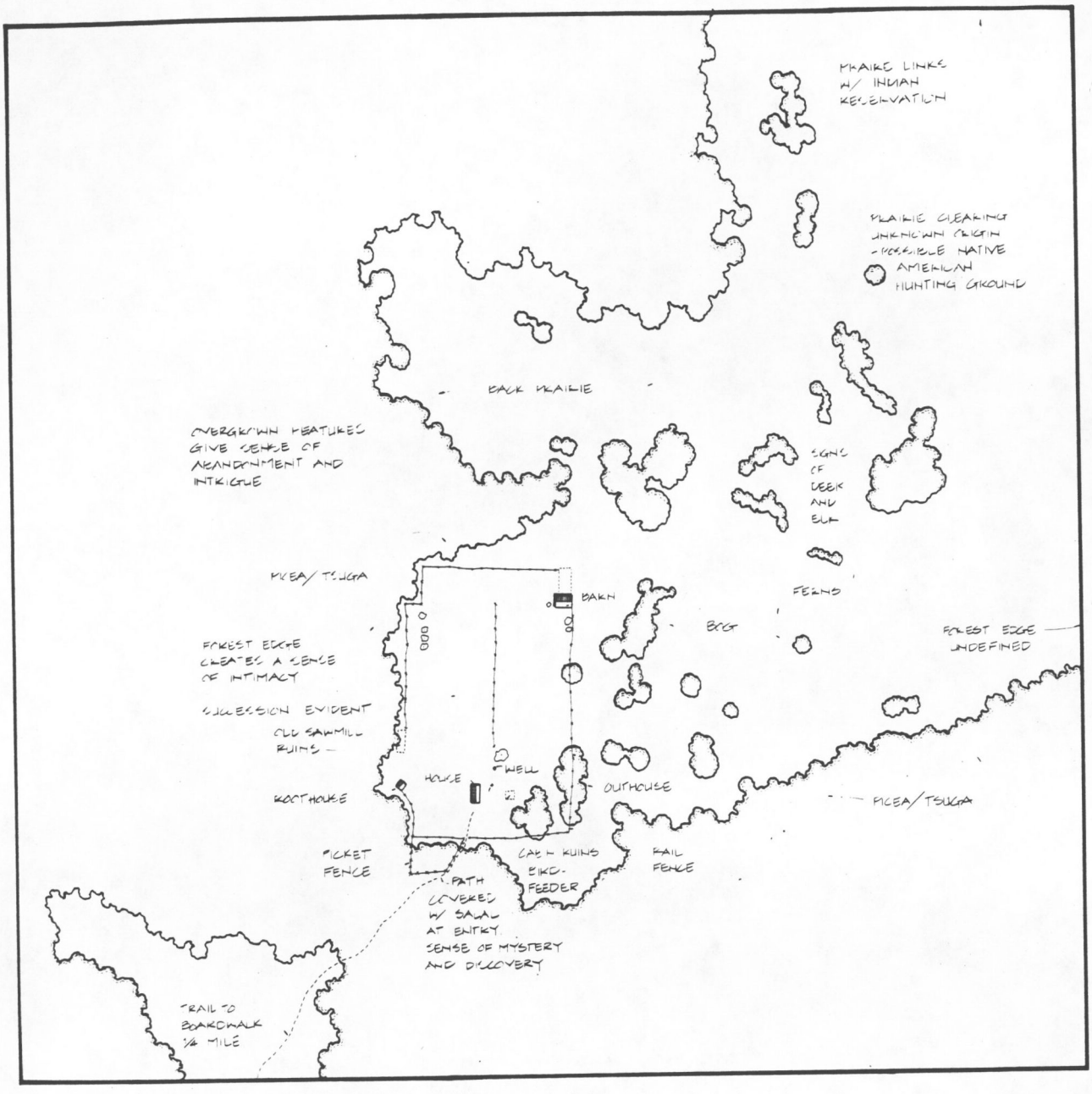
Management Guidelines

The studio developed the following management guidelines as proposals for the Roose's Prairie site. Some of the guidelines were accepted unanimously by the studio, while others were of minority acceptance or rejected.

Unanimous acceptance
Prevent further decay of buildings
Clear fencelines of vegetation
Clear sightlines to north prairie areas
Upgrade interpretive displays
Protect site in state of transition
Retain prairie as viable historic site within Olympic National Park

Minority acceptance
Clear and maintain trail to prairie site
Clear fields
Remove all vegetation determined older than 40 years old

Rejected
Restore immediate prairie to 1930 state
Replace orchard trees
Restore fallen buildings



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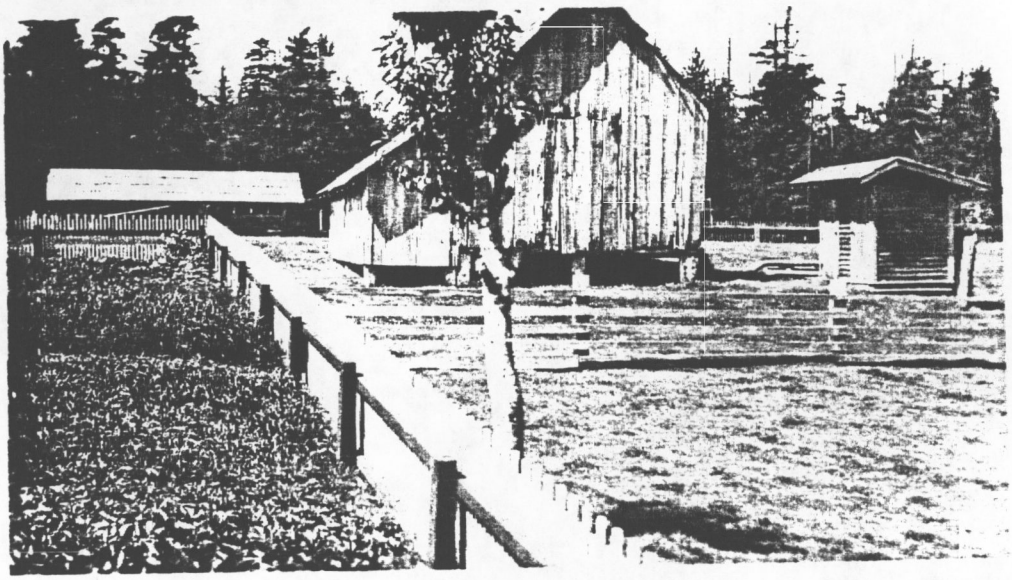
HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

ROOSE'S PRAIRIE

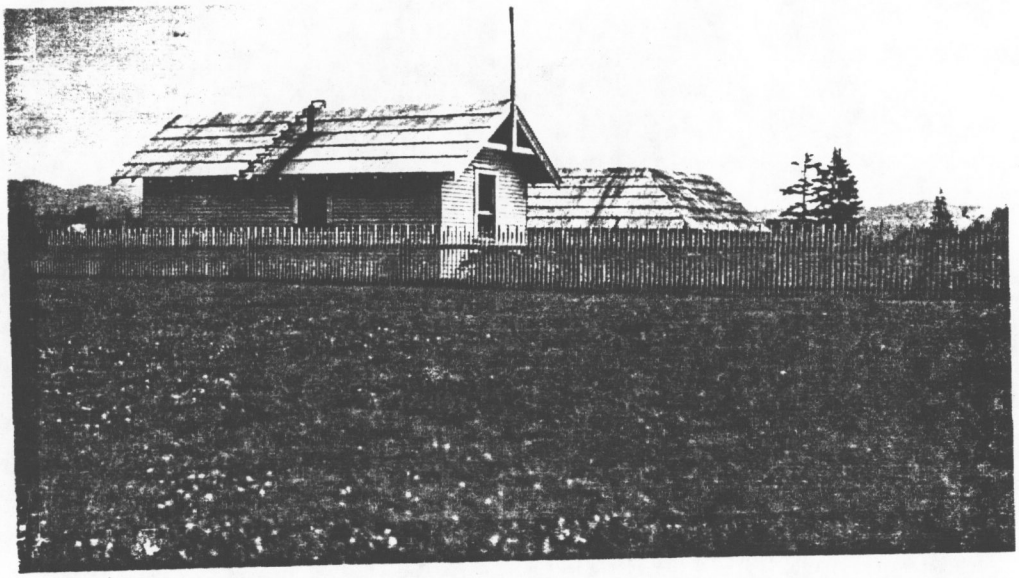
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DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

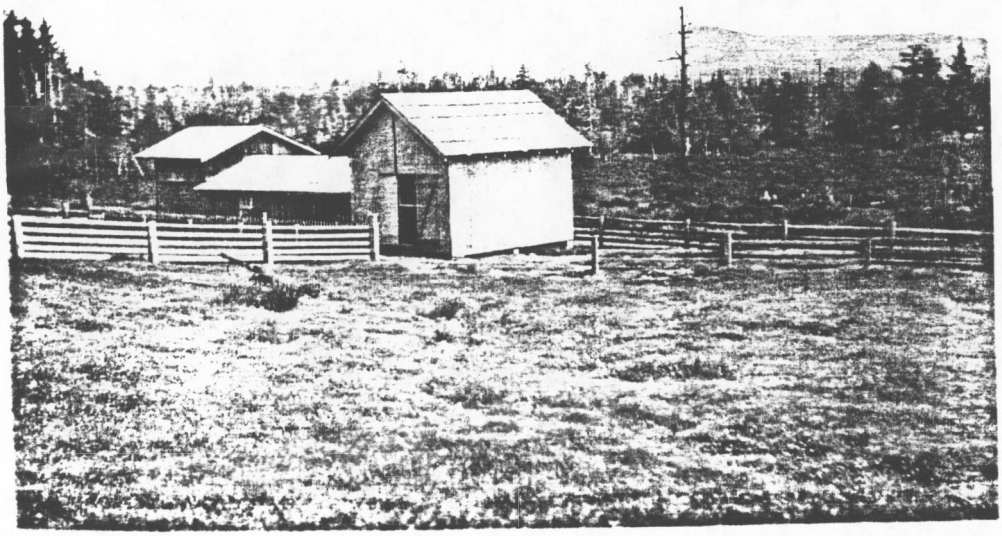
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ROOSE'S PRAIRIE
SAWMILL AND BARN
1940



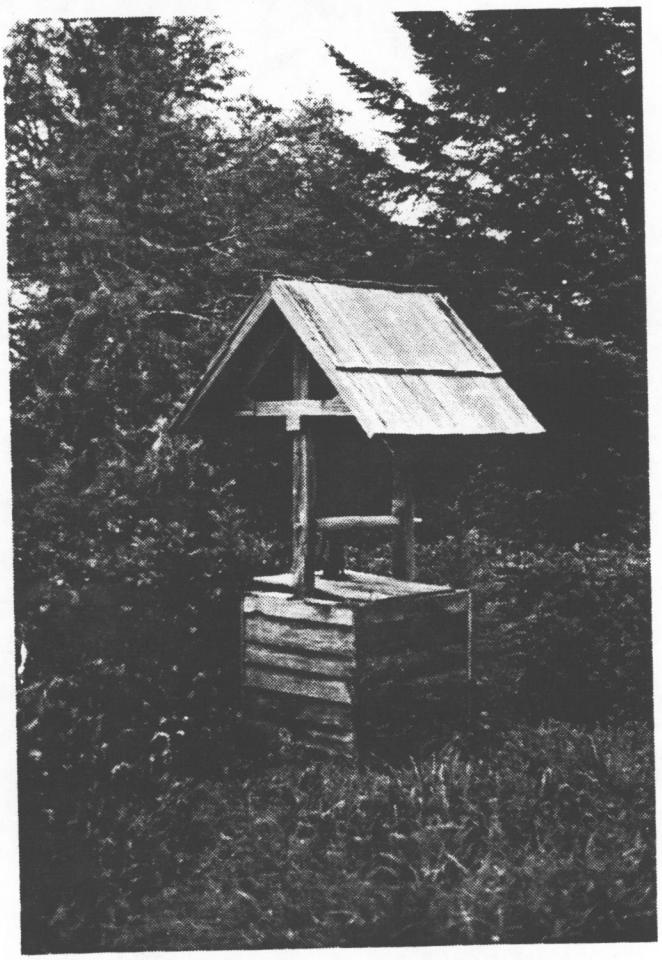
ROOSE'S PRAIRIE
HOUSE
1940



ROOSE'S PRAIRIE
SHEEP BARN
1940



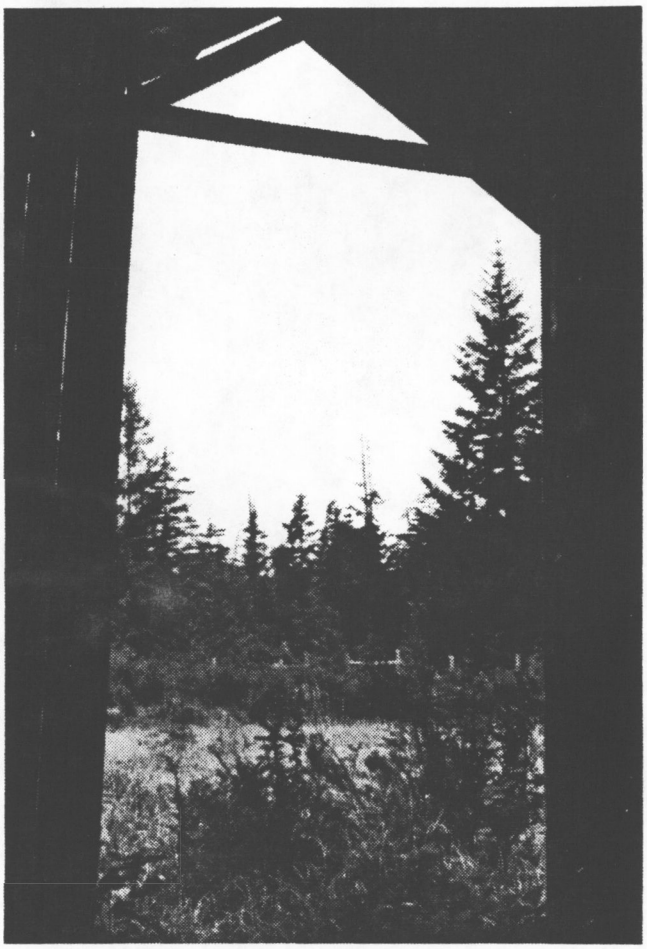
Main House



View of well



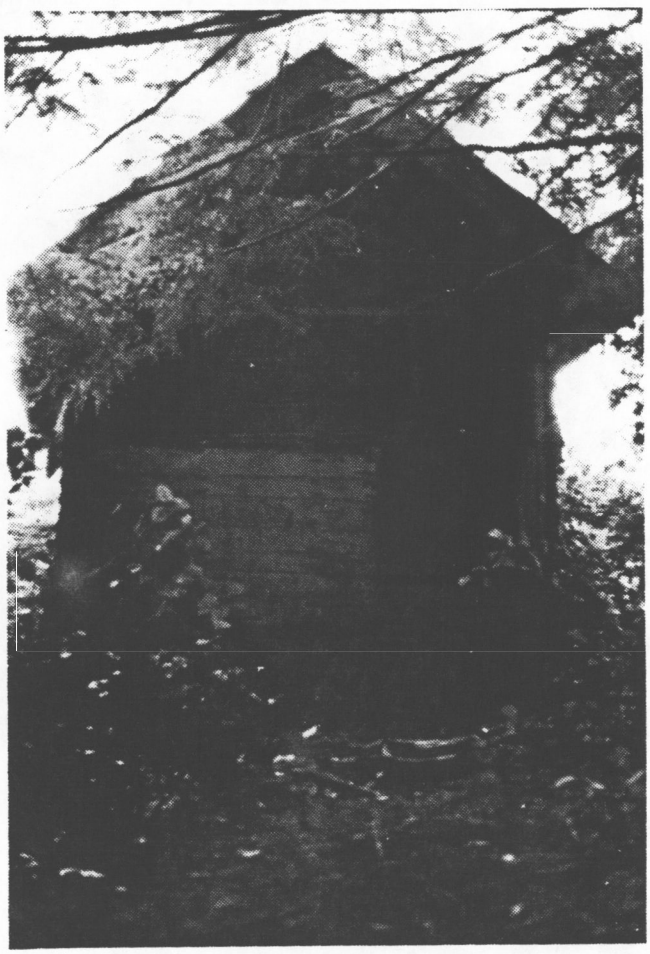
Barn



View of prairie from barn



View of fallen sawmill



Roothouse

• KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD •

Site History

Kestner Higley Homestead is the oldest surviving settler-built homestead still existing in the Quinault Valley on the Olympic Peninsula, Washington.It was established by Anton and Josepha Kestner , Austrian immigrants , who came to the valley in the 1890's. Anton took a homestead grant in 1891 and Josepha joined him with their two sons Joseph Andotto in 1892. Mrs. Kestner was one of the first white woman to settle in the Quinault valley.

During their first winter in the valley, they lost practically everything ,including their first house in the high water flood of the Quinault. The first house was built on land which Anton cleared the difficult way by cutting ,burning and digging the forest by hand and without clearing equipment . At this time the area was covered with old growth fir, spruce, hemlock and cedar. The materials were moved to the site by go-devil drawn by oxen. The buildings were constructed by cutting the cedar into usable river split boards . The huge trees were felled with an axe, then cut into desired lengths and split into boards with wooden wedges that were forced into the logs with crab apple wood mallets. After the first house was washed away with the flooding of the Finley Creek which flooded into Kestner Creek they established their second on the present site.

This second house was built around 1900 and was considered one of the most substantial houses in the area. It was built with more modern tools such as iron wedges and sledge hammers, crosscut saws and levels and rivets for splitting shakes. The house was built of logs hewn on four sides to 6"x 6" thickness. They were covered by hand-shaved shakes and scaled inside with split cedar boards , hand-plained , rabitted and then laid vertically. This covers the exterior of the house and hides the fact that it is a log house. Concrete was not available, so the cedar foundation logs were laid on the ground full size.

Site Description

The Kestner-Higley homestead site is a landscape of many facets within a very unique rainforest environment. The feeling created by people's intervention is still present within the existing fencelines and makes for a distinct sense of place.

Access to the Kestner - Higley homestead site is obtained in two ways: walking an old logging road west and to the north of the Quinault Ranger Station, and a drive east and north from the station of five minutes. The walking route is a journey through second growth forest of bigleaf maple, Hemlock, Sitka Spruce, vine maple, red alder, salmon berry, blackberry, huckleberry, and various other second growth species. Also evident are the large stumps from old growth lumber harvesting, and some older trees which were a result of historic selective cuttings. Also seen on the logging road trail are an old rusting truck body and a large log skid which indicate the prior use of the area. The first glimpse of the homestead is the large barn appearing on the edge of the existing homestead clearing. The auto route follows North Shore road east and north to Canoe Creek road. Just north of this intersection on Canoe Creek road is the eastern entrance to the homestead.



barn at end of logging road trail

The homestead is an area comprised of cleared land, formerly cleared land, land in various stages of succession, planted areas, a complex of buildings, a bridge, fences and other miscellaneous materials associated with the function of farming and ranching. The buildings are in various states of disrepair. The largest and most prominent building is the barn. It is an example of the timber frame construction historically used for this type of structure. Parts of the barn are in a dilapidated condition. Just across the path and to the north and east is a small shed which has fallen. To the east of the fallen shed is a covered- open shed structure. There is a pit under the roof of this structure most likely used for vehicle maintenance. Directly east of the barn is a small, one room building which is standing and appears sound. Because of its location this building could have served as the root cellar or tac room for the homestead. East of this structure is the house, which exists in two distinct parts indicating an addition at some time during the homestead's history. South of the house in the orchard area is a small shed, which is half fallen, and was most recently used as storage of a children's playhouse. Because of its location, historically it was probably used for stock related activities. North of the house is a large metal shed, the most recent addition to the complex of buildings. It seems to be a general purpose storage facility. The final structure, other than the bridge and fences, on the site is a small shed to the east of the metal shed. This shed has a small inclosed room and a small covered area connected to it.

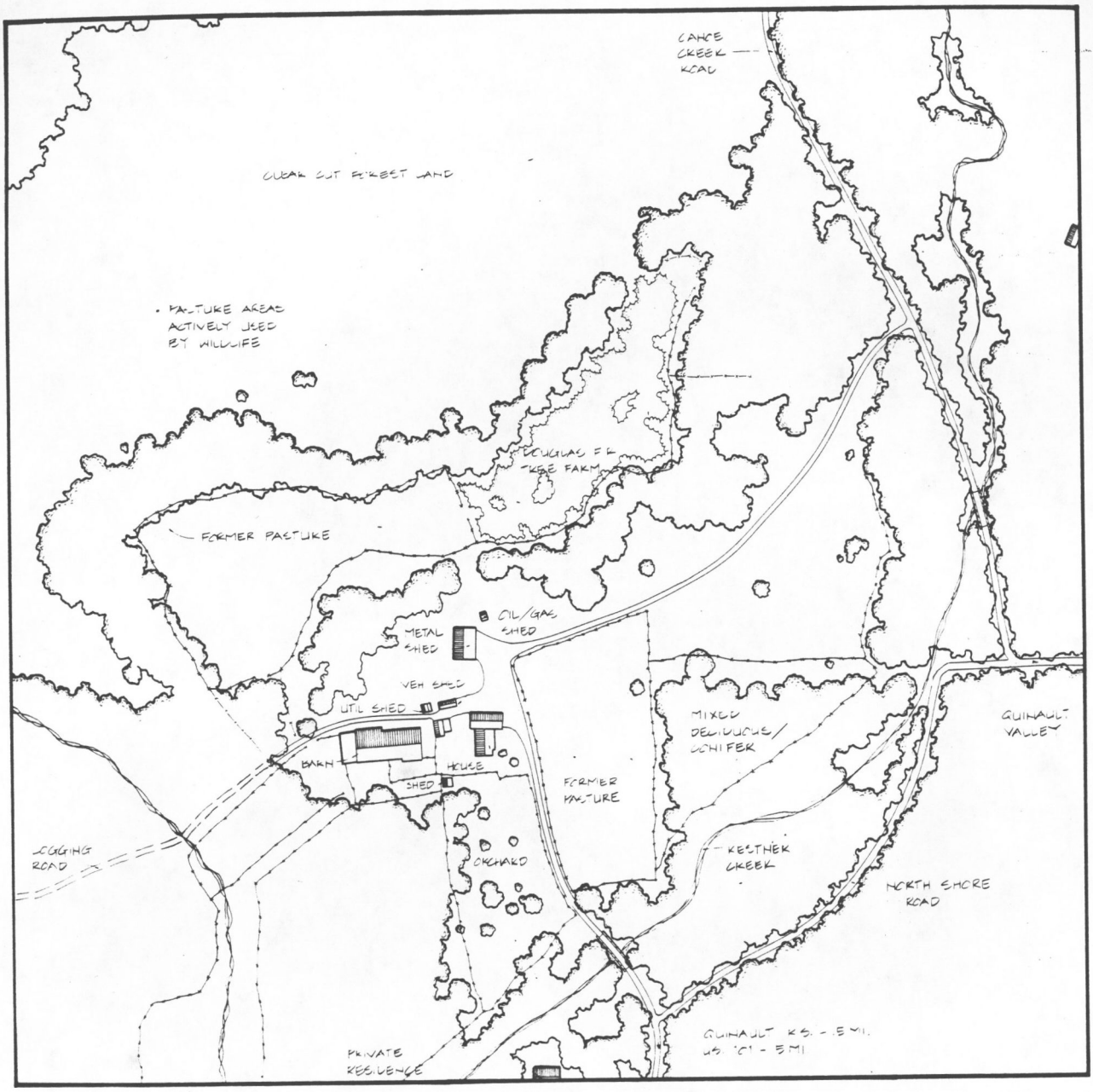


barn, root cellar, and house

The area just to the south of the house is a fenced orchard. There are apple, pear, and cherry trees present. The split-rail fences around the orchard are well intact. It appears many of the original plantings in this area have died due to the scattered location of the existing trees within the fenced area. To the west of orchard are two similarly overgrown areas within fences. The thirty to forty year old vegetation and existence of fence lines indicate the area was logged at one time and probably used as pasture. Areas around the building complex as yet have not been taken over by encroachment of the forest. To the north of the barn is a flat grassy area where an old junked truck and other old vehicles along with other scrap has been left. The northern border of this area is forest vegetation which has grown up on the banks of a small seasonal creek. The creek runs northeast to southwest through the site. This vegetation also creates the southern border for the northern pasture areas. There are two large and distinct areas within the northern-most fencelines. The western portion is a grassy pasture being quickly overtaken by young alder species succession. The eastern portion is an area which has been planted in douglas fir trees. The trees are ten to fifteen years old and seem to have been specifically placed. The northern most fences on the site separate this pasture area from a once clear cut area now existing in the midst of succession. There are multiple signs of bear, elk and deer in this area. The eastern most boundary of the homestead is Canoe Creek road. The eastern entrance to the site begins a dirt road which runs west to the complex of buildings through a grassy area of the southern pastures. These areas are divided into a western unfenced area and a fenced area closer to the buildings where the fences have been upgraded to accommodate stock animals. Between this fenced area and the split-rail fence of the orchard, the road runs north and south from the buildings to North Shore road. It crosses Kestner creek (the site's southern border) via an old wooden bridge which is somewhat dilapidated and presently closed from vehicular use.



landscape (looking south)



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON - EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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Building Descriptions

Homestead

The original south portion of the homestead was built in 1897 by Antone Kestner. It is of log construction with cedar shingles that flare at the base. The original cedar log foundation, which was laid directly on the ground, was replaced in 1948 with concrete piers. The steep gable roof at the south portion is constructed of log rafters.

The north portion of the homestead comprising the garage, breezeway and west porch was constructed in 1973-74 by Orlo Higley. This addition is of post and beam construction with board and batten siding. The foundation is a concrete slab on grade. The shallower gable roof at the north addition is constructed of dimension lumber. The entire roof is sheathed in cedar shingles. The roofline is interrupted by three chimneys; two of brick and one of concrete block. The east porch replaces an earlier gabled entry. This porch is an extension of the old roofline and is supported by rough columns with brackets. Unusual wood trough gutters supported by brackets drain the south roof.

The homestead is comprised of many types of doors and windows. A few of the original wood sash remain, but many have been replaced with metal sliding windows. The homestead can be entered from the east through a flush wood door or a pair of metal sliding glass doors. The interior of the house was extensively remodeled in the 1950's with new partitions and finishes.

Tack Shed

This 11/2 story rectangular building is constructed of rough hewn logs with split pole chinking inside and cedar shingles outside. The gable roof is constructed of log rafters and sheathed with cedar shales about 2 feet in length. The north gable end of the shed is sheathed in beveled lap siding. The foundation logs have rotted out and the structure has been stabilized with concrete piers and large pieces of logs. A shelter has been added to the east side; a shed roof supported by three rough posts. A double hung wood window on the north side has been nailed shut. A plywood door accesses the north side of the tack shed and a rough board door accesses the south side. The south door has one light. A loft is accessed from a ladder.

Barn

The barn is a very irregular and rambling structure of post and beam construction. Many of the posts and beams are rough logs. The exterior of the barn is sheathed in vertical rough boards. The roof is constructed of log rafters and sheathed with cedar shakes about 2 feet in length, and some areas have corrugated metal roofing. A shed roofed livestock shelter is located to the west of the barn. The south side of the barn has shed roof extensions of a shallower slope than the main gabel. Rough posts or logs support these extensions.

Utility Shed

This 11/2 story square building has a timber foundation with wood frame construction and rough lap siding. The gable roof has exposed purlins and is sheathed in cedar shakes. The lean-to addition to the west has a corrugated metal roof that extends from the ridge of the main gable.

Vehicle Repair Shed

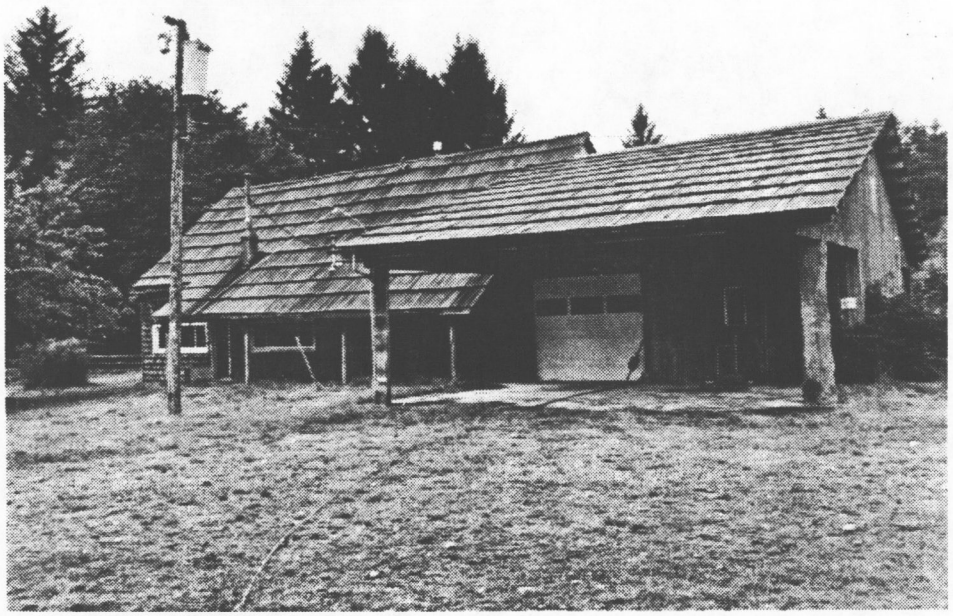
This one story post and beam structure has a log and timber foundation. The gable roof is sheathed with cedar shakes. The structure was used for vehicle maintenance. Vehicles were driven in at the east end onto two boards located over an access pit. A platform is located at the west end.

Metal Shed

This two story rectangular shed is of post and beam construction with wood roof trusses. Both the roof and walls are clad with standing rib metal sheathing. The east side has two large sliding doors and a plywood door. The west side has one large and one small sliding door. All doors are sheathed the same as the walls and roof. Two small metal sliding windows are located on the south side.

Oil and Gas Shed

This 11/2 story rectangular building has a timber foundation. The shed area to the north is of wood frame construction clad with corrugated metal sheathing. The gable ends are clad in cedar shingles. The gable roof on the north has exposed rafters and cedar shakes. The lean-to addition to the south has a cedar shake roof that extends from the ridge of the main gable. This post and beam lean-to has a timber foundation which supports a loading dock.



Homestead, looking southwest



Tack shack, looking southeast



Barn, looking northwest



Utility shed, looking northeast



Vehicle maintenance shed, looking southwest



Metal shed, looking northwest



Gas and oil shed, looking east

• LISA ANDERSON •

CONCEPT

Upon arriving at the Kestner-Higley Homestead, it becomes apparent that it is a special historic place. The conditions that exist on the site; the building cluster and it's relationship to the surrounding open fields, remnant orchard, overgrown fencelines, invite the visitor to explore and try to understand the historic uses of the buildings and the landscape.

The design concept for the homestead is rooted in reflecting the current historical "feeling" of the site. By transforming the currently unoccupied site into an actively used area where visitors can participate in various activities, it becomes possible to enhance the visitors experience of this special place. The concept can be summarized as enhancing the experience of exploring and interpreting at the Kestner-Higley Homestead by encouraging visitors to actively use the homestead and interact with the surrounding landscape.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Restore (ADAPTIVE RE-USE)
*Barn***,Tack Shed, Utility Shed, Vehicle Repair Shed, *Orchard
Maintain *existing cleared fields (grazing animals),*existing fencelines (repair and replace as necessary)
Construct *Fire Ring (see design drawing),*Picnic Shelter***,*New Building***
Remove *Green Metal Shed, *Relic Automobiles
Develop*Trail System--Loop trail linking Homestead to Quinault Ranger Station. Will be a well-defined, gravel trail with areas of boardwalk where it crosses especially wet areas and stream beds.--On site interpretive trails will be defined, compacted gravel trails through the wooded areas of the site. Where the trails cross open fields, they will be informal, implied trails.

***See "Design" description for further explanation.

DESIGN

The overall design involves **adaptive re-use** of the homestead, converting the site into a retreat facility that accommodates groups as well as individuals. The design preserves and enhances the historical qualities that exist on the site while increasing the visitor's interaction with the buildings and surrounding landscape. The core area of the site includes the historic building cluster, orchard, new building, picnic shelter, and adjacent field. The barn will be restored and converted into a facility for group meetings, dances and covered sitting areas. It will maintain its rustic character so that the visitor will have the experience of being in a historic barn when using this facility.

Adjacent to the barn will be the new building facility. The building will contain sleeping, kitchen, and bathroom facilities to accommodate 25 visitors. The building will be designed and constructed to reflect the same time period as the barn and other historic buildings on the site. A caretaker will reside in the main house and be in charge of managing the facility.

Parking for visitors will be adjacent to the new building and will be visually screened from the core area by vegetation. When necessary, additional parking can be accommodated in the open field just south of the entry road onto the site. The tree line marking the northern boundary of the core

area will be extended southward. Additional trees and shrubs typical of the adjacent woodlands will be added in this area.

At the edge of this tree line will be a covered picnic shelter. It will consist of a barbeque area, covered seating and will be situated so as to encourage picknicking in the surrounding field. The field, at the heart of the site surrounded by buildings and woodlands, will be planted in native grasses and kept cleared.

A trail system will be established throughout the site in order to guide visitors to some of the more interesting areas of the surrounding landscape, and will control the environmental impact of foot traffic on the site. The fields that are currently cleared will retain this quality, via grazing, as this open characteristic is vital to the overall historic feeling that currently exists on the site.

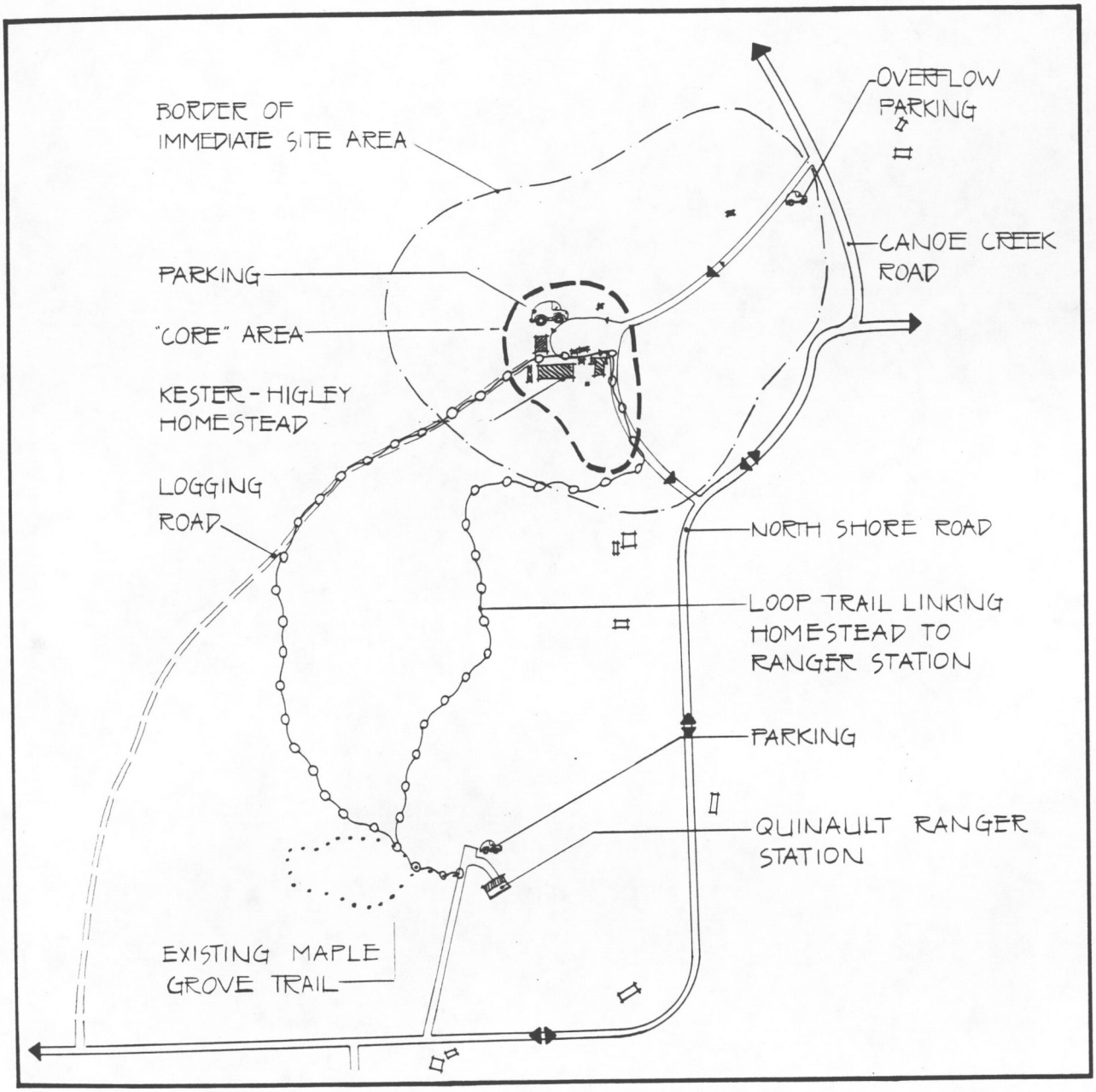
A loop trail will be developed linking Quinault Ranger Station to the homestead. Although the site will be a retreat facility, visitors will be welcome to visit the site on a more informal basis. Many of these visitors will originate at the ranger station. Interpretive information about the site and its history will be available at the ranger station as well as on-site. This information will outline the trail system and encourage self-guided interpretive walks throughout the area.

In the woods, a few minutes walk northeast of the new building, a outdoor fire ring will be constructed. Its function is to provide a special place for informal outdoor meetings (especially evening meetings). It will be a covered facility accommodating 25-30 people (see design drawing).

NATIONAL REGISTER

The Kestner-Higley Homestead site does not qualify for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The "period of significance" of the site spanned from 1890-1920. This is the time when the Kestners pioneered the area, cleared the land and established their homestead. The major impact that the Kestners had on the landscape was "opening up" large areas of what was rainforest and using these areas fo farm and graze animals.

The site is one of the last remaining examples of a pioneer homestead in Olympic National Park and in the Pacific Northwest, thus it is a significant historic site. The main characteristic that reflects the "period of significance" is very large areas of cleared rainforest. The natural successional process occurring in the encroaching rainforest has changed this characteristic significantly. Short of reclearing many acres of rainforest in an attempt to reinstate the open fields as they occurred during the site's "period of significance", it is not possible to assess the site as having integrity. Because of this lack of integrity, the site no longer reflects the "period of significance" and thus is ineligible for National Register nomination.



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Lisa Anderson

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON - EUGENE, OREGON

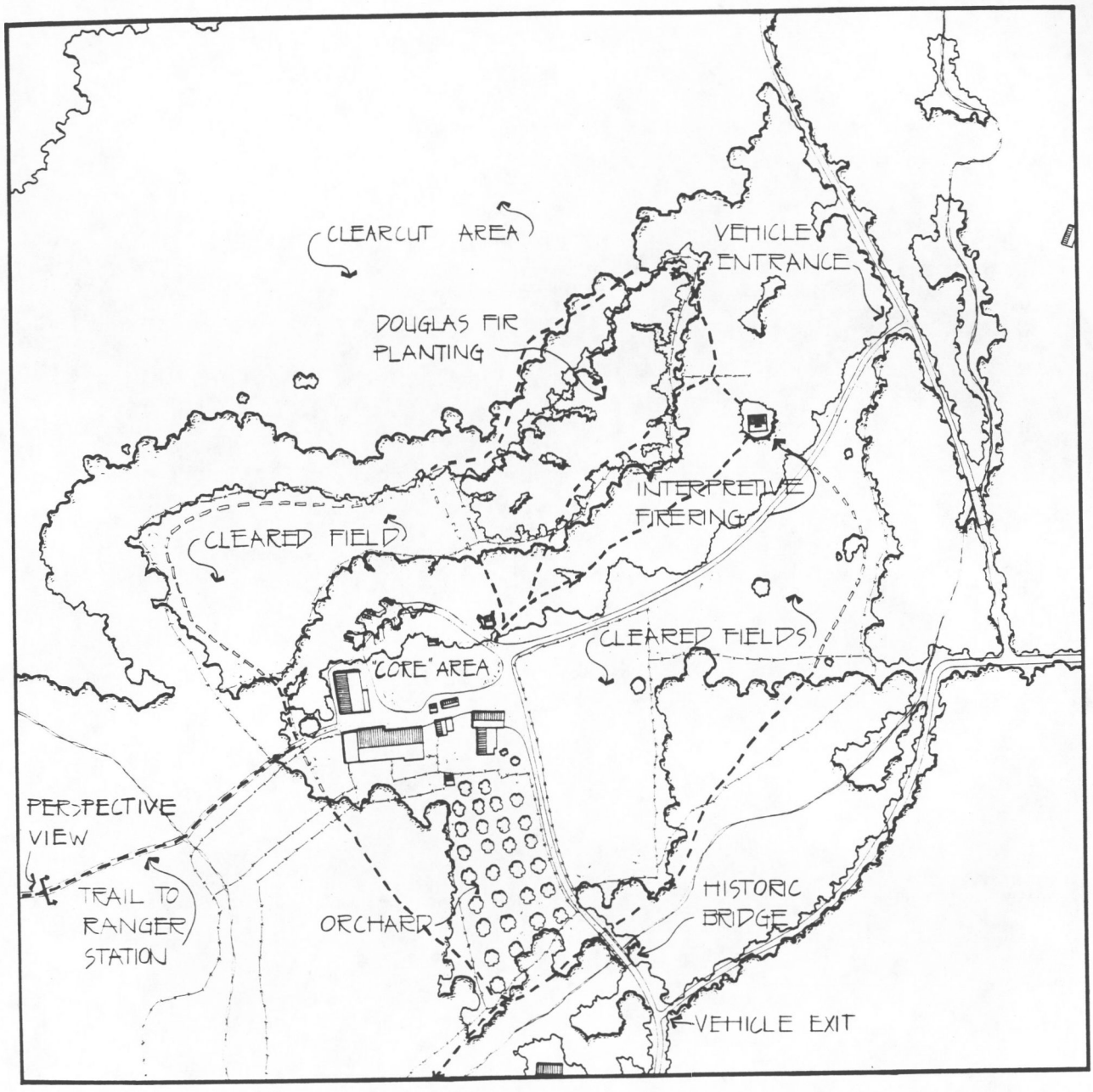
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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0 50 100 200 400 FT.

DIAGRAM

- SHOWS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD AND QUINAULT RANGER STATION
- ILLUSTRATES CIRCULATION ROUTES (VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN) TO AND FROM THE SITE
- IDENTIFIES PARKING AREAS



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HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

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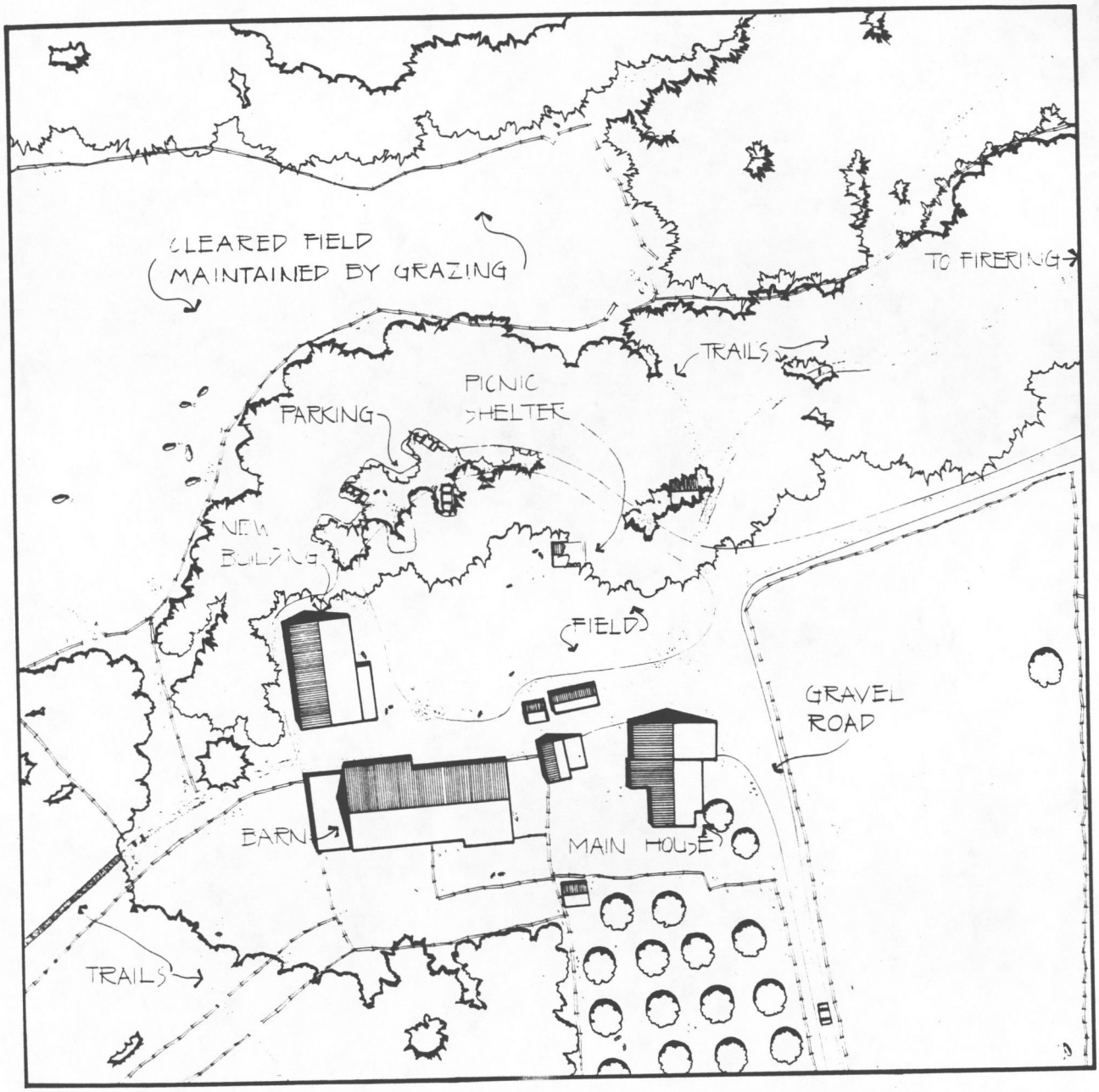


0 50 100 200 FT.

=== - IMPLIED TRAILS
--- - DEFINED TRAILS



VIEW OF INTERPRETIVE TRAIL



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HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

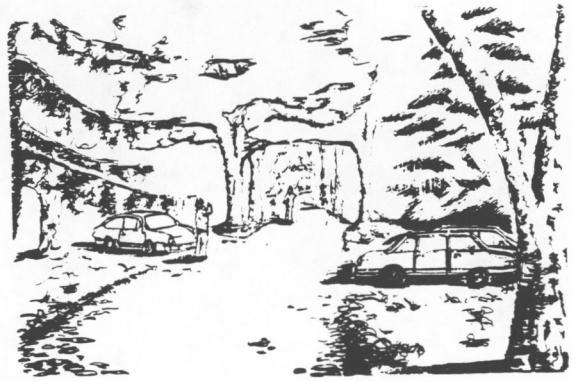
KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Lisa Anderson

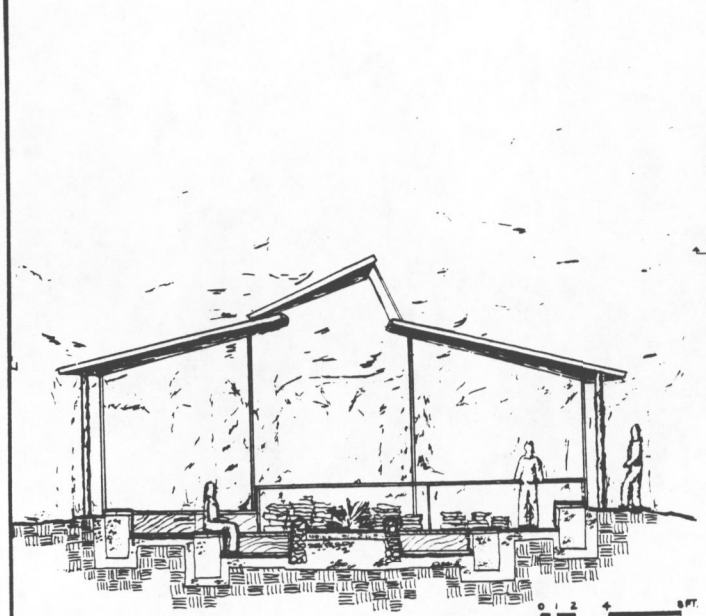
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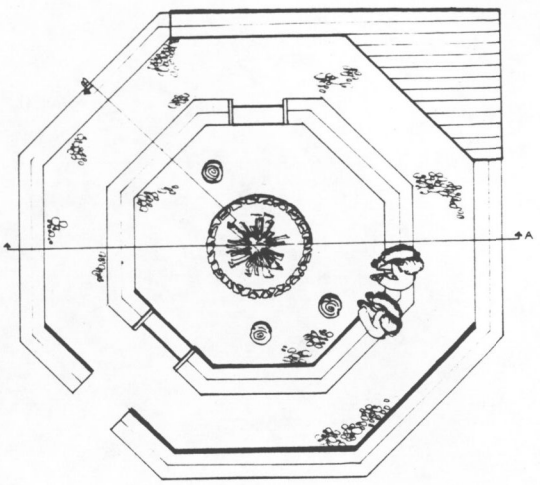
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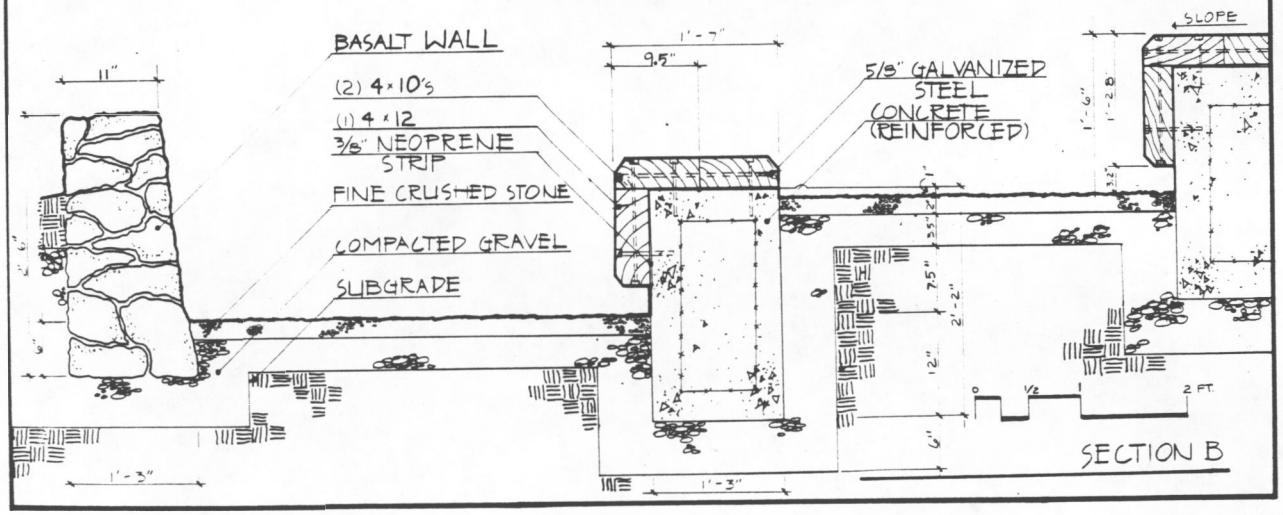
VIEW OF PARKING AREA



SECTION/ELEVATION A



PLAN



SECTION B

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

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FIRE RING

ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

- DARK MORTAR USED TO CONSTRUCT BASALT WALL
- SUBGRADE, GRAVEL AND STONE COMPACTED 95%
- COUNTERSINK BOLTS AND PLUG WITH ROUND DOWELS
- 4×10's AND 4×12's ARE TREATED WOOD WITH CHAMFERED EDGES
- FINE CRUSHED STONE = 1/4"

• SELMA BJARNADOTTIR •

DESIGN CONCEPT

I think this place should be preserved. The reason is it's significance as the only homestead in the Quinault valley that has all its original buildings. To me it also signifies the difficulty of people living in the rainforest. The endless struggle between man and nature. The forest trying to reclaim its land and man trying to keep his land cleared.

The clearing in the rainforest reminds me of the paradise garden in the desert. They may not seem to have anything in common but if you look closer you will find many similarities. Both the desert and the rainforest are very dynamic and powerful landscape; One so dry and changeable and does not seem to be a place that any living thing is to be found. The other a place that is always wet and steady and full of life where ever you look. Then man comes along and makes a landscape that is opposite to its surrounding landscape. The paradise garden having water and luscious green plants and plenty of shade in the middle of the desert. The clearing in the rainforest allows sunbeams to reach the ground dry up the soil and allows grasses to grow. Neither of these places could exist without man's attention. To water the plants so they will not be dried up by the sun and to clear the fields from all succession.

The site has a theatrical feeling to it. It is like a play that can be approached in many ways. You can take different paths to reach the high point of the play, the cluster of buildings that are the center of the homestead.

One path is the Rainforest path. You feel the power of the forest all around you and then you reach the clearing, the power of man approaches and right there at the edge is the battlefield. The battlefield of man and nature. This is a very powerful spot and you have a view through the north field and you experience succession in the field closest to you. This path will then take you to the cluster off buildings. You will approach them at an angle that will give you a magnificent view of the mountains, on a clear day. You then walk through a field of wild grasses to the buildings.

Another path that can be taken is the historic entrance. First you take the river path from the ranger station, it will take you to the historic entrance. You walk over the bridge and the only thing you can see is a huge big leaf maple tree and the beginning of the orchard. Little bit further and you will start to see the buildings. You walk up to them with powerful landscapes on either side. The orchard is one side and the open field on the other.

The third path you can take is from the gravel parking area. You walk through a gate that is, a common looking "country gate" and the first thing you experience is a open field. Then you see the beginning of the orchard, and little by little you see the whole homestead. this is a very beautiful walk towards the buildings.

The cluster of buildings are the center of the homestead and the center of the play. The interpretive center in the barn and sheds is the manuscript for the play.

My design is to enhance the beauty of this place to make it a memorable visual experience for people who visit it.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

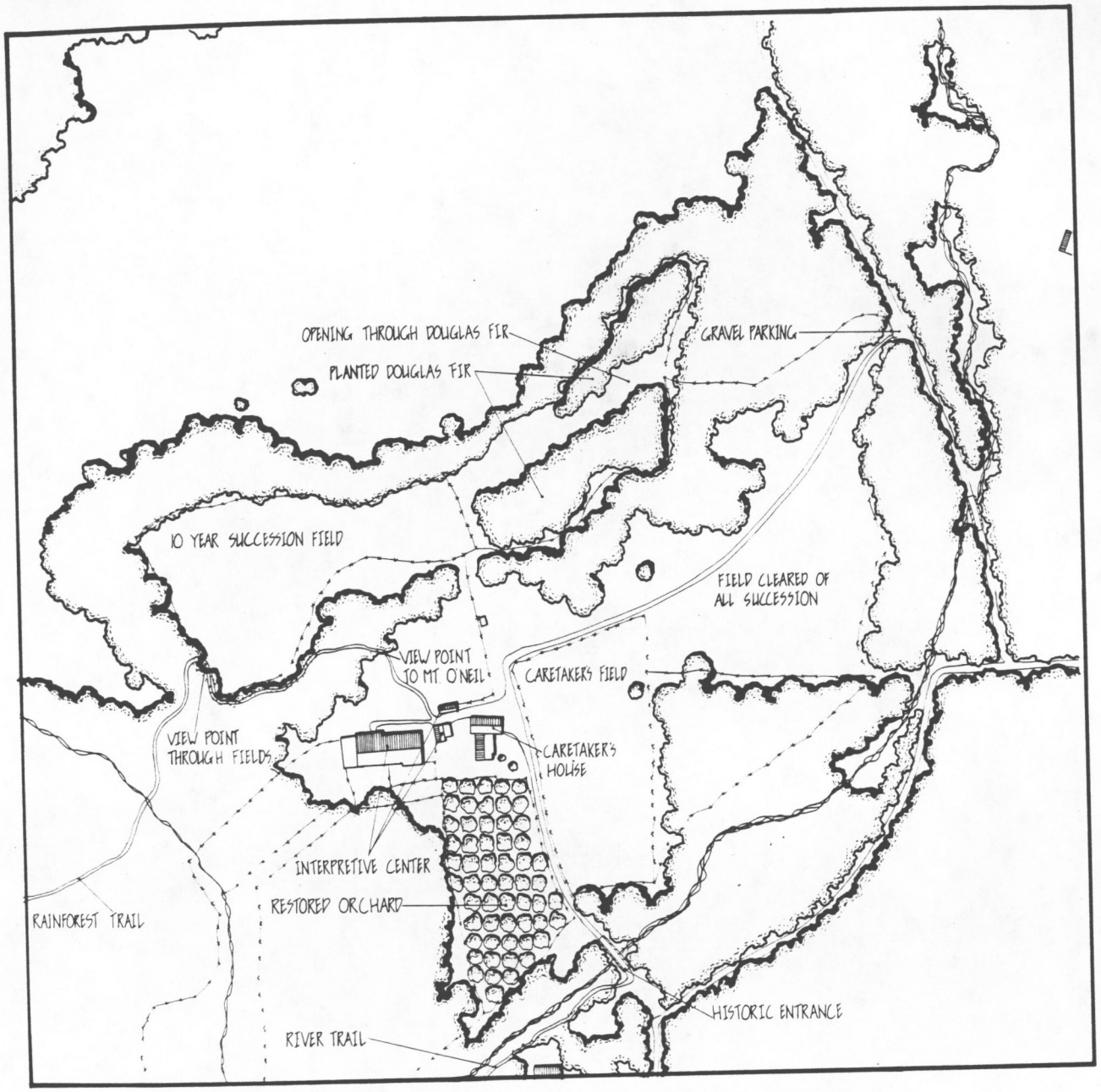
Fields:
*The north pasture, allowed to be in succession for 10 years, Then cleared and allowed another 10 year succession. This is done for interpretive reason, to allow people to experience how fast the forest takes over.
*The Douglas fir on one half of the north pasture, allowed to grow. But a clearing of few trees is necessary to establish a vista from the rainforest trail through the two pastures.
*Other fields, mowed once a year to inhibit natural succession.
*The fenced off field next to the house is to be used by the caretaker to graze his animals.

Caretaker:
*Caretaker, living on the site, to give the site some life, protect it and keep it in good condition.

Buildings:
*Restore house for the caretaker to live in.
*Restore barn and sheds. To be used as an interpretive center. There, artifacts as well as history description and historic photographs will be on a display. Part of the barn is to be used to house the caretakers animals
* Road center mowed once a year. Road center mowed to keep the grasses from getting too tall and taking over the road.
* Adapt logging road for a trail, called the Rainforest trail. Keep the trail cleared and regrade in places that tend to pond.
* Restore historic bridge. and make it safe for pedestrians.
* Restore orchard. Restore it with apple, cherry and peach trees. Old varieties preferred.
* Restore fences in existing fields. Restore fences but keep them open in places so elk can graze through.
* Build a new gate at the north east entrance.
* Take out the green metal shed. It does not belong with the other buildings and it detracts from the beauty of the place.
*Build a fence from the north pasture fence towards the house and all the way to one of the sheds. (See design). Within the fence a wild grasses are planted to enhance the beauty of the homestead.
*Clean the homestead of all garbage and old cars. Some might be considered as artifacts and should then be placed in the barn or one of the sheds.

THE NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER

To be eligible for the National Historic Registrar a site has to have significance, be at least 50 years old and have integrity. The Kestner/Higley homestead is significant. It is the only homestead in the Quinault valley that has all its original buildings. The homestead is older then 50 years, it was built in 1893. But the site does not have integrity. The house has been changed dramatically and the other buildings have deteriorated badly. The landscape has also changed a lot. Many fields are overgrown and are no longer recognizable as fields. This has happened within the last 50 years. For these reasons I believe this site has lost its integrity.



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Selma Bjarnadottir

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON - EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LA489 STUDIO, FALL 1989

0 50' 100' 200'



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

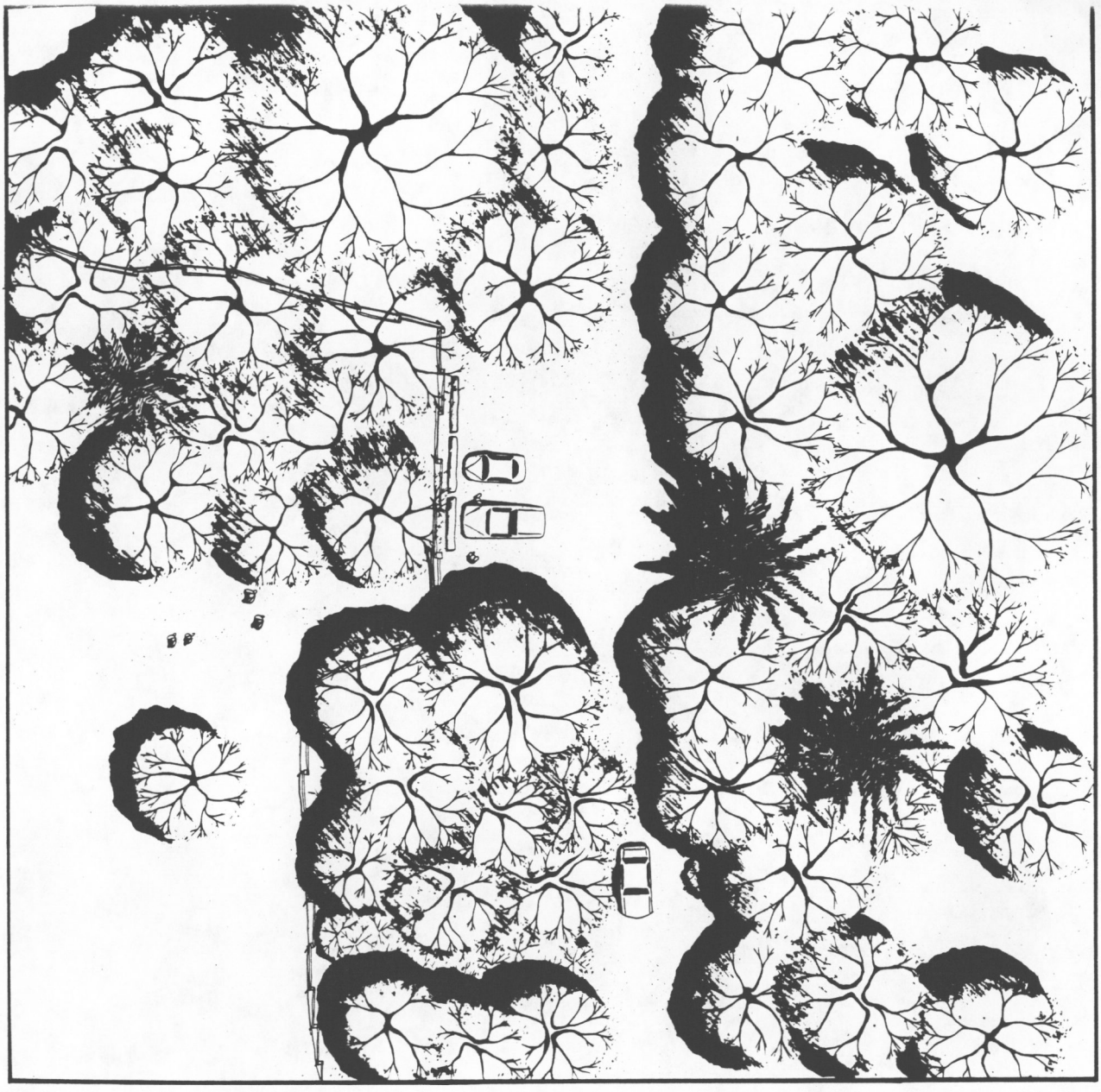
Selma Bjarnadottir

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON - EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LA489 STUDIO, FALL 1989

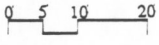
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HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY





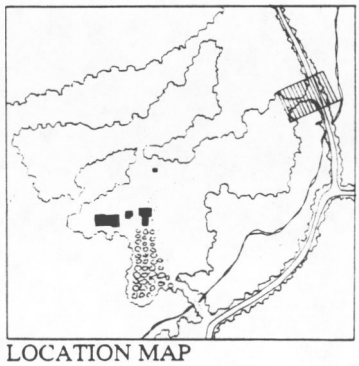
KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

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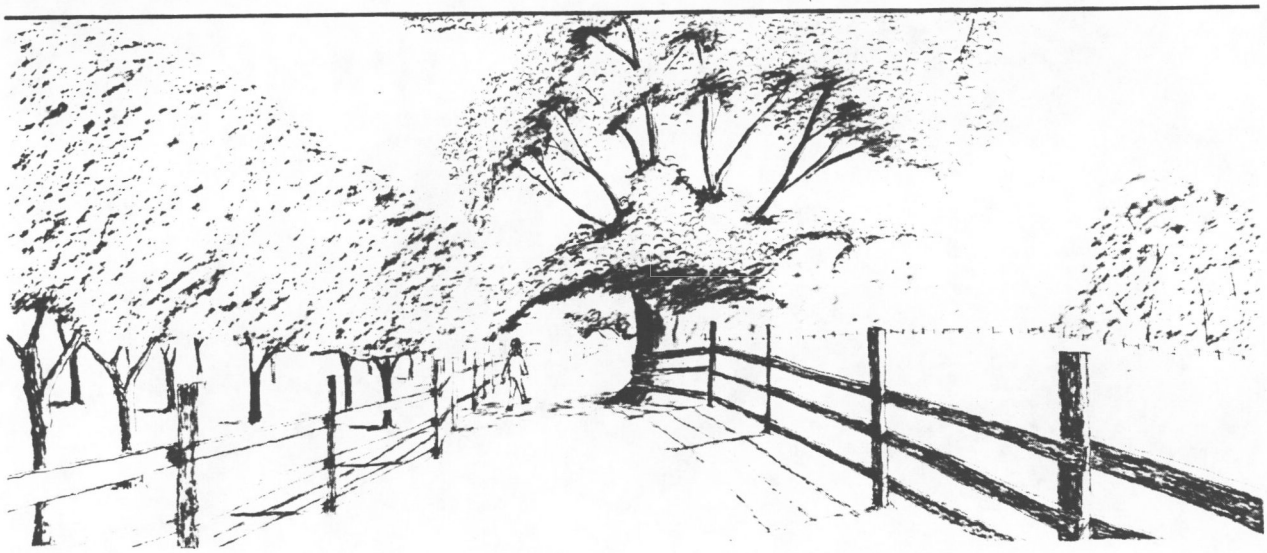
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LA489 STUDIO, FALL 1989



LOCATION MAP





KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Selma Bjarnadottir

PERSPECTIVES

ABOVE LOOKING TOWARDS GRAVEL PARKING AREA

BELOW VIEW OF HISTORIC ENTRANCE

• LOUISE CERVENY •

AN ADAPTIVE REUSE PLAN FOR KESTNER HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Design Concept and Management Goals for Kestner- Higley Homestead as Kestner Crossroads, An Artists' Colony

Kestner/Higley Homestead is the last of the pioneering homesteads in the Quinault Valley. Because of this, it has a special place in the history of the area.

It is historically important because the site basically exists as the homestead built by its original settlers. The site has integrity because the rustic homestead still evokes the honesty, hardship and perseverance of those who made this rain forest their home. Its place in the history of the region should distinguished and made significant through adaptive re-use . If the site were to have a new use that would enhance and protect its integrity, it would stimulate interest and activity in the regional.

An adaptive re-use plan for the Kestner Higley site would breath new life and add to the integrity of the site and the region. As the term Homestead implies, the site was developed as a home through the domestication and working of the land around it by farming.

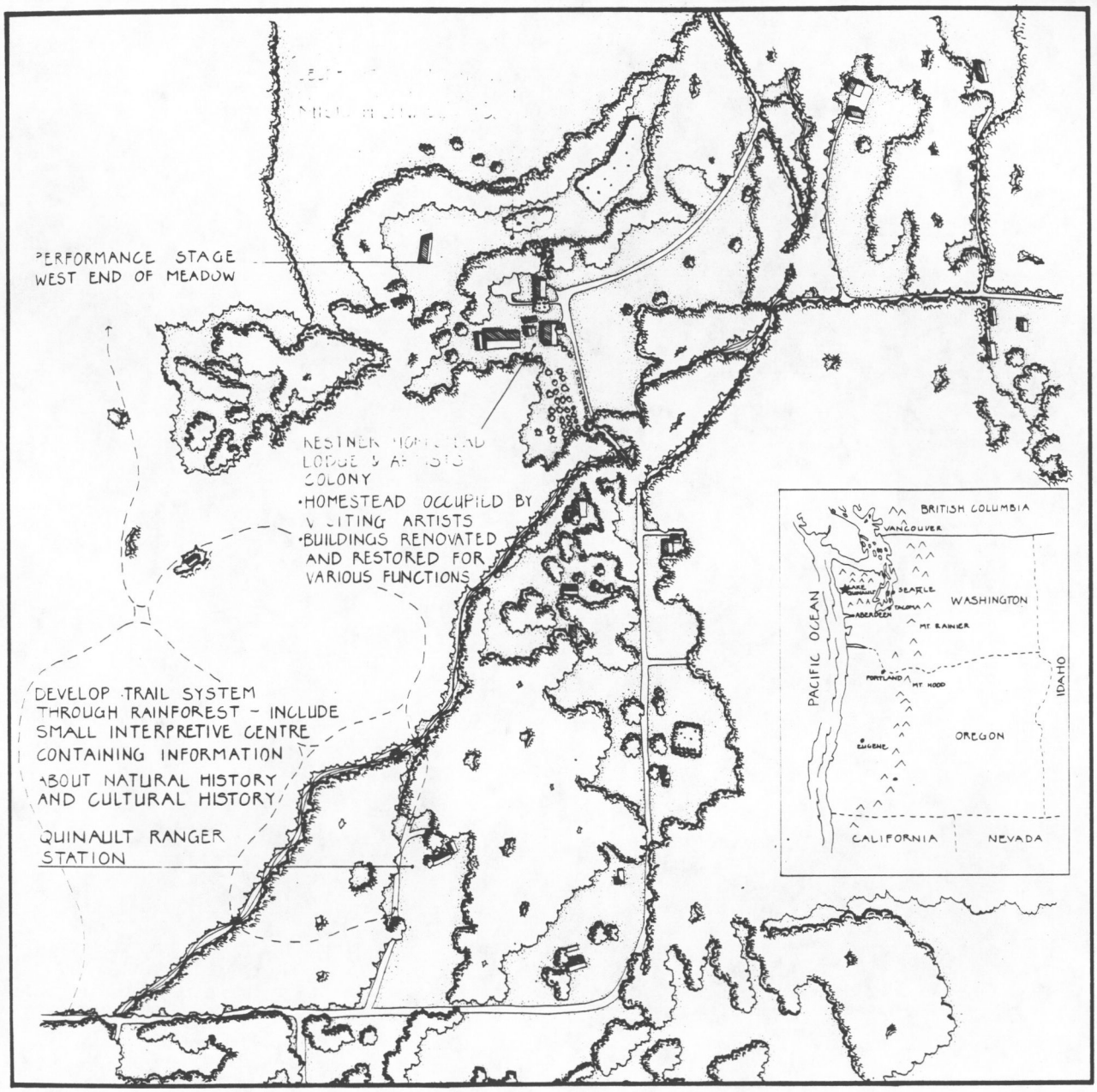
In order to keep the Homestead alive the site must be occupied by people who work with the land. In this case another layer would be added to the idea of Homesteading which would have people passively working with the land. It would once again be a home to guest staying at the "lodge". These guests would be a connection of artists ranging from musicians and painters to photographers, sculptors and writers. They would be the stewards of the land. drawing inspiration from the surroundings and recording its visual qualities.

DESIGN MANAGEMENT GOALS AND PROGRAM

Goals:

- To add to the integrity of a historic site
- Prepare Kestner for the future "Kestner in 2000"
- Provide simple accommodations for artists staying at the site
- Provide an area where local residents and groups of tourists, etc. can enjoy the "fruits" born by the artists working at the Homestead - art exhibits, recitals, concerts, workshops, etc.
- Restore and preserve the exterior of buildings to 1930's style with the exception of the green and white tin shed.
- Preserve existing orchard and restore full fruiting potential to complete the orchard.
- Preserve upper meadow in its present state
- Renovate the original house to simple and elegant lodging and dining facility for up to fifteen guests.
- Keep fields and pastures around buildings clear
- Renovate existing structures for proposed uses such as barn for studio spaces by reinforcing structure, adding north sky lights, windows where appropriate, stairs, electricity, etc.
- Renovate tin shed by retaining structure but removing tin and making it out of concrete or wood or material of best sound quality
- If not viable then build a new studio and renovate the tin shed as practice area

- Make appropriate entrances, paths, trails, parking to fulfill user needs
- Restore fences that are functional, unique of example of style that contribute to the site
- Construct gardens and transition spaces, meditation and outdoor work areas that are appropriate to the site without sacrificing the last of "integrity"
- Create a meeting area 'Celebration Meadow' for large attendance functions
- Preserve the landscape for the future by retaining all elements which make it appealing today and enhancing and adding to those which would benefit the site in the future.



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Louise Červený

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON - EUGENE, OREGON

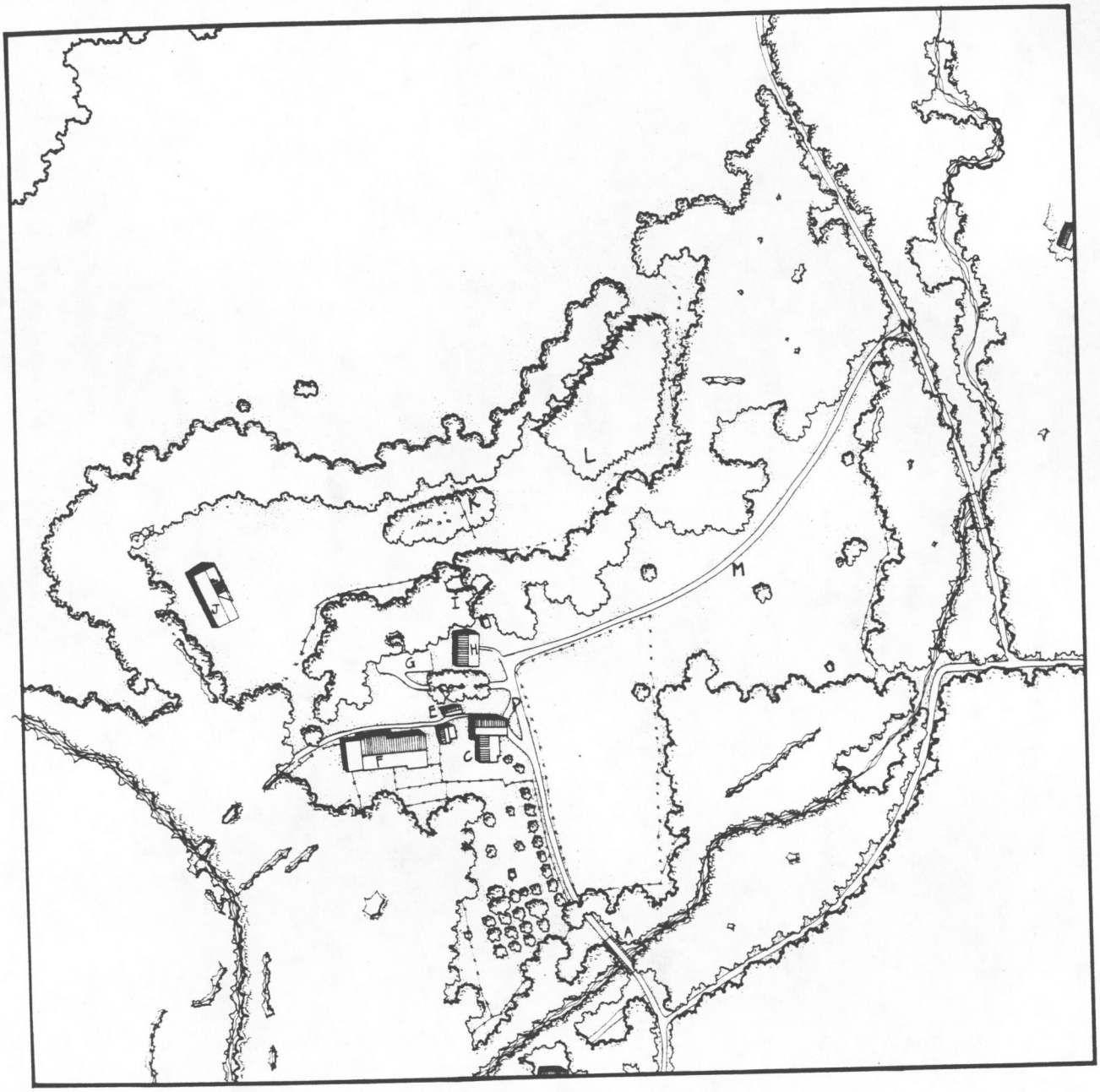
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0 200 400 FEET

MANAGEMENT GOALS

- TO ADD TO THE INTEGRITY OF A HISTORIC SITE
- TO PREPARE KESTNER HOMESTEAD FOR THE FUTURE - "KESTNER IN 2000" THROUGH ADAPTIVE RE-USE
- TO PRESERVE THE LANDSCAPE FOR THE FUTURE BY RETAINING ALL ELEMENTS WHICH MAKE IT APPEALING TODAY AND ENHANCING AND ADDING TO THOSE WHICH WOULD BENEFIT THE SITE
- TO RENOVATE AND RESTORE BUILDINGS FOR VARIETY OF USES TO ORIGINAL 1930'S CONDITION
- TO PRESERVE EXISTING ORCHARD AND RESTORE TO FULL FRUITING POTENTIAL AND COMPLETE ORCHARD
- TO DESIGN PARK MEADOW FOR LARGE ATTENDANCE FUNCTIONS
- TO CONSTRUCT GARDENS AND TRANSITION SPACES THAT ARE APPROPRIATE TO THE SITE WITHOUT CAUSING LOSS OF INTEGRITY



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Louise Červený

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON - EUGENE, OREGON

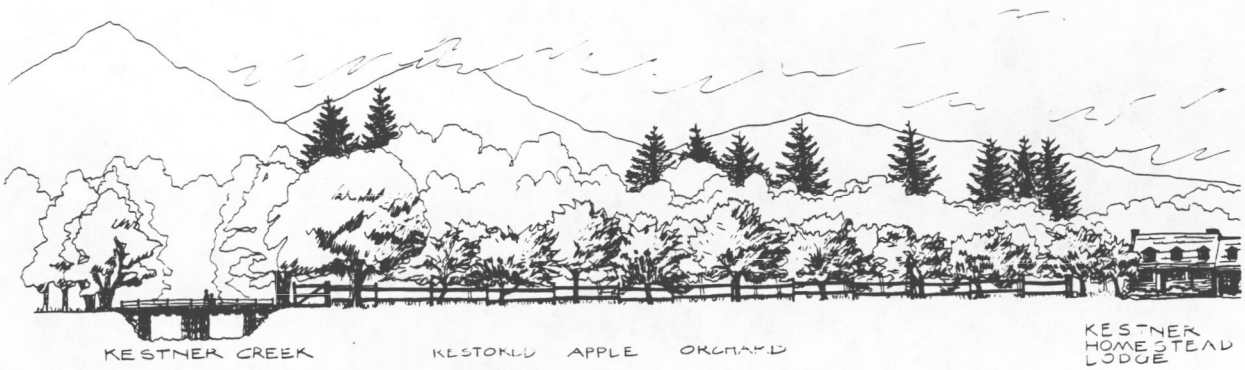
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LA489 STUDIO, FALL 1989

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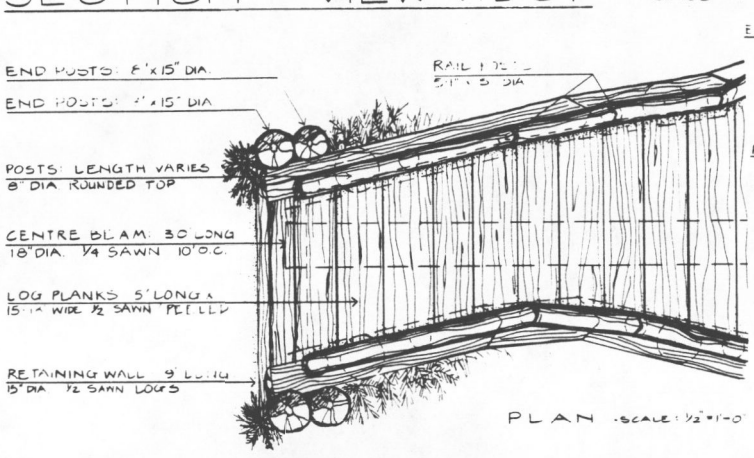
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A MAIN ENTRANCE RESTORED BRIDGE
B ORCHARD - RESTORED
C KESTNER HOMESTEAD LODGE
D DROP OFF AREA FOR GUESTS
E OFFICE UTILITY HOUSING (RENOVATED)
F BARN - CONVERTED TO STUDIOS
G GUEST PARKING
H RECORDING STUDIO
I CROSSROADS TRANSITION AREA
J PERFORMANCE STRUCTURE
K ALDER GROVE
L FIR GROVE & REST AREA
M SERVICE/ EMERGENCY LANE
N EAST ENTRANCE (SERVICE)

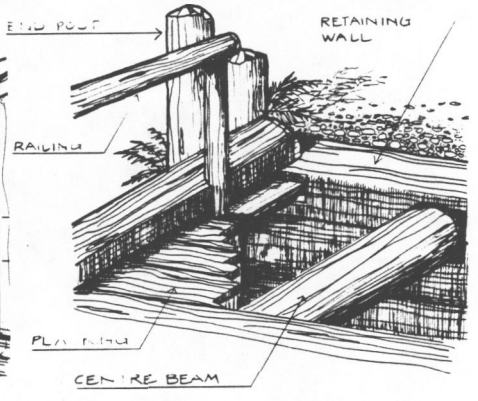


SECTION ~ VIEW WEST

SCALE 1" = 20' 0"

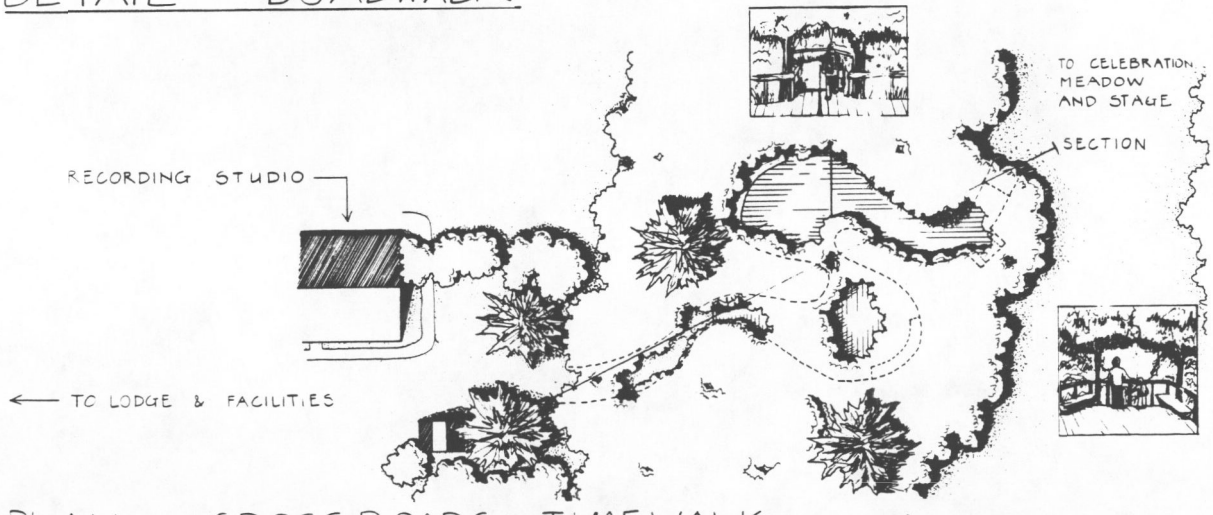


PLAN SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



PERSPECTIVE NOT TO SCALE

DETAIL ~ BOADWALK



PLAN ~ CROSSROADS TIMEWALK

SCALE 1" = 20'-0"



← TO LODGE

TO CELEBRATION MEADOW →

SECTION ~ BOARDWALK

SCALE 1/16" = 1'-0"

LOUISE ČERVENÝ L.A. 489 1989

• KEVIN FINNEY •

As the last publicly-owned example of Quinault Valley settlement-era homesteading, the Kestner/Higley homestead is an historically significant cultural resource and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The site was used continuously as a residence and agricultural property from its original settling in the 1890s until it was purchased by the National Park Service in the 1980s. The site has been put to a variety of uses, from subsistence farming to logging, ranching and tree farming. However, the basic character of the land; open, cleared and fenced fields, remains. The relationship of the buildings to the land and the location and size of the building cluster have also been retained.

THE DESIGN

The challenge in this project and the goal of the design concept are to preserve the existing historic character of the landscape, to enhance it historic qualities where possible and to interpret the site's natural and cultural resources for visitors. Toward these ends the design returns the land to its historic use as a residence and ranch and makes the site and its history more physically and intellectually accessible to visitors. Vehicle access to the site will be enhanced by the repair and reopening of the Kestner Creek bridge. Welcoming signs at the vehicle and pedestrian entrances orient visitors and direct them to the interpretive center. A planting of the "Settler's Rose" near the entries and interpretive center reflect the original planting along the orchard fence.

The National Park Service will stabilize the barn and outbuildings and will adapt the metal barn for use as the interpretive center for the site. The interpretive center contains interpretive display areas and restrooms. The building is surrounded by a covered walkway which provides visitors an opportunity to observe the homestead landscape, protected from inclement weather. An adjacent gravel parking lot contains spaces for seven cars and the mowed field to the west provides overflow parking for an additional ten vehicles. A planting of big leaf maples at the north end of the building softens the edge and eases the building into the landscape.

The Kestner-Higley house will be used for NPS employee housing and will not be open to the public. About seven acres of fenced, overgrown fields will be restored to their original open character . Pedestrian access from the Quinault Ranger Station to the homestead is improved by the development of a boardwalk interpretive trail linking the existing Maple Glen Trail and the old logging road. Construction of a new trail leg running from the homestead to the Ranger Station along Kestner Creek creates a loop trail about one mile long through the rainforest. Additional trails leave from the homestead trailhead at the interpretive center, circling to the northeast through the clearcut and tree farm areas. A spur trail climbs the logged slope above the homestead for a view of the site and the surrounding forest. The trails provide opportunities to interpret the varied land uses, as well as the natural processes of succession and regrowth.

The orchard will be restored using the original Quinault apples and other homestead fruit tree varieties. The orchard will be open to the public for picking.

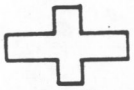
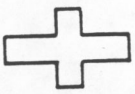
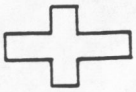
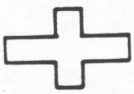
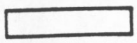
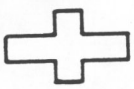
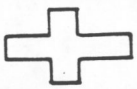
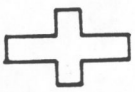
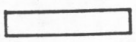
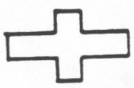
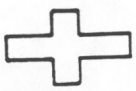
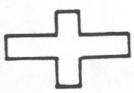
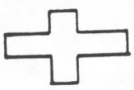
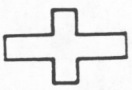
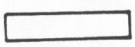
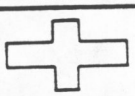
MANAGEMENT

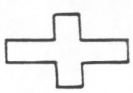
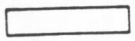
While the entire property will remain under National Park Service ownership, three zones of use and responsibility are created: areas used by the NPS and accessible to the public, areas used by the NPS to which the public is not given access and areas which are used for grazing and ranching activities by a leaseholder. The NPS will retain responsibility for maintenance and administration of the buildings on the site and will maintain them in their historic condition and character. With the exception of the house, all buildings will be accessible to the public. The stabilized wooden barn will be available to the leaseholder for uses associated with ranching activities. To the extent possible the public will be allowed access to the wooden barn. All fences are to be stabilized and maintained as part of the historic resource. The restored pastures will be developed for grazing land and leased out under the guidelines for leasing historical or agricultural properties.

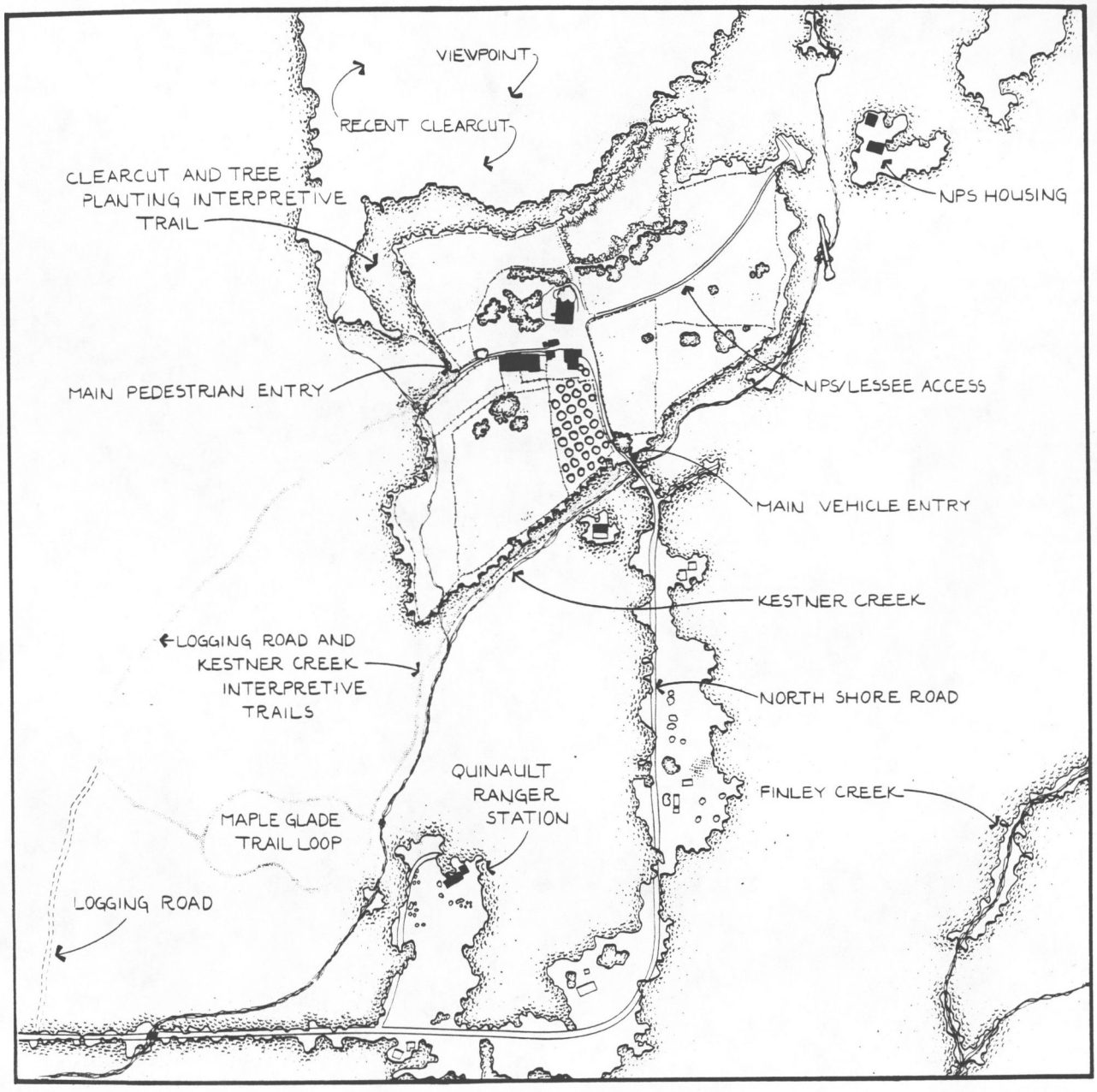
CONCLUSION

The restoration of the fields reestablishes the historic relationship between the buildings, the clearing and the forest and will enable the visitor to better understand the scope of the homesteading endeavor. Similarly, the presence of animals and ranching activities on the site will add another dimension to the visitor's experience and understanding of homesteading life. Use of the house as a residence continues the historic use of the building and maintains the "home" in the homestead. Implementation of the design will restore much of the sites historic integrity and will preserve the qualities and characteristics of this important cultural resource.

ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC INTEGRITY

CONDITION / QUALITY	1939	1989	PROPOSED
LOCATION			
DESIGN -Form, plan, spatial organization		 -Fields overgrown -Tree planting -1970s building	 -Restored fields
SETTING -Physical environment		 -Fields overgrown -Fences obscured	 -Restored fields -Restored fences
MATERIALS -Construction materials, vegetation		 -Orchard lost -Fields overgrown -Metal building	 -Restored orchard -Restored fields
WORKMANSHIP -Fences, buildings		 -Additions to house -Condition of buildings -Wire mesh fences	 -Stabilized buildings -Restored fences
FEELING -Sense of past time		 -Metal building -New cars -Wire mesh fences	 -Adapted building -Restored fences
ASSOCIATION -Link with historic events, continued use		 -Unoccupied -Abandoned fields -Few animals	 -Occupied house -Restored fields -Ranching activities

 -HISTORIC INTEGRITY MAINTAINED	 -SOME NON-HISTORIC INTRUSIONS, SOME INTEGRITY MAINTAINED	 -SIGNIFICANT NON-HISTORIC INTRUSIONS



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

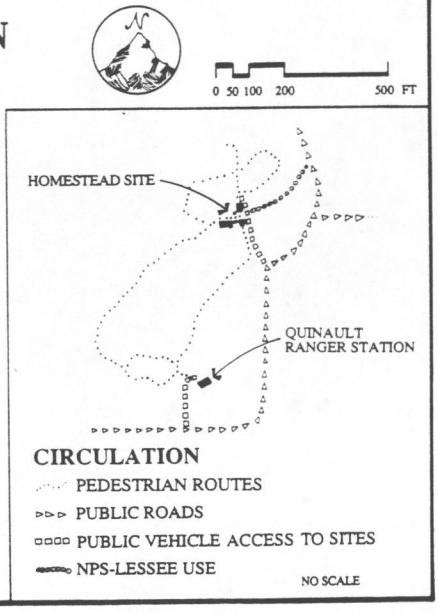
KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

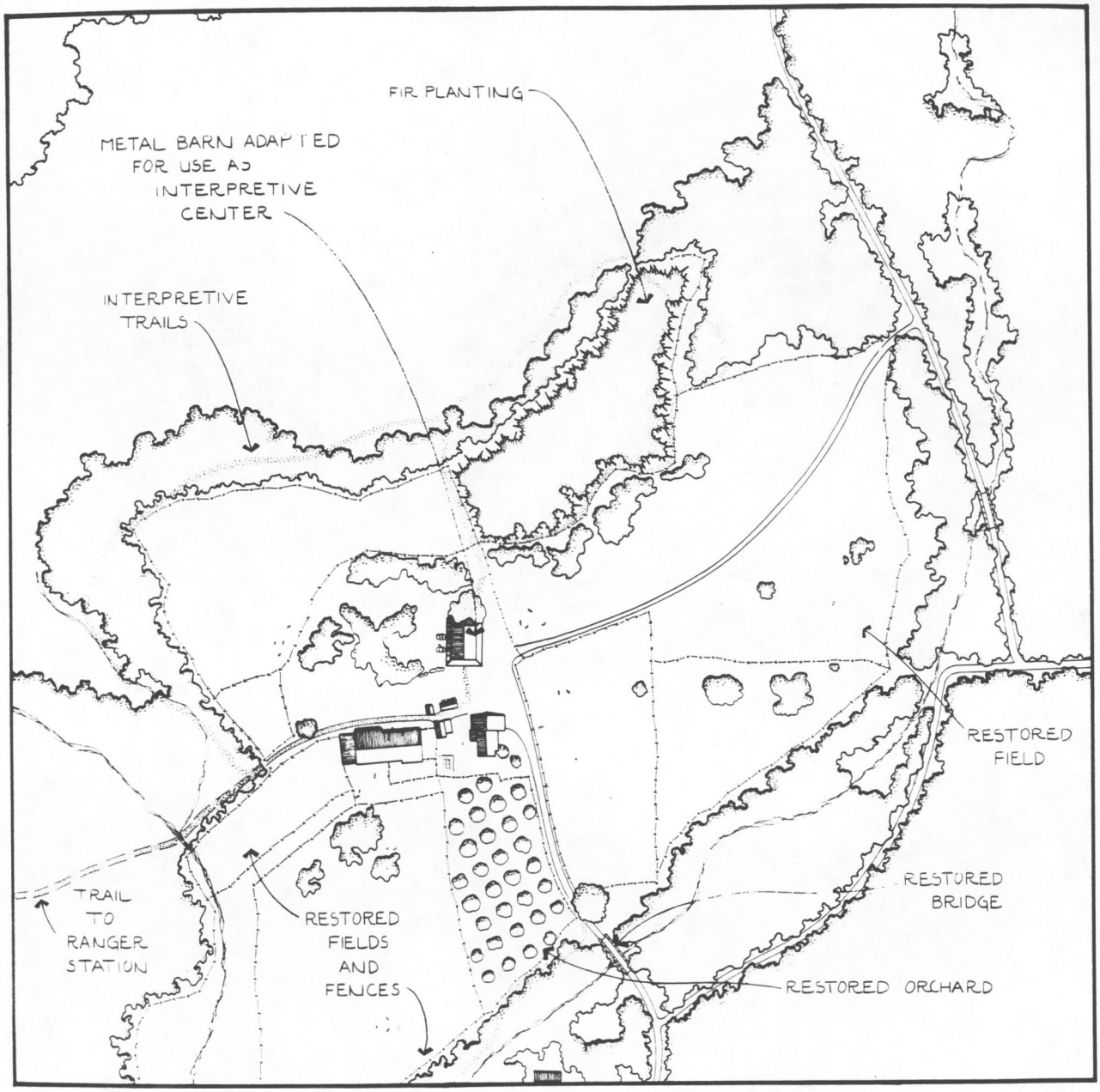
Kevin Finney

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON - EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

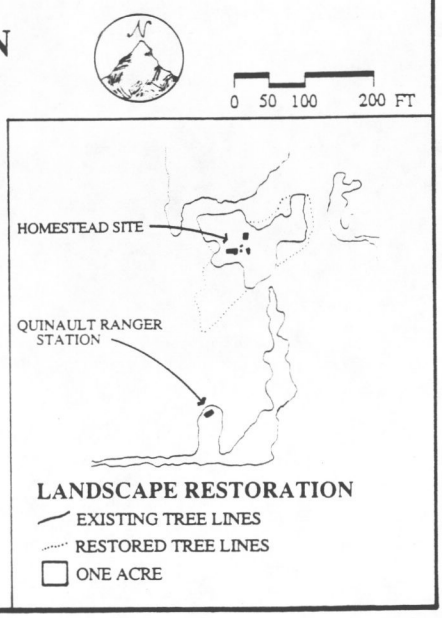
KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

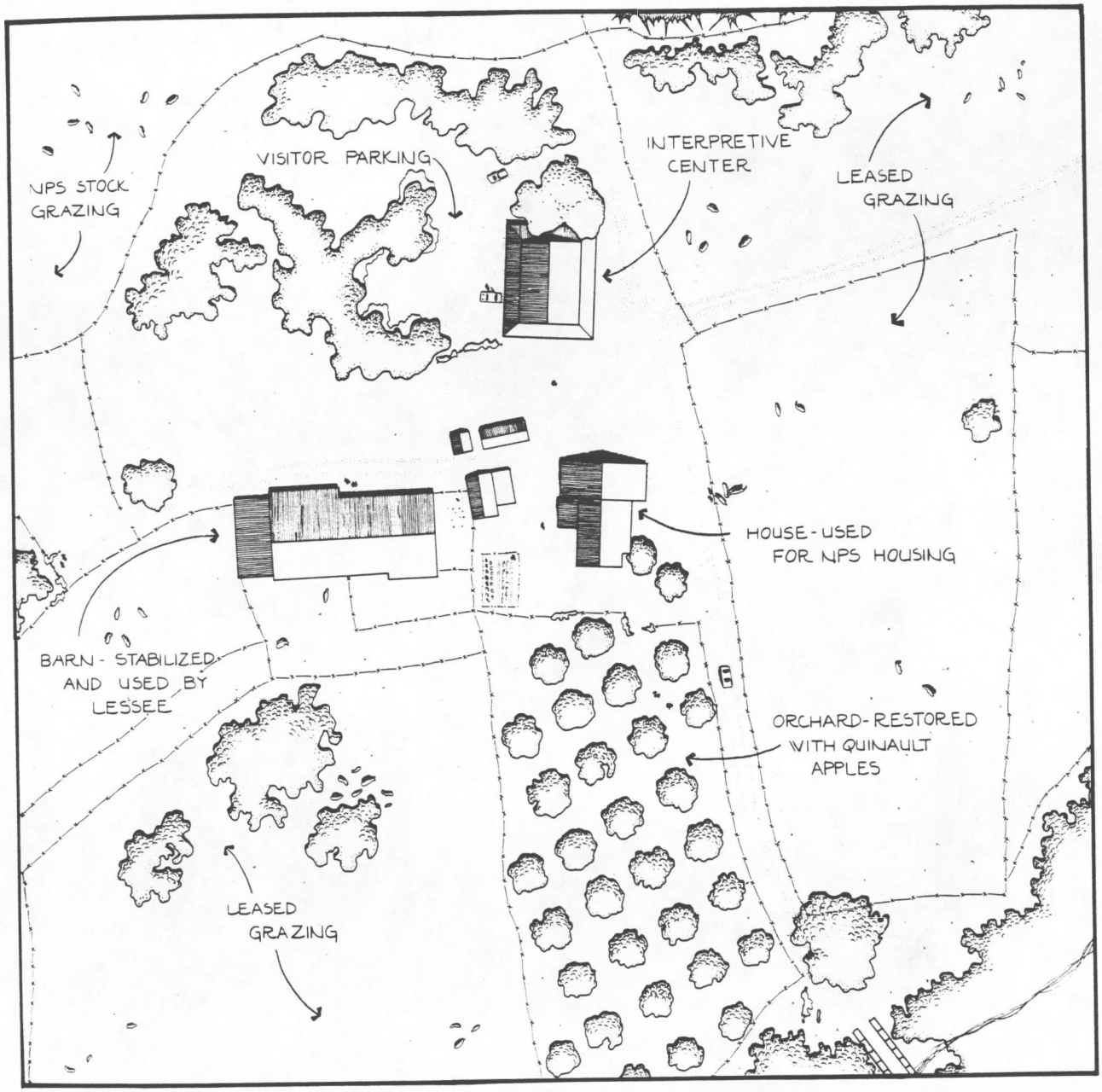
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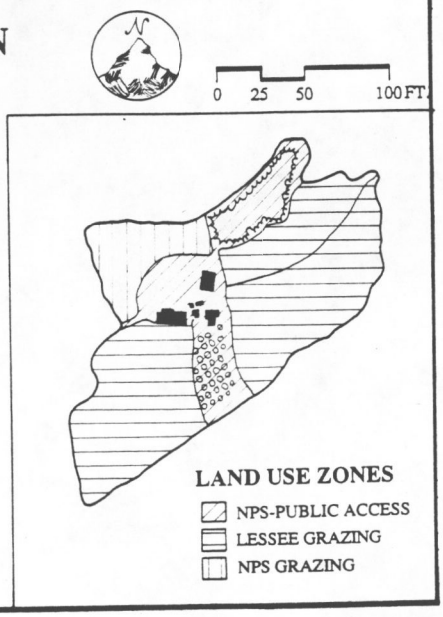
KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

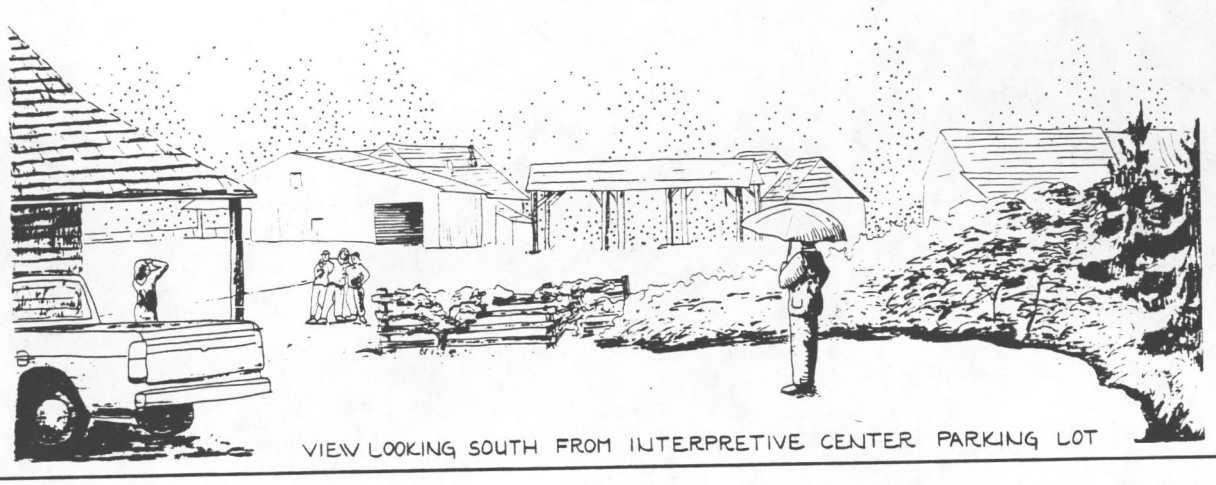
Kevin Finney

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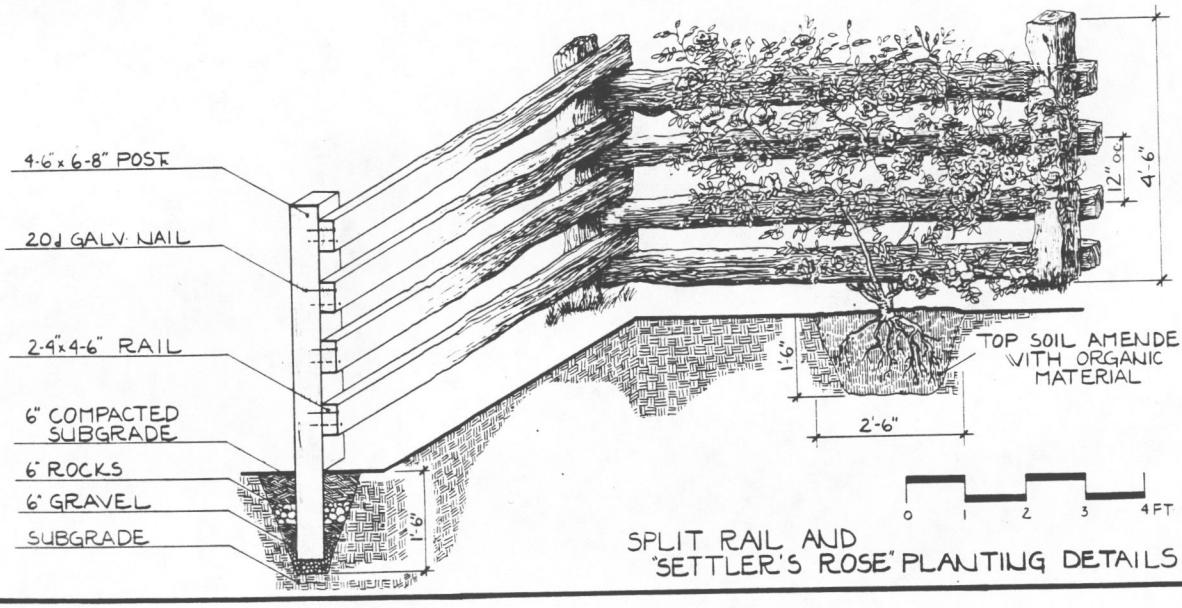
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LA489 STUDIO, FALL 1989





VIEW LOOKING SOUTH FROM INTERPRETIVE CENTER PARKING LOT



SPLIT RAIL AND "SETTLER'S ROSE" PLANTING DETAILS

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Kevin Finney

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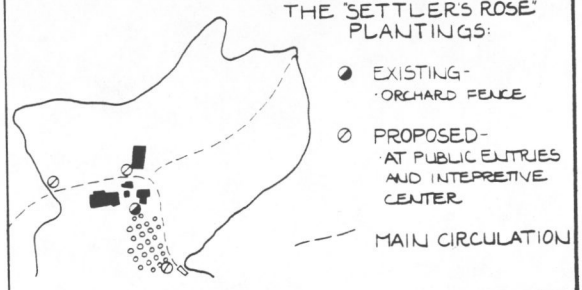
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THE SETTLER'S ROSE

"A GOOD OLD WHITE RAMBLER ROSE THAT GREW ON EVERY HOMESTEAD . . . CAN STILL OCCASSIONALLY BE FOUND BLOOMING AFTER MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS."

- HELEN HIGLEY -



• PATRICK GAY •

The Kestner-Higley homestead has an integrity reflected in its history and ecological continuum. The uniqueness of the landscape is the result of a transformation perpetuated by a settlement pattern important to the history of the Pacific Northwest and America. The harmonious yet dichotomous relationships between people and nature which occur on the this site are the true source of its value.

The Kestner-Higley homestead is the only example of Settlement Period homesteading in the Pacific Northwest on public lands.(Gail Evans pp. 120) It is a landscape representative of the effort by early settlers to tame the rainforest lands of the Olympic peninsula. The complex of buildings, fences, cleared lands, planted orchards, and other interventions within the forest ecosystem are the parts which together create a special sense of place. The landscape exists in many stages of succession. It yields a site with a sense of human intervention being reclaimed by the force of nature. The clear cuts, the pastures, and the fences are all being absorbed slowly back into the forest. The arrangement of buildings is one of the most developed homesteads established in the area. The barn is one of the largest examples of such timber frame architecture built by early settlers.(Gail Evans pp.120) These buildings are weathered and falling. The homestead without human intervention is clearly in the grasp of nature. The balance of the continuum has shifted once again, yet for this on going process exemplified by this particular site, it should be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

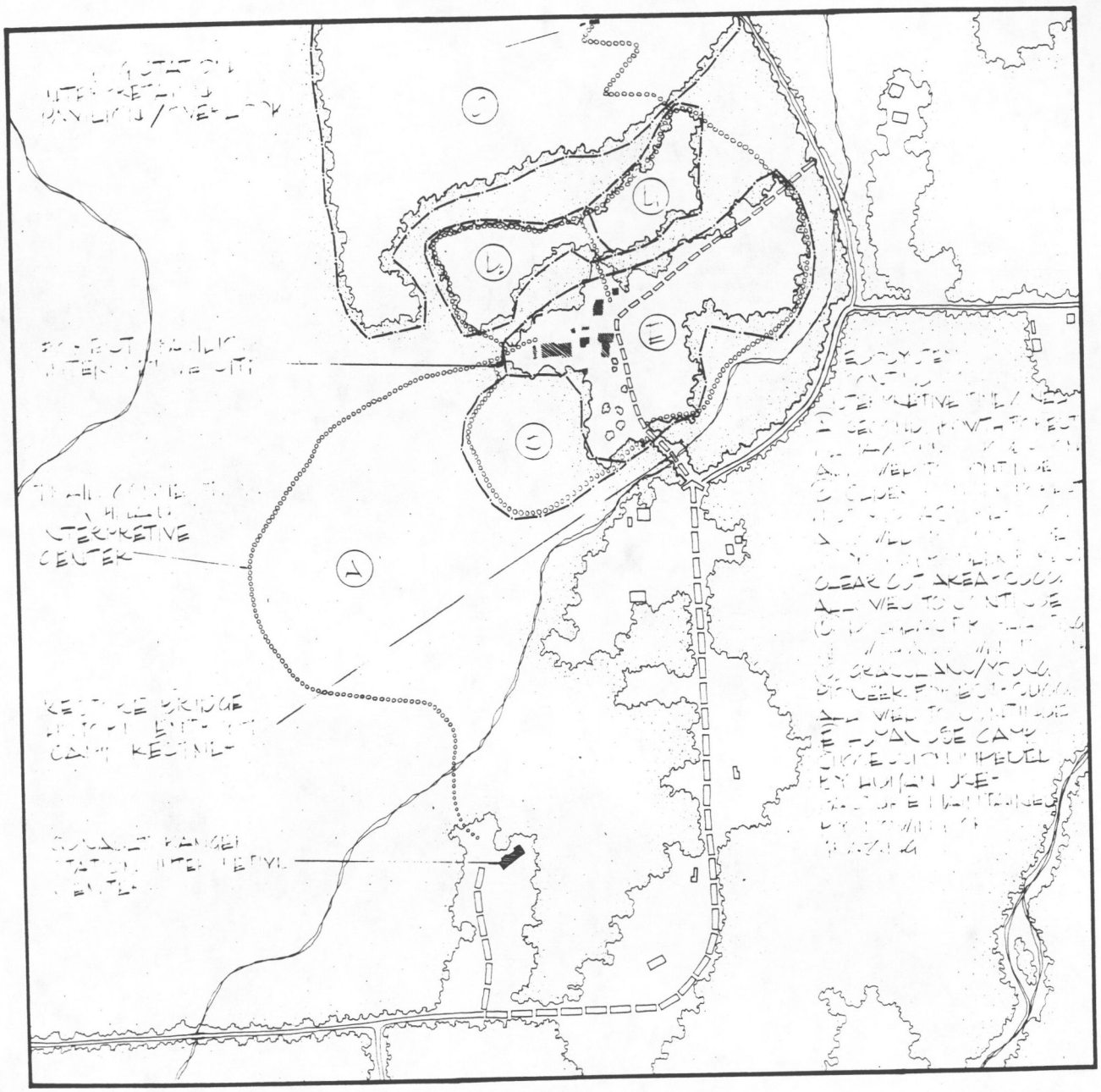
The ecological continuum presents a wealth of insights and educational possibilities. It presents an opportunity for vital human experience with nature, which would serve countless generations. Therefore, a use where the site's wealth would be maximized should celebrate the continuum of nature and the history of humankind within it. An adaptive reuse of limited management, and increased interpretation would be the solution. Camp Kestner, a forest ecology education camp, would provide experience and education promoting one of our greatest national treasures, the forest.

The use would venerate rather than exploit the landscape, and with time would evolve without conflict in the continuum. With the exception of the camp use area, immediately surrounding pasture, interpretive pavilions, and circulation systems, the landscape successions would be allowed to continue. Specific "time zones" which exemplify the stages of landscape continuum would be identified and utilized as educational resources for ecological interpretation. These management guidelines are consistent with the dual character of the National Park Service mandate of preservation of resources with access for the public.

A forest ecology camp, whereby the true richness and nature of the landscape will be utilized, would be an appropriate use in the continuum of the Kestner homestead site. The necessity for a vital human experience with the forest will only increase as our rainforest resources decrease. The opportunity to give the public an educational and enjoyable experience on a historic site within the forest oikos is a step in changing the current trends and attitudes about a living national treasure.







OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON
HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Patrick Gay

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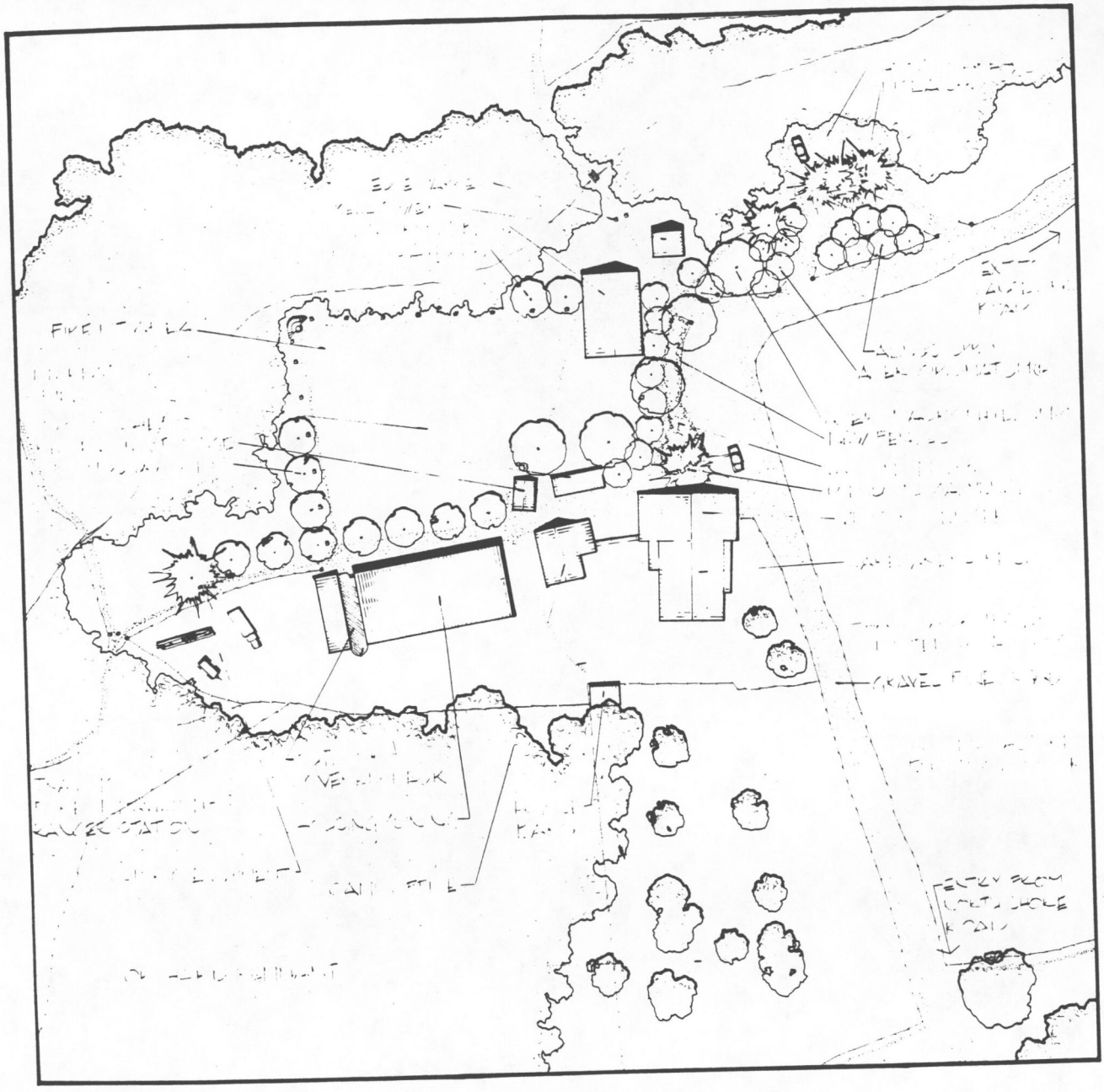
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0 50 100 200 FT.

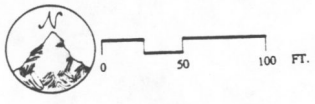
LEGEND

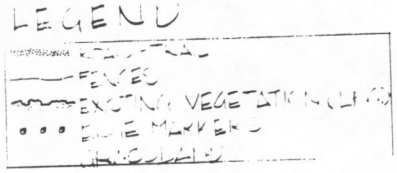
- TREE ZONE
- FOOT/HORSE TRAIL
- VEHICULAR ACCESS
- VEHICULAR ACCESS ENTRANCE
- STRUCTURE
- STRUCTURE
- ROAD
- RIVER
- CREEK



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY





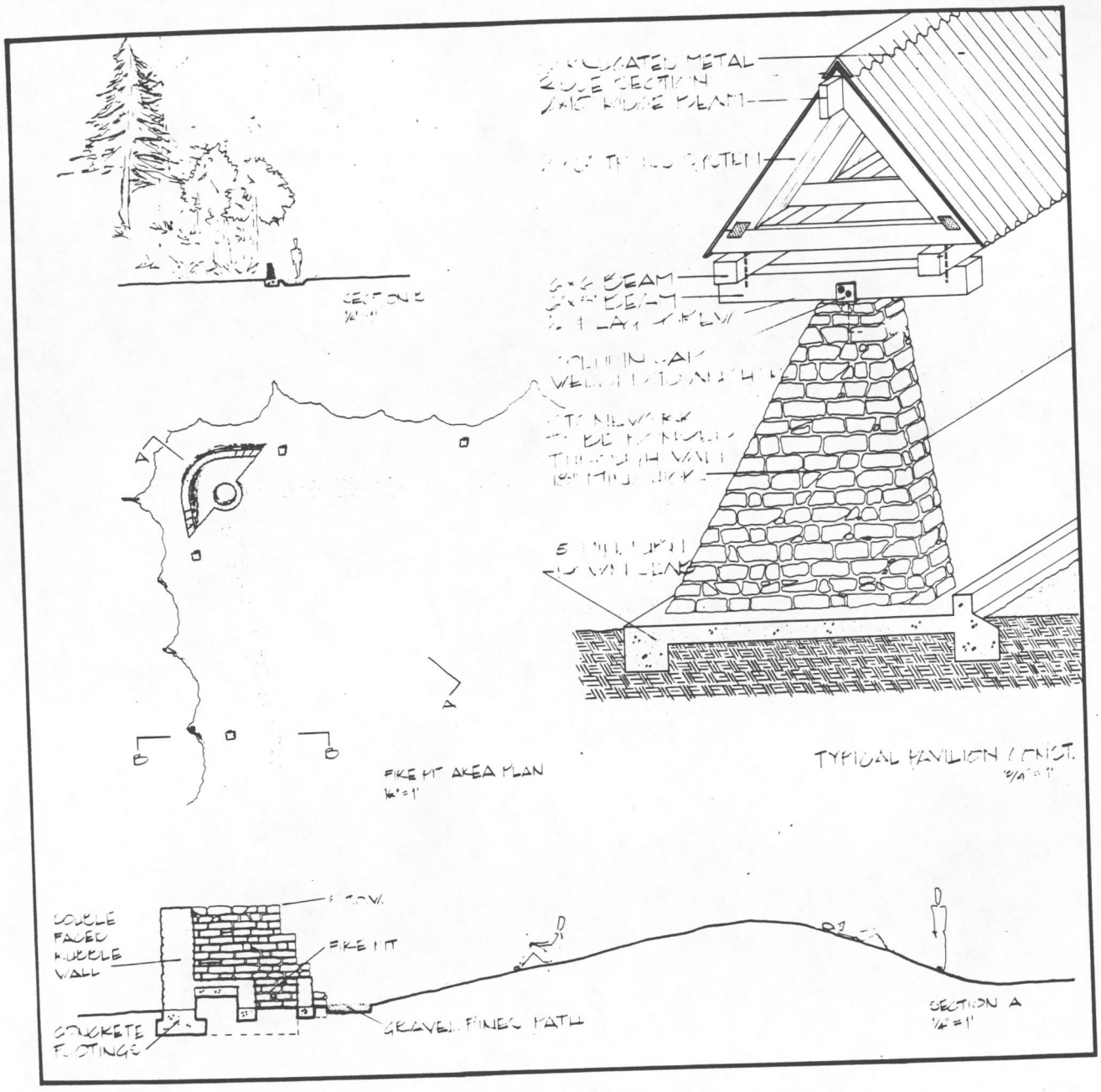
KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

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OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

DETAIL SHEET

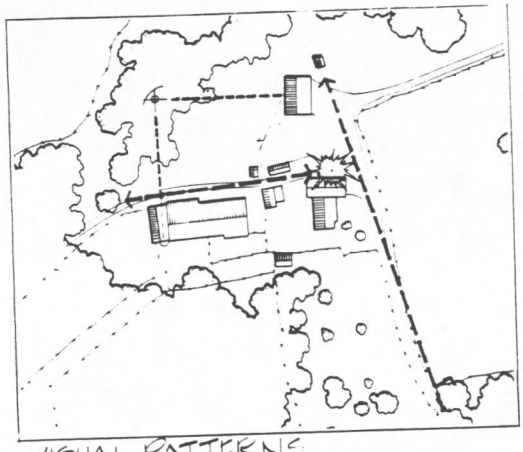
KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

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VISUAL PATTERNS

• PAT GREENE •

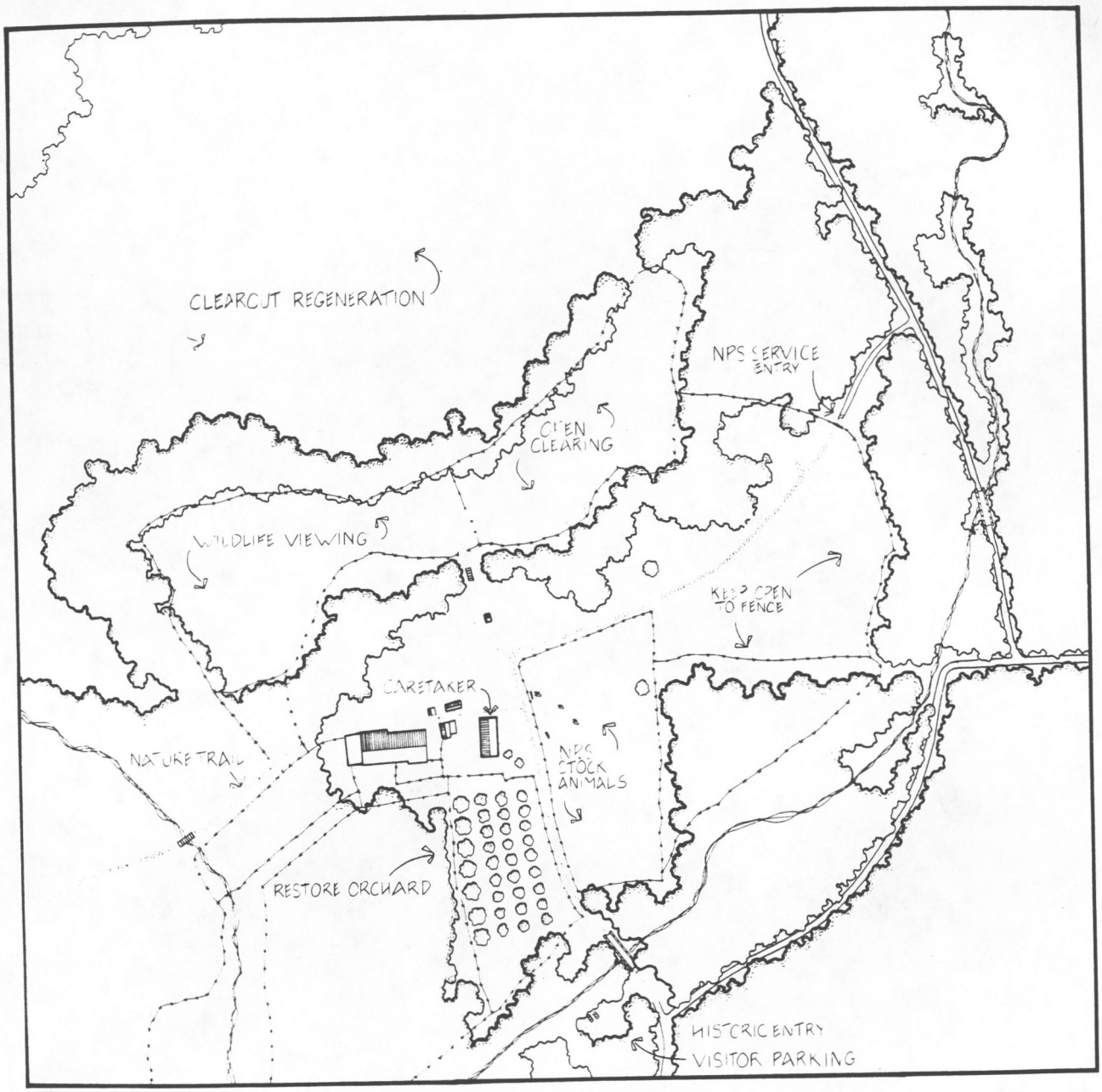
The essence of the Kestner/Higley Homestead site, for me, both in historical context and physical reality, is that of a human-made clearing in the wilderness. Within the open fields and orchard, it is possible to experience the tension between our desire for order in the landscape where human activities dominate and the incessant push of rainforest succession. Many of our often conflicting attitudes about wilderness are reflected at the Kestner-Higley site. Although the homestead can be viewed negatively as an example of the human domination of the wilderness, it can also be appreciated as a place of great beauty created with hard work and caring in a harsh environment. It is this relationship between the domesticated landscape of the homestead and the surrounding wilderness that I wish to explore in my design.

Because of the site's association with the homesteading movement in America, I believe it has sufficient significance for listing on the National Register of Historic Places(NRHP). In addition, the site has strong local importance as one of the original and "most improved" homesteads in the Quinault Valley.It is also one of the few remaining original homesteads within public lands. I do not believe, however, that the site retains sufficient integrity to recommend it for placement on the NRHP. Unacceptable alterations to the original buildings, the addition of new buildings not in keeping with the local style, and an extreme diminishment of the original clearing size constitute a severe loss of integrity according to the NRHP criteria.

The location of the site within a wilderness park is a strong influence upon my design response.I propose a program of passive- interpretation of the site's history within the wilderness, our attitudes about wilderness, the lifeways of the early settlers, and the rainforest environment. I also propose that the site's current condition as a historical remnant or memory be re-enforced by removal of modern intrusive elements and by restoring or stabilizing other original structures. Enhancement of the Homestead's location within the wilderness is to be achieved by allowing natural succession to occur on surrounding edges. And as befitting to a wilderness site, access is to restricted to pedestrian traffic only.

Management Recommendations

-Restore historic entry and buffer site by purchasing adjacent property to the south.
-Establish visitor parking at the Quinault Ranger Station and at historic entry.Create bus and barrier-free parking lots.
-Strengthen connection between Quinault Ranger Station and the Homestead via interpretive trails and displays.
-"Logging road" trail, historic entry , and all trails within site to be barrier-free, interpretive trails.
-Close Canoe Creek road entry to public. Maintain for intermittent NPS access only.
-Repair bridge at historic entry and limit vehicular access to intermittent NPS use only.
-Repair fences as indicated. Replace metal wire with split cedar boards as necessary.
-Replant orchard with homestead varieties and protect from wildlife until maturity.
-Interfere as little as possible with Elk herd.
- Mitigate existing road through site by regrading , installation of crushed aggregate trail, and crushed aggregate imbedded in surface for intermittent vehicular use.
-Remove addition to house and install caretaker.
-Restore barn for interpretive displays, museum of homesteading tools, and visitor facilities.
-Use existing fenced pasture for NPS trail stock.



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

0 50 100 200 FEET

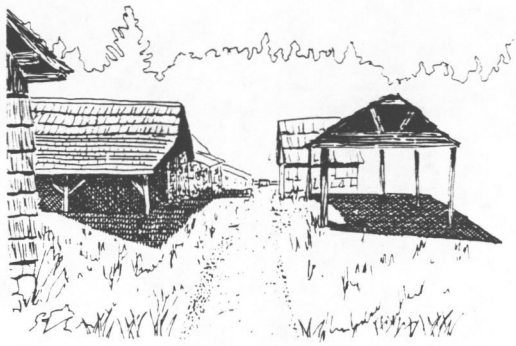
KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Pat Greene

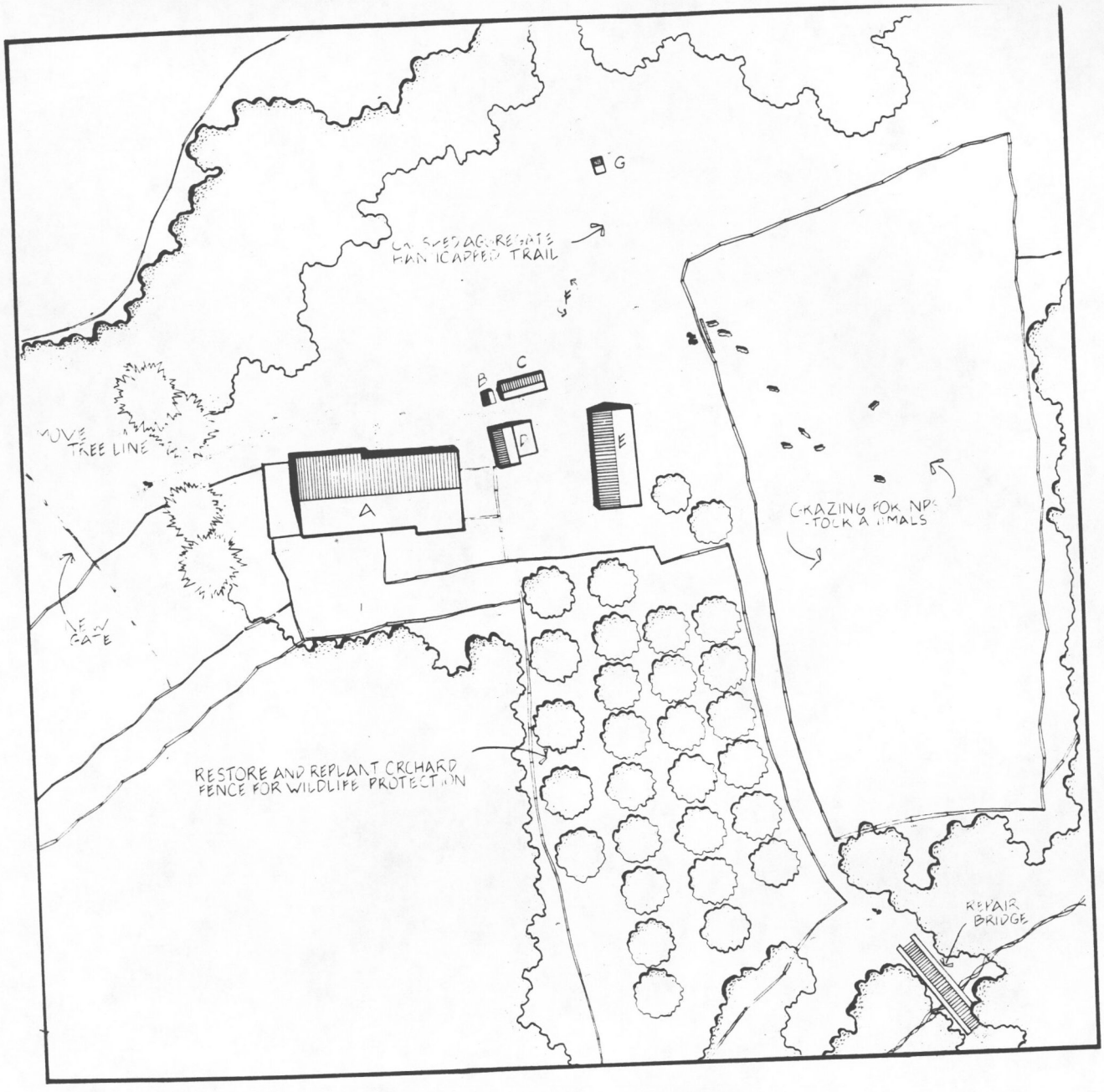
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VIEW OF HOMESTEAD BUILDINGS



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

0 20 40 80 FEET

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

LEGEND

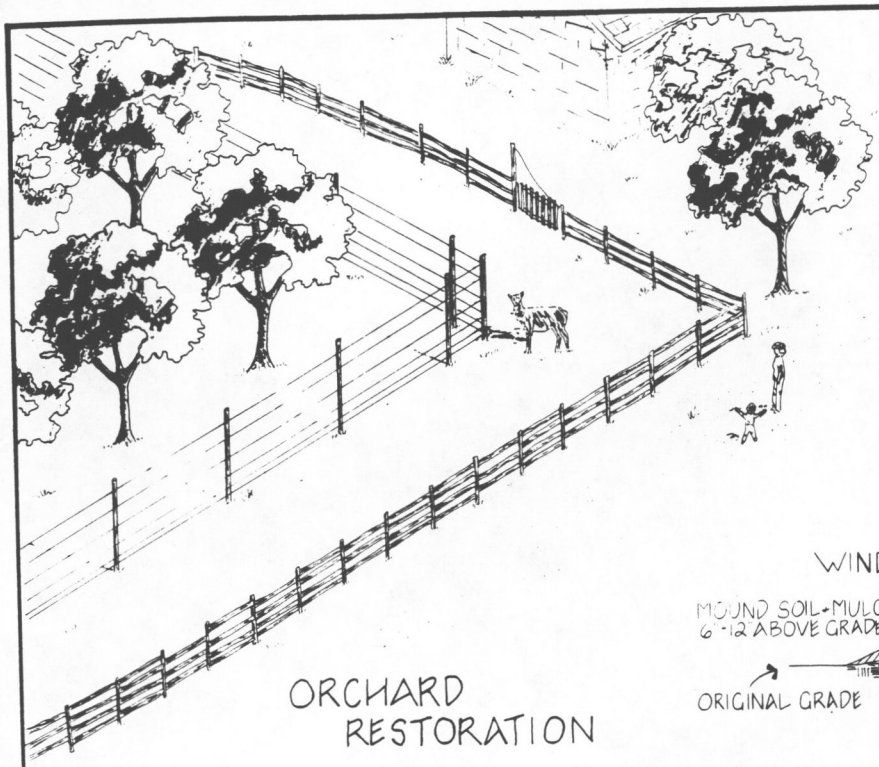
A RESTORE FOR INTERPRETIVE DISPLAY
B STABILIZE - CLOSE TO PUBLIC
C REPAIR - USE AS RAIN SHELTER
D STABILIZE - CLOSE TO PUBLIC
E REMOVE ADDITION - CARETAKER'S RES.
F REMOVE SHED
G STABILIZE - CLOSE TO PUBLIC

Pat Greene

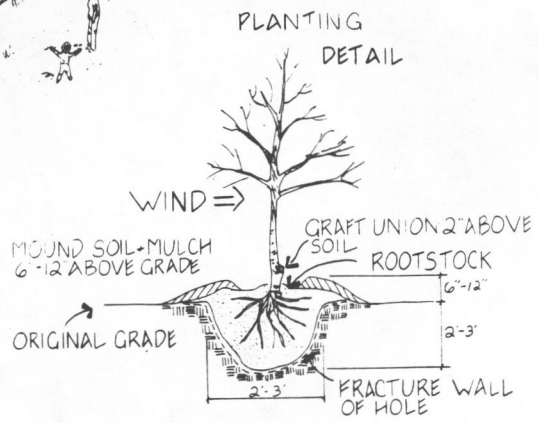
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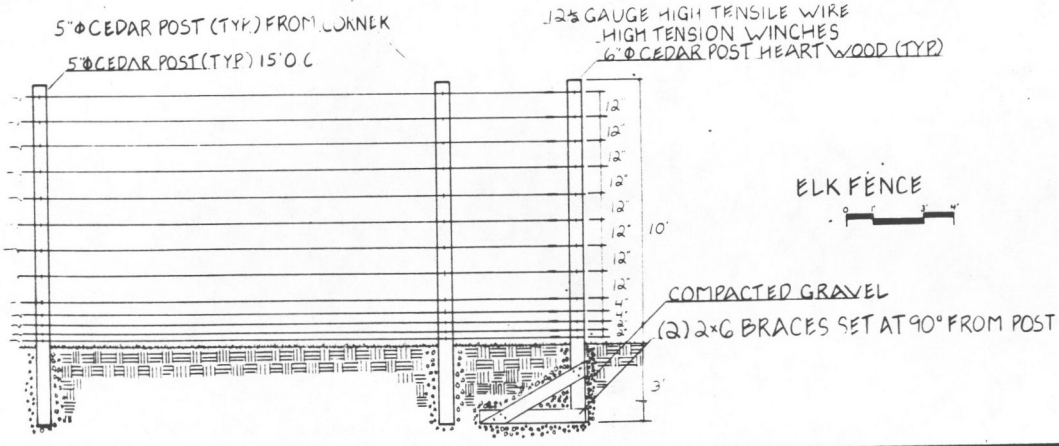
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ORCHARD RESTORATION





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HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

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HOMESTEAD FRUIT VARIETIES OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

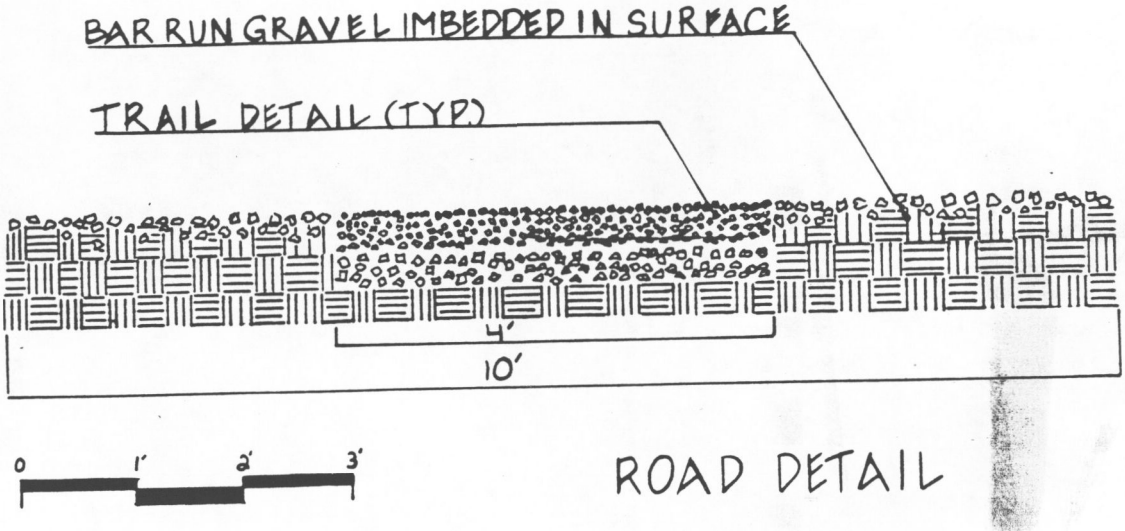
APPLES
- NORTHERN SPY
- SPITZENBERG
- BALDWIN
- GRAVENSTEIN
- YELLOW NEWTON
- GRIME'S GOLDEN

CHERRY
- BING
- LAMBERT
- ROYAL ANNE

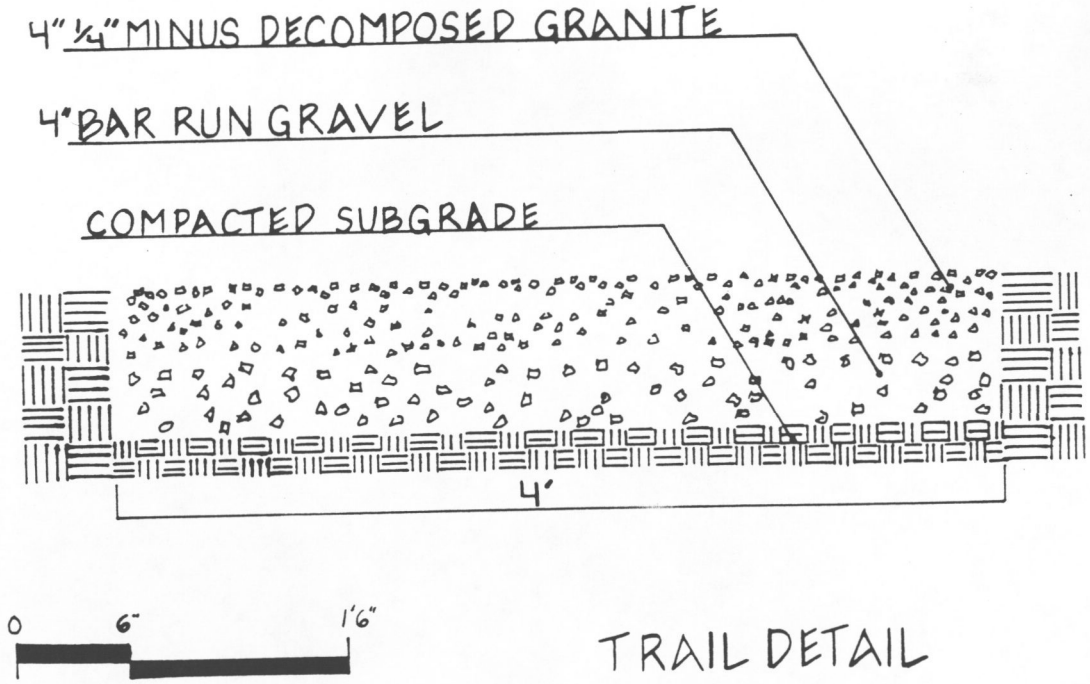
PEAR
- BARTLETT
- BOSC
- SECKEL

RECOMMENDED "MODERN" ROOTSTOCKS:
SEMI-DWARF 15'-25'
APPLE - M7 OR M9
CHERRY - GM61
PEAR - OH×F513


TRAIL



ROAD DETAIL



TRAIL DETAIL

• JEFF KRUEGER •

National Register

The Kestner-Higley homestead has been evaluated for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic places. By following the guidelines provided, it has been determined that the site does qualify for nomination. Kestner-Higley makes an important contribution to the local history of the pioneer era in the Quinault Valley. The homestead dates from the early 1890's, and was one of the first sites to be settled in the valley. Today it is the only example of this pioneering venture left on publicly owned land, and is a prime example of this pioneering effort in the valley.

The site does have intrusions, but retains its historic integrity. Some of its major drawbacks are recent building modifications and additions, plant succession in abandoned fields, and a small amount of non-historic land use. Beyond this, the majority of the land is in it's homestead-era condition. The site layout is much the same, and its natural setting still remains within the lush rainforest of the Olympic Peninsula. Most importantly however is the fact that the site still retains a strong feeling of isolation: A clearing in the forest. This, more than anything else, gives the site an accurate feel of its historic past, and therefore provides integrity.

The period of significance for the site is being called "pre auto", or the early homestead period, from the beginning of the 1900's until the late 1920's. This was the time when the homestead was still being carved from the wilderness, for the most part very isolated, and in a subsistence state. With the introduction of the automobile, this isolated existence came to an end as people were free to come and go with relative ease.

Concept and Management

The main goal of this project is to preserve, improve, and interpret the site's existing feeling relating to its period of significance. Other important goals include providing for safe visitor access and interpretation of the surrounding natural and cultural landscape elements.

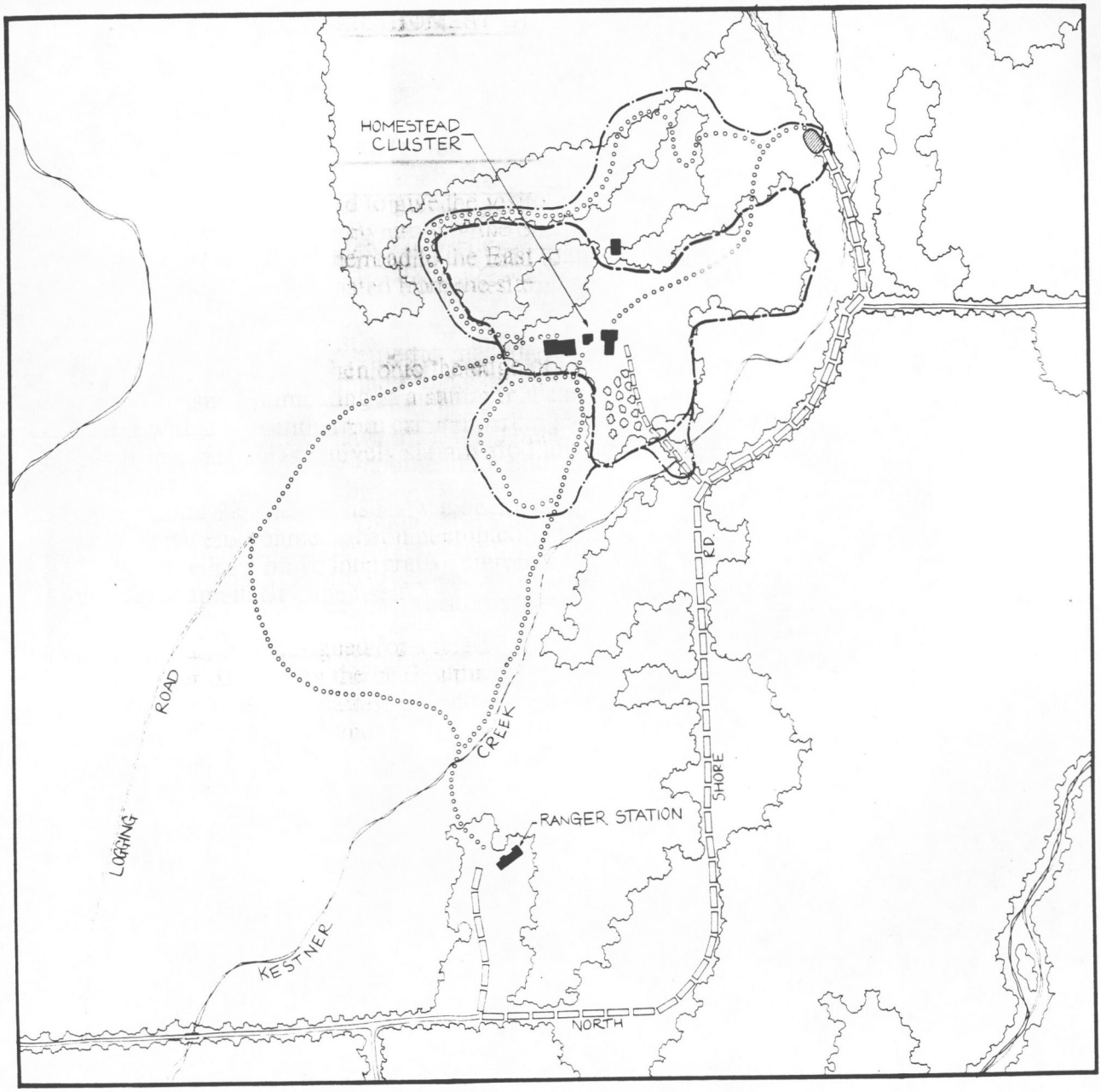
The following management goals have been developed:
1. Keep land use in its historic state including clearing of pastures, and replanting orchard. Repair fenceline to help define historic land use.
2. Strictly limit all auto access to the site.
3. Adaptively re-use certain elements of the site for NPS functions, such as stock grazing, and NPS housing, where appropriate (Year round housing of possibly one family will drastically limit the chances of site vandalism).
4. Remove non-historic structures from the Register designated area.
5. Bring exteriors of all existing structures to the style of the determined significant period, and make buildings structurally sound so as not to be hazardous to visitors.
6. Passively interpret both historic and natural features on and around the site.
7. Create appropriate access routes to and from ranger station.

Design Intention

The site design is intended to give the visitor a feeling of looking into the past, and to interpret what this feeling means. By limiting the South entrance to service vehicles and handicap drop off only, and by removing the road to the East (dating to 1939) evidence of the automobile age has for the most part been eliminated from the site. A foot trail will provide access from the ranger station via an abandoned logging road and new trail onto the West edge of the site. Parking will be provided near the old East entrance. From the lot the visitor will be taken by boardwalk briefly through the rainforest, then onto the edge of a pasture. The path will then carry them through a series of vistas culminating in a stunning view of the homestead structures. This will provide the visitor with a transition from car and parking lot into the isolation of an early homestead within the rain forest, within a relatively short period of time.

Once within the site the visitor will begin to understand the Quinault Valley Homestead and the often harsh environment that it attempted to settle. This will be accomplished through two small interpretive loop trails, interpretive signs, a homestead tools exhibit located in the barn, and from the landscape itself.

The site has been designed for a relatively small number of visitors generally not in excess of thirty to forty per day during the peak summer season. With this limited number of visitors it will be possible to interpret mainly through the use of signs, maps and historic photos placed around the site. It is intended that that this low key method of interpretation combined with a low visitation will help the site to retain its isolated feeling, while at the same time providing access to all interested for years to come, and at a relative low cost.



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Jeff Krueger

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON - EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

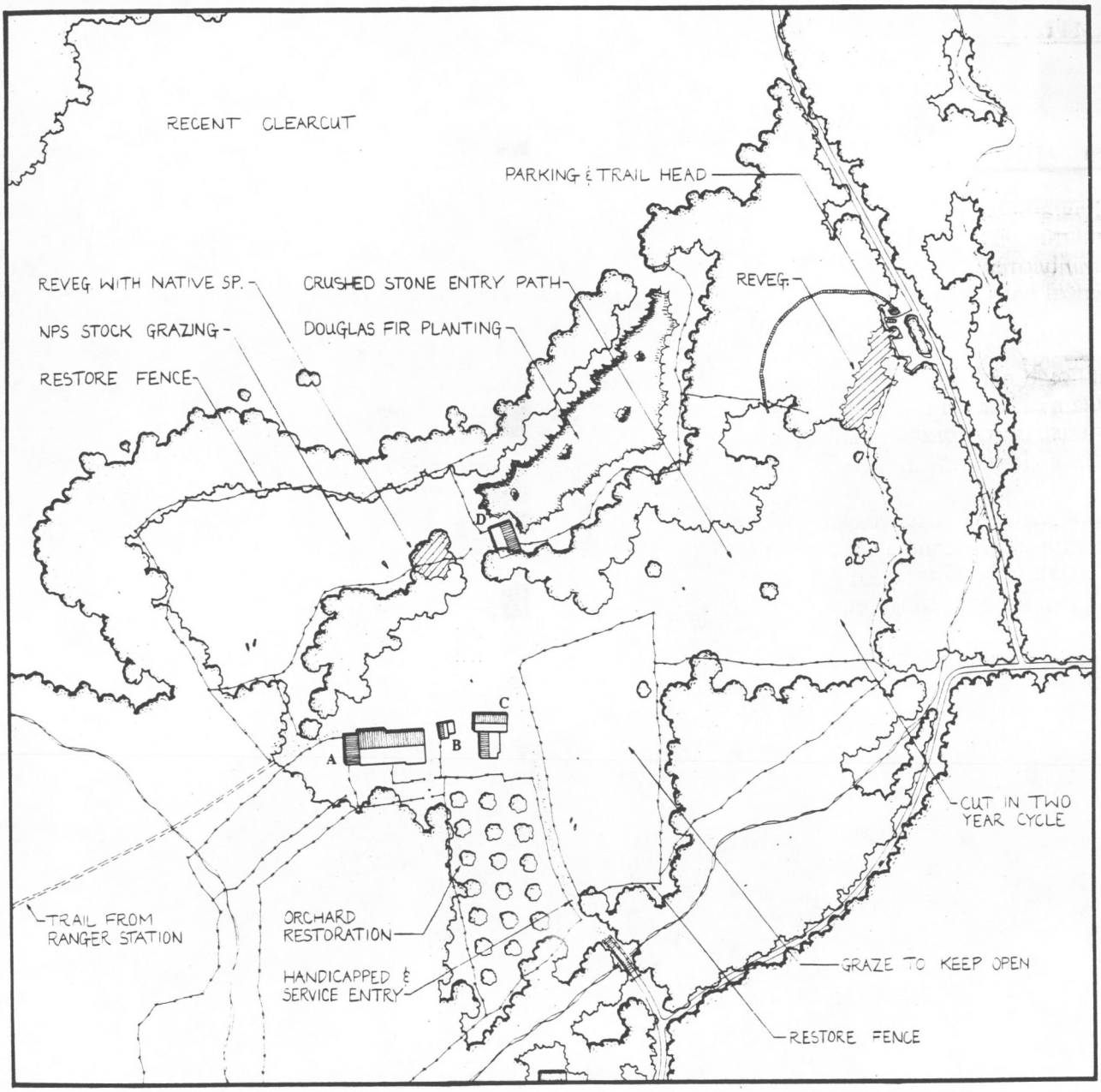
LA489 STUDIO, FALL 1989

0 100 200 400 FT

LEGEND

- AUTO ROUTE (R.S. TO SITE)
- FOOT TRAIL
- HANDICAPPED ACCESS/SERVICE
- PARKING AREA
- TREE LINE
- HOMESTEAD PRESERVATION ZONE
- SITE BOUNDARY

Access from Ranger Station to Homestead Site: By auto via North Shore Road to parking area (0.8 mile). By foot via 1.1 mile loop trail.



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD





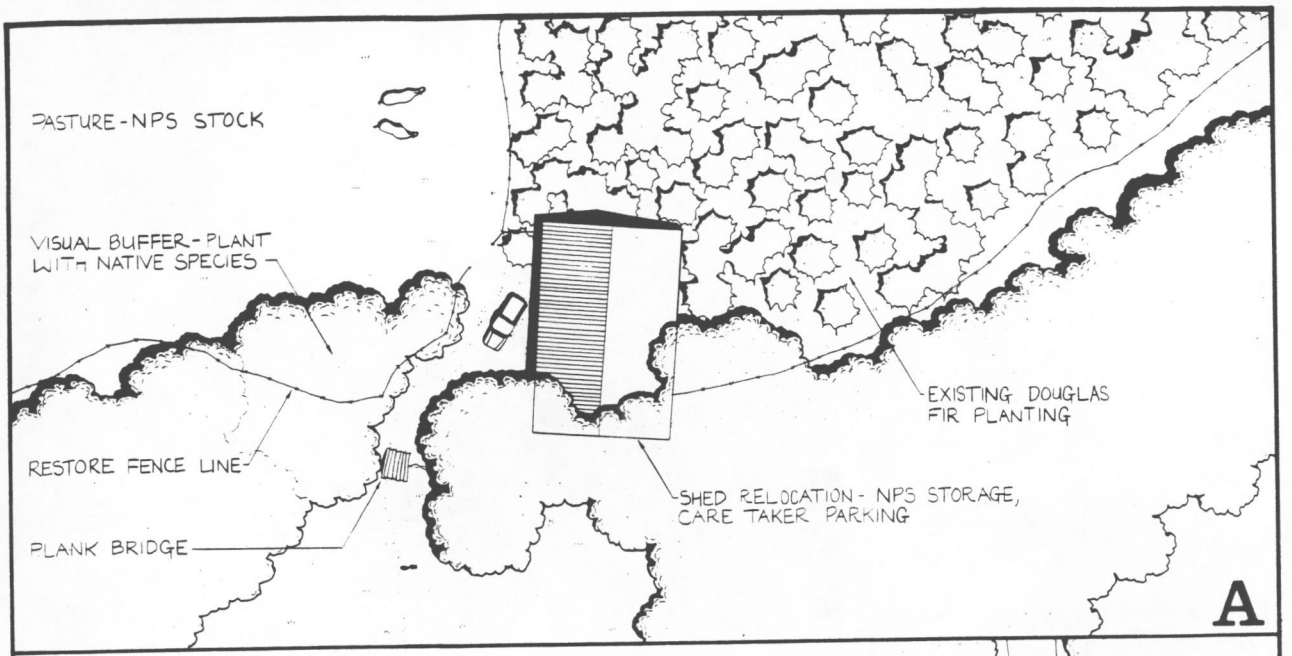
A. Barn- Open to public for interpretation, and housing of homesteading tool exhibit. Stabalize structure and restore facade and roof.
B. Shed- Restore facade. Closed to public, NPS storage.
C. House- Restore facade. Convert interior to year round caretaker housing.
D. Steel Shed- Relocate outside of Preservation Zone. Visually screen from trails. Caretaker parking and NPS storage.

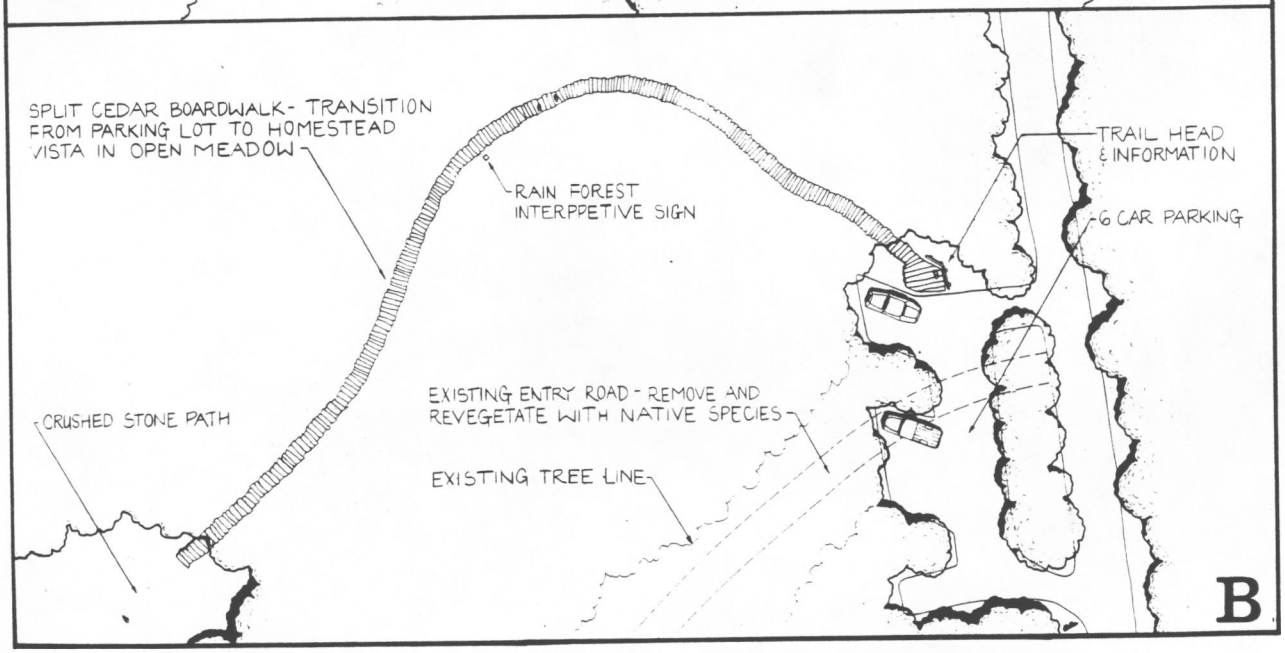
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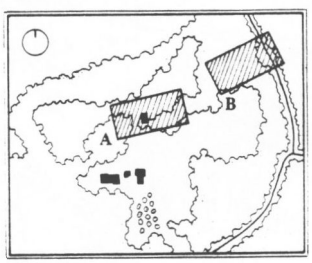
HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Jeff Krueger





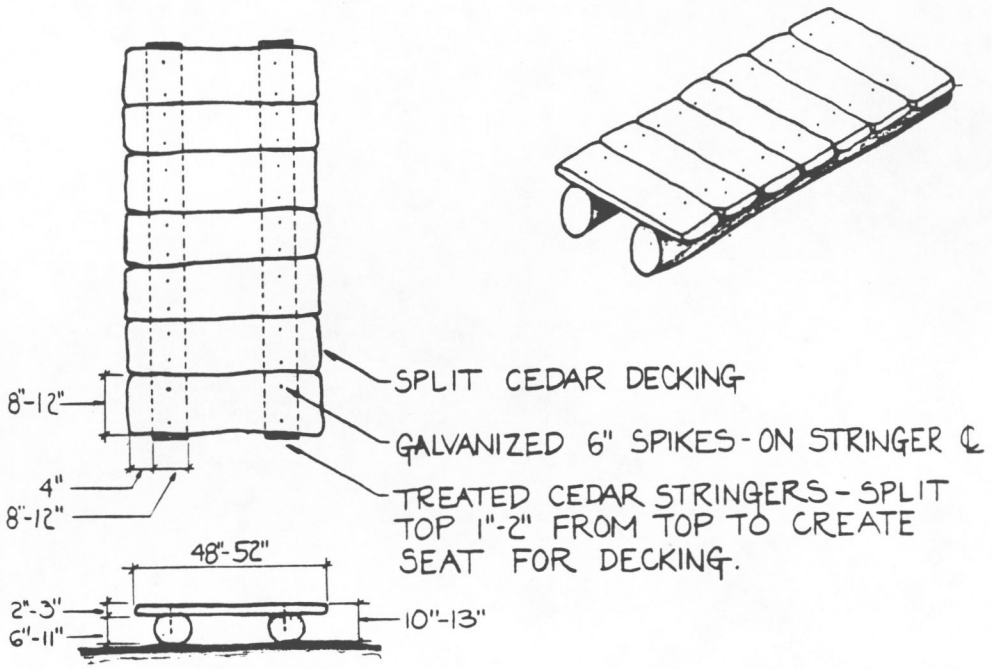


LOCATION MAP

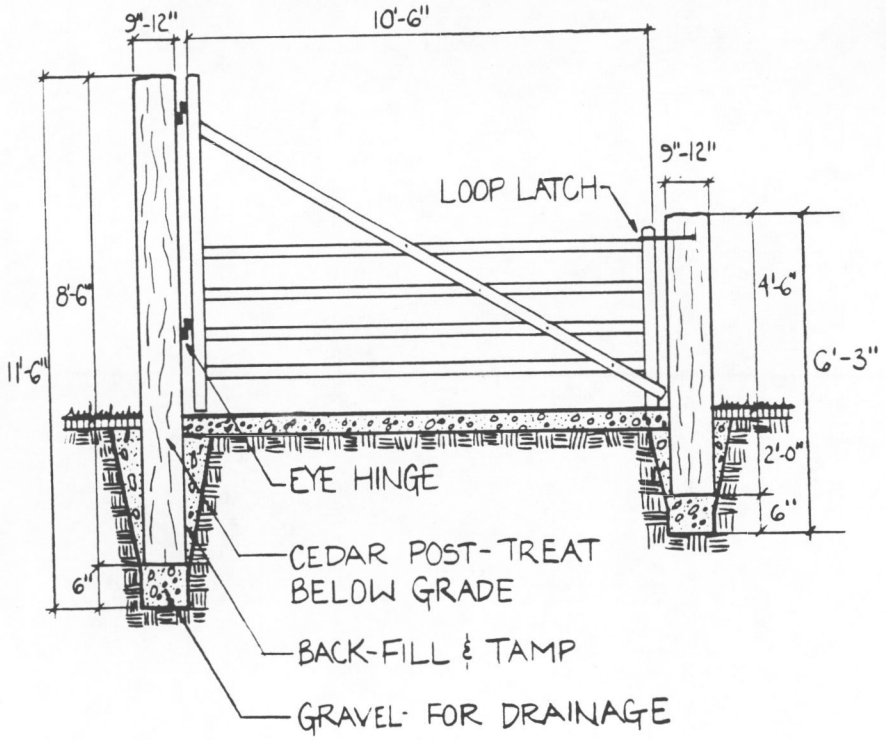
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DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LA489 STUDIO, FALL 1989



1/2 BOARDWALK DETAIL
NO SCALE



2/2 GATE DETAIL
NO SCALE

• THOM THOMPSON •

QUINAULT VALLEY PIONEER HOMESTEAD DISTRICT

The interpretation of temperate rainforest ecology as it exists on the western slope of the Olympic Mountains is the primary focus of this proposal. More specifically it should illuminate and contrast how the rainforest responds to natural disturbances versus human induced disturbances in its succession toward vegetation community climax.

What is most revealing about homestead sites is the constant struggle European settlers endured in attempting to maintain adequate clearing to produce subsistence crops in the face of constant rainforest reclamation. Another major theme to be addressed is evolution of the National Park Service response to the existence farm residences within the Olympic National Park boundaries, progressing from homeowner distrust and confrontation with the Park Service, eviction and eradication of farms, and final reversal of policy. A limited amount of interpretation should be dedicated to a brief history of homesteading on the Olympic peninsula, the isolation of Quinault Valley from cultural centers and distance from markets for local produce, and land use evolution to meet the subsistence/income needs of the Kestner, Higley and Van der Water families.

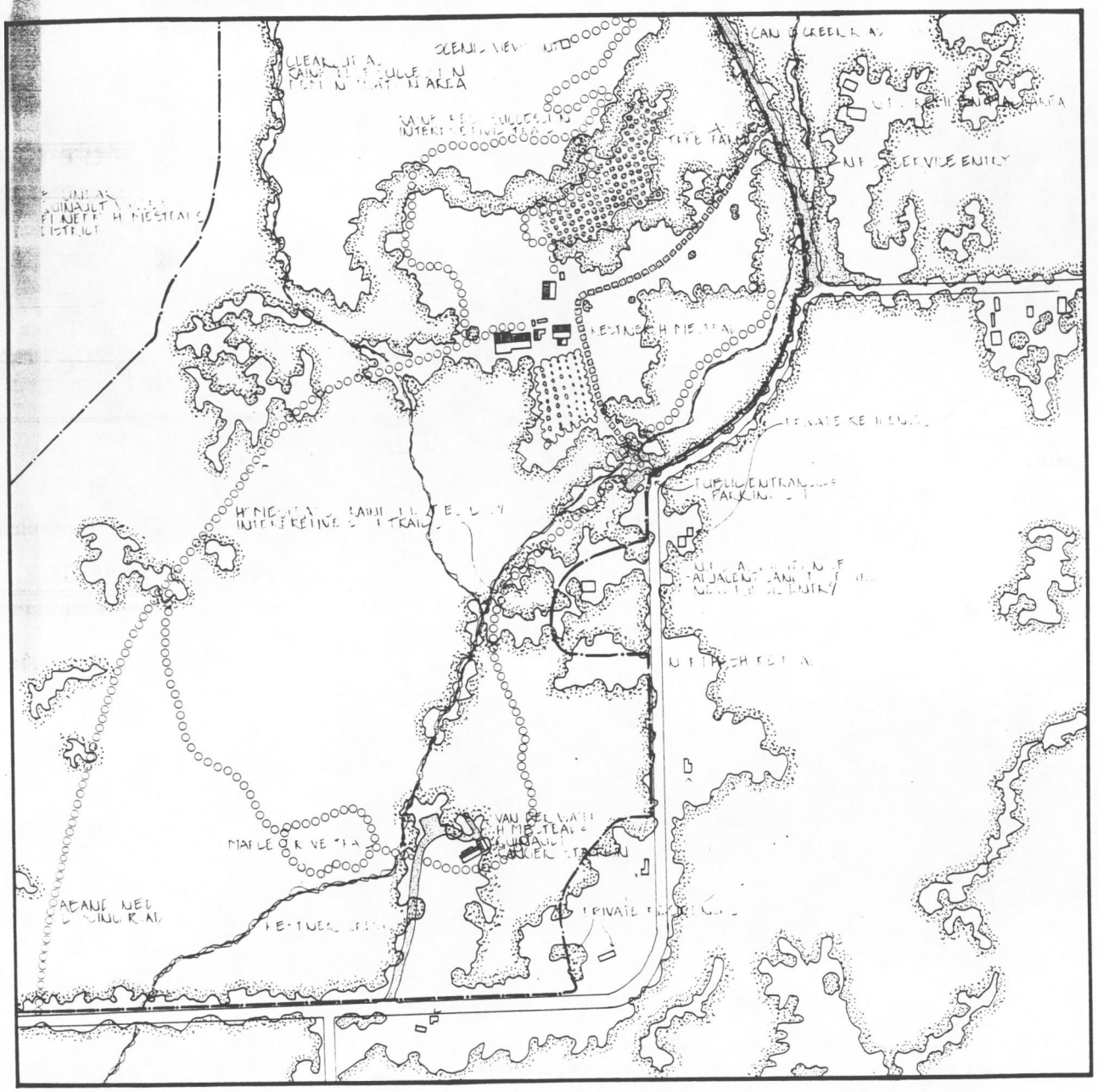
An issue critical to National Park Service in restoration of cultural sites involves addressing the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places, with specific reference to Historic Landscapes. Project funding appears to be limited if a given site does not meet the criteria for integrity and significance. In the case of the Kestner property, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that a continuum of use is present and can be reasonably restored. This is tied with the inability to isolate any particular historic period. The absence of significant personages, artistry or anticipated future historical information coming to light also preclude Register nomination. However, in the interest of economics and goodwill with peninsula residents interested in preserving their cultural heritage, the Park Service would be well advised to preserve the Kestner property. Its greatest value, however, lies in its educational value to park visitors, as has been noted above.

The adjacent property to Kestner, namely the Quinault Ranger Station receives approximately 4000 visitors annually. A comparable number of visitors is likely to visit a rehabilitated Kestner Homestead in its initial years. Considering that the principle design objective of the site is passive rainforest ecology interpretation, no on site year-round management would be required. Active interpretation, particularly as it regards fall harvesting in the orchard could be handled by docents of the Olympic Natural History Association. The principle role of the Park Service would lie in the area of physical maintenance of the Homestead. This would include initial restoration of structures and fencing, orchard restoration, wildlife habitat enhancements, construction of a new public entry, and annual vegetation removal in pasture and public areas where animal grazing has been insufficient.

DESIGN PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

...Low visitor use.
...Restricted to pedestrian/ handicapped access.
...N.P.S. service vehicles restricted to Canoe Creek Road entry only.
...Rainforest Ecology interpretive loop trail originating from Van der Water homestead, utilizing abandoned Kestner logging road in part, to connect with Kestner-Higley site.
...Handicapped access trails leading to homestead structure core and rainforest succession demonstration area, constructed from crushed granite.
...Adaptive reuse of homestead structures or rehabilitation to temporary occupation standards.
...Barn to be used as principle static interpretive display site with emphasis of cultural issues, i.e. homesteading, Park Service/landowner relations over the years.

...Residence to be used by the Olympic Natural History Association for offices and storage, and by N.P.S. and local community as a meeting hall.
...Reuse of aluminum shed for N.P.S. authorized livestock grazing supplies and equipment storage.
...Orchard should be restored to former boundaries, using historic Quinault fruit tree cultivars.
...Orchard should be harvested in fall by the public under O.N.H.A. supervision, with a cider mill provided.
...All orchard trees and Mazzard cherries and crabapples located along the periphery of pastures should be pruned and maintained annually by N.P.S.,particularly for wildlife enhancement.
...Existing pastures should be expanded with additional split rail fencing to encompass a combined upper pasture/ homestead core for authorized livestock grazing. Would serve to eradicate encroaching new growth to aid maintenance of open space on site.
...All wire fencing should be replaced with split rail fencing.
...Existing split rail fencing should be selectively cleared of blackberries for increased visibility, with consideration given to preserving indigenous fauna habitat and food.
...Existing clearcut area should be reclaimed by the rainforest and passively interpreted as a rainforest ecosystem succession demonstration area. A hiking trail should be constructed to an elevated scenic viewpoint facing the homestead and Quinault Lake.
...The Douglas fir tree farm should be maintained as an interpretive site for past farm income activity, with periodic harvesting and tree replacement.
Potential revenue source for O.N.H.A.
...Portions of woodland separating homestead core from upper pasture should be removed completely. Other portions should have alders, vine maples and invasive shrubs removed to restore former viewshed.
...Homestead Landscape Contemplation Retreat should be constructed in pasture behind orchard. Composed of wood rainshed covering randomly arranged basalt seating blocks. Oriented to view orchard, adjacent rainforest and distant view of Col. Bob Peak.



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK-WASHINGTON

HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

Thom Thompson

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LA489 STUDIO, FALL 1989

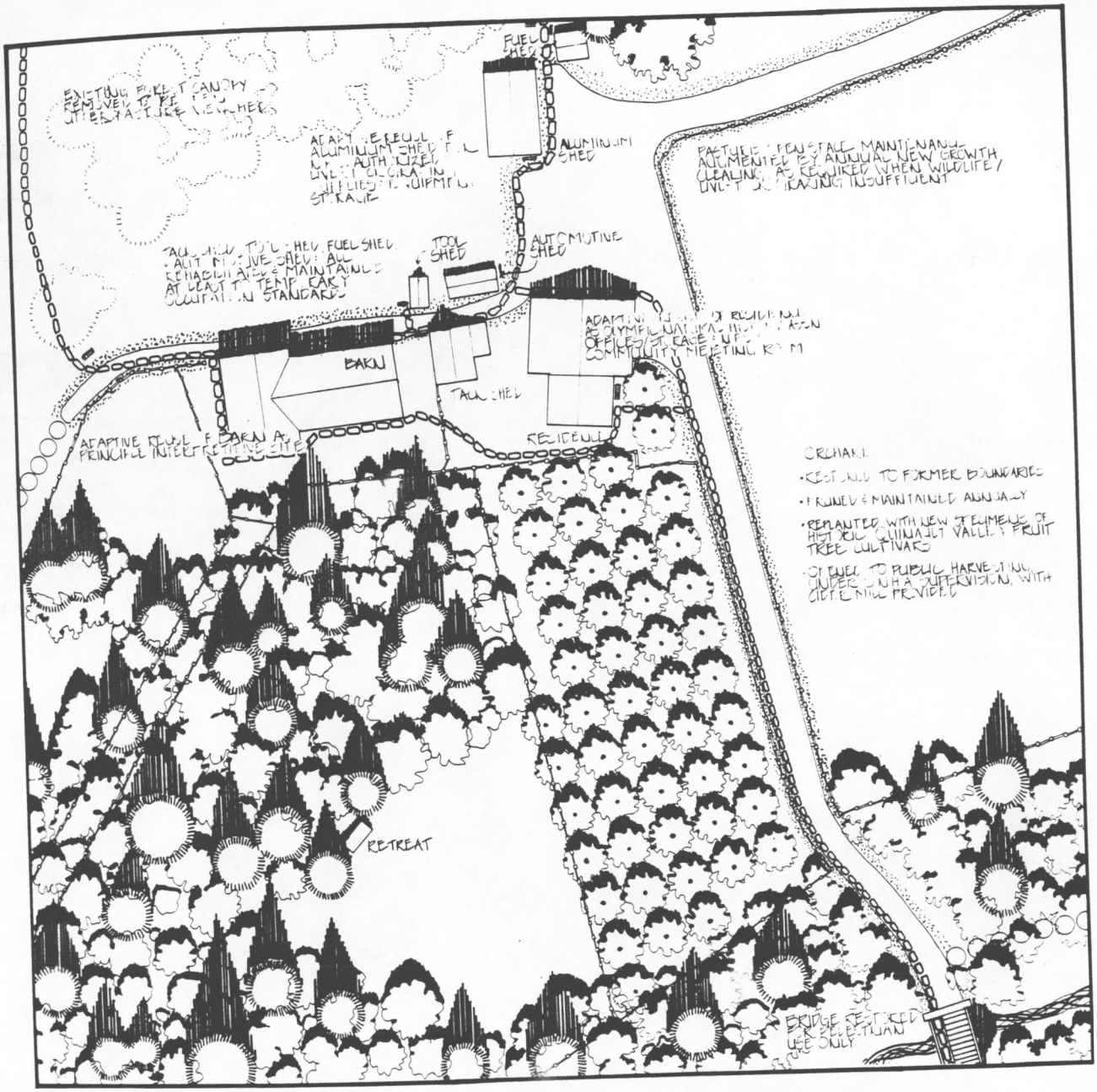
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LEGEND

GRAVEL ROAD

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

CREEK



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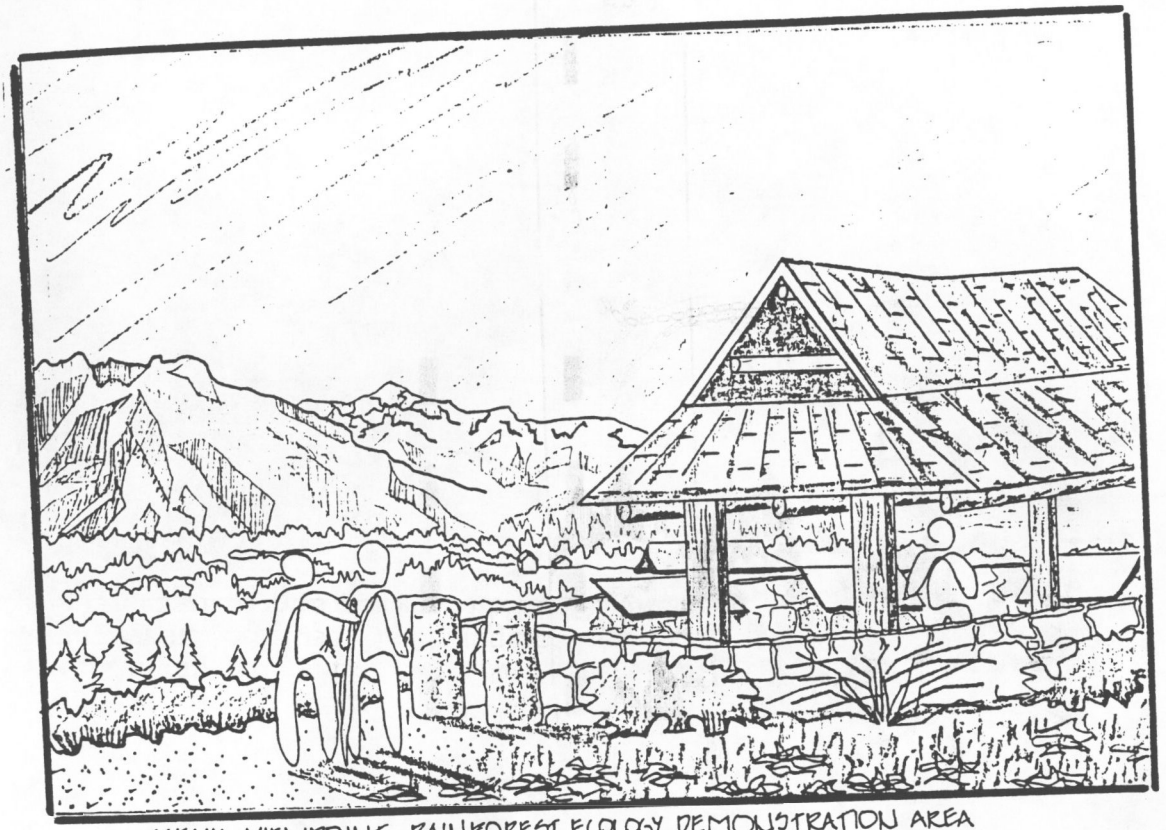
LEGEND

RAINFOREST ECOLOGY & HOMESTEAD INTERPRETIVE TRAILS

HANDICAPPED ACCESS TRAILS

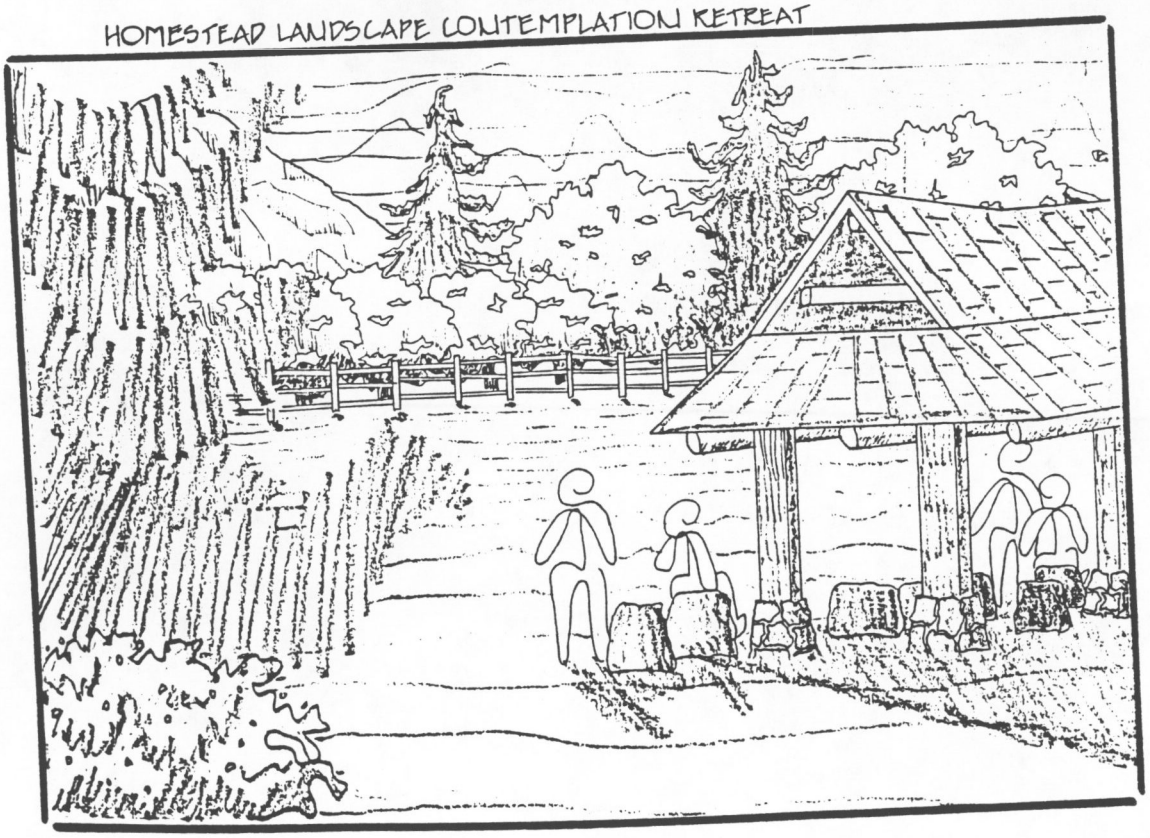
SPLIT RAIL FENCING

RAINFOREST ECOLOGY OR HOMESTEAD INTERPRETIVE SIGNS



SCENIC VIEWPOINT, RAINFOREST ECOLOGY DEMONSTRATION AREA

HOMESTEAD LANDSCAPE CONTEMPLATION RETREAT



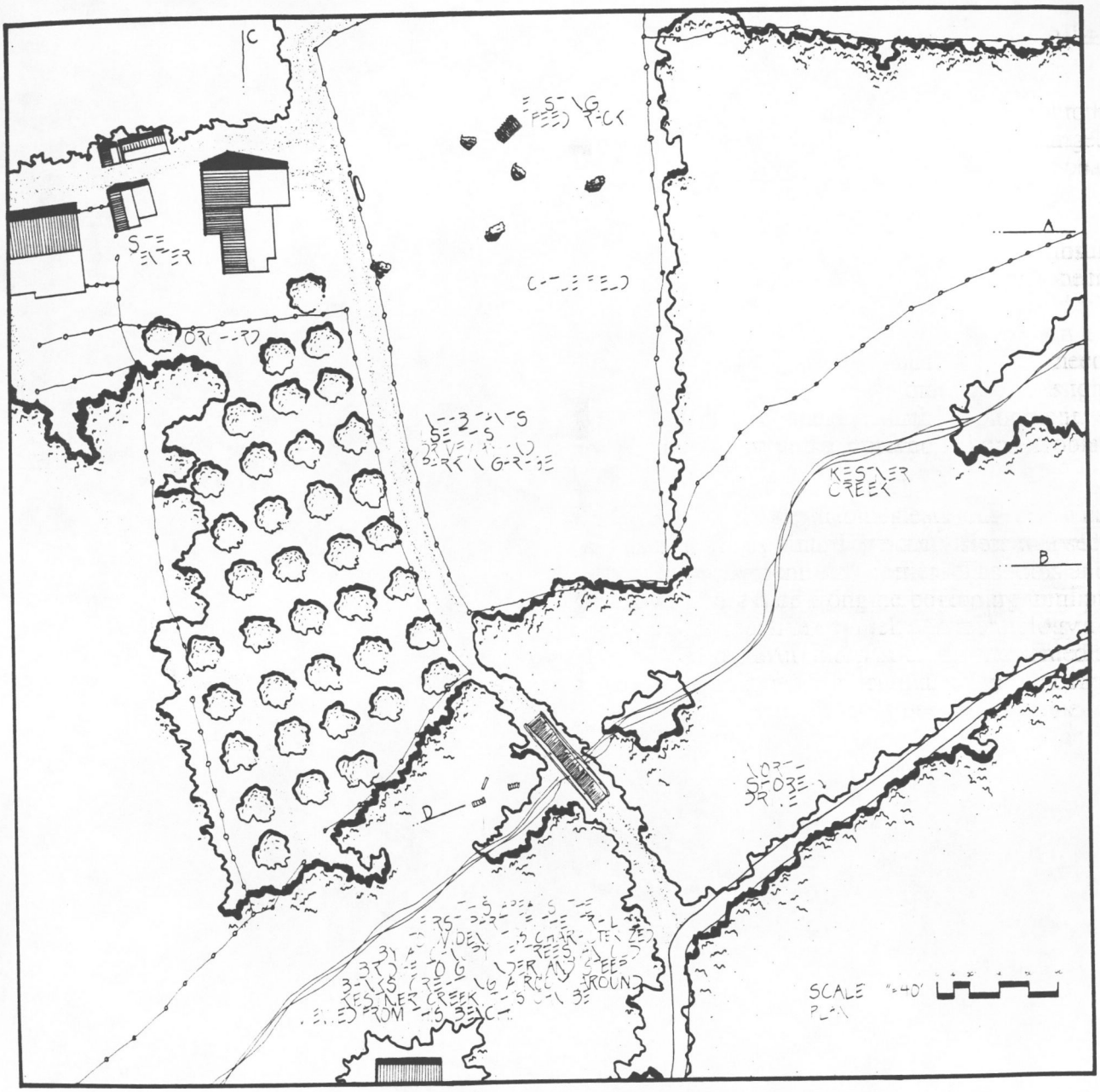
• SUSAN WILLHOFT •

The Kestner-Higley Homestead can be a tool to help the visitor of the Olympic Peninsula understand how and why our society has changed morally and technologically since the Kestners settled in the Quinault Valley in 1893. These changes have lead to the development and realization of the Olympic National Park.

By reading the Historical Context of the Peninsula as written earlier in this text, one can see the settlers intent of clearing land for cultivation become easier as technology advanced. Also, from these advancements, people in general learned the importance of protecting our land from technology. It put the National Park Service in a strange position to have to tell people land they were successfully inhabiting and cultivating needed to be taken away from them. The lesson to be learned from this is that more foresight needs to go into the planning and location of suburb expansion and any other housing development. All people should be very aware of this lesson, not just those involved in current location problems.

On the Kestner-Higley Homestead this lesson can be presented to the visitor. The barn can be used as a starting point. Here the visitor will see the kind of structure which could be built with the tools of the early peninsula settler. The tools and process can be presented. Stories about the process of living here from the beginning until present times can be presented both written and told by the live in park personnel. As technology advanced, new tools were used. The tools used for each level of repair to the site, can be presented as the first. Signs can be posted on all the buildings to indicate their original purpose. Signs can also be posted on all the fences to indicate at what point the Kestners and Higleys were able to clear land how far. Also, the original location of the Kestner's cabin can be shown on a map and it can be explained that these people built in a flood plain and so their cabin got washed away during a flood. The impact of the automobile can be explained. Also, the importance of the more ecologically sensitive automobile of today.

It will be valuable to have representatives of the new owner of the homestead to be living on the site. This will be the living history aspect of the site. Park service employees have an intent to educate visitors about living on earth with respect for ecological systems. They can integrate this layer of social understanding into the site by living in the building which has been used for living, rather than building another building. They can use new technology, as it develops, to make their home more environmentally sensitive and or economical. They can then explain to visitors what they are doing. Some of the clearings of land should be left as an example of the openness vs. the forest. These clearings also support grazing wildlife and wildlife which flourishes in the shrubs along the edge of the clearing. It can be posted at what time certain areas were left to succession so the visitor can see how fast this process is. All this signage can be viewed from the 'boundary trail'. Just as the settlers of the 1850's did, we take on the responsibility of settling our land while reflecting the moral issues of our time and the technology of our time.



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HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

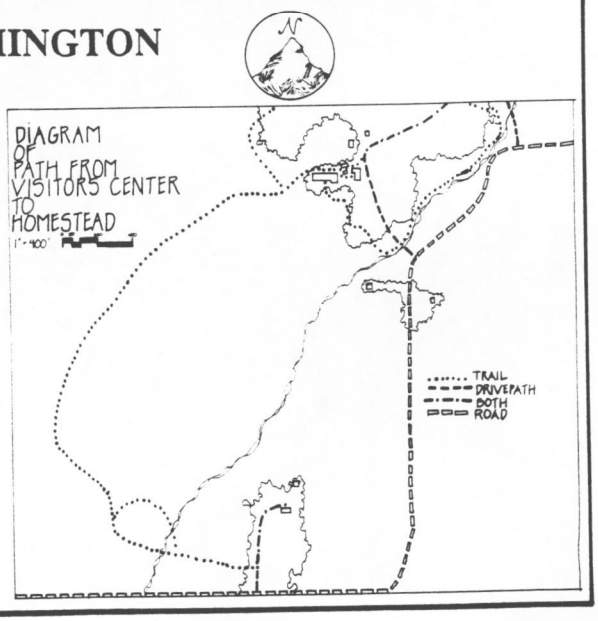
KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

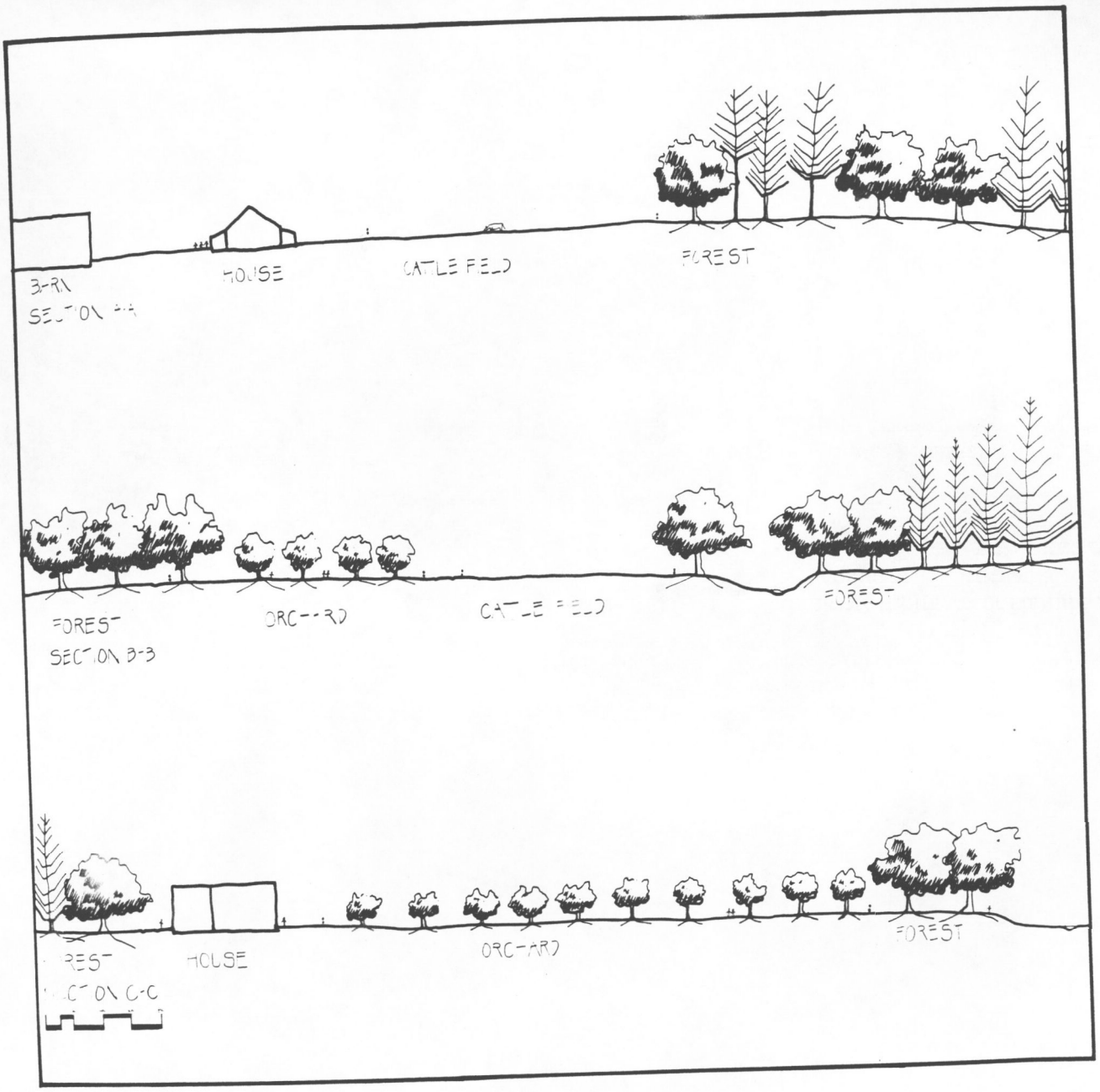
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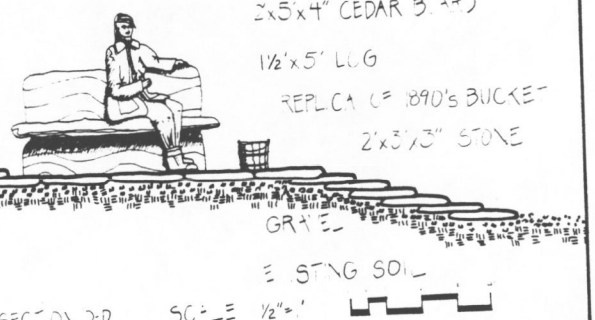
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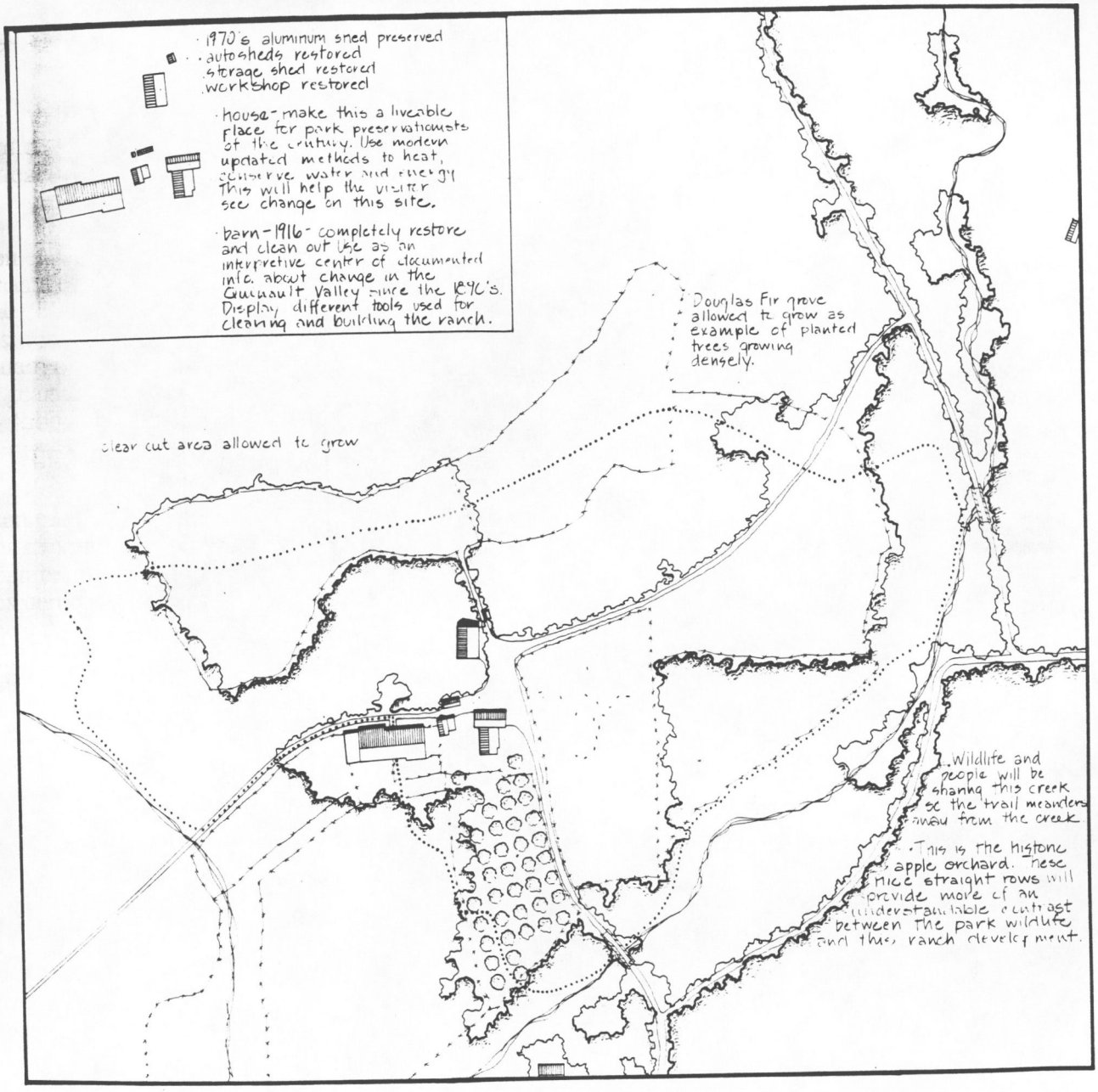
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SECTIONS



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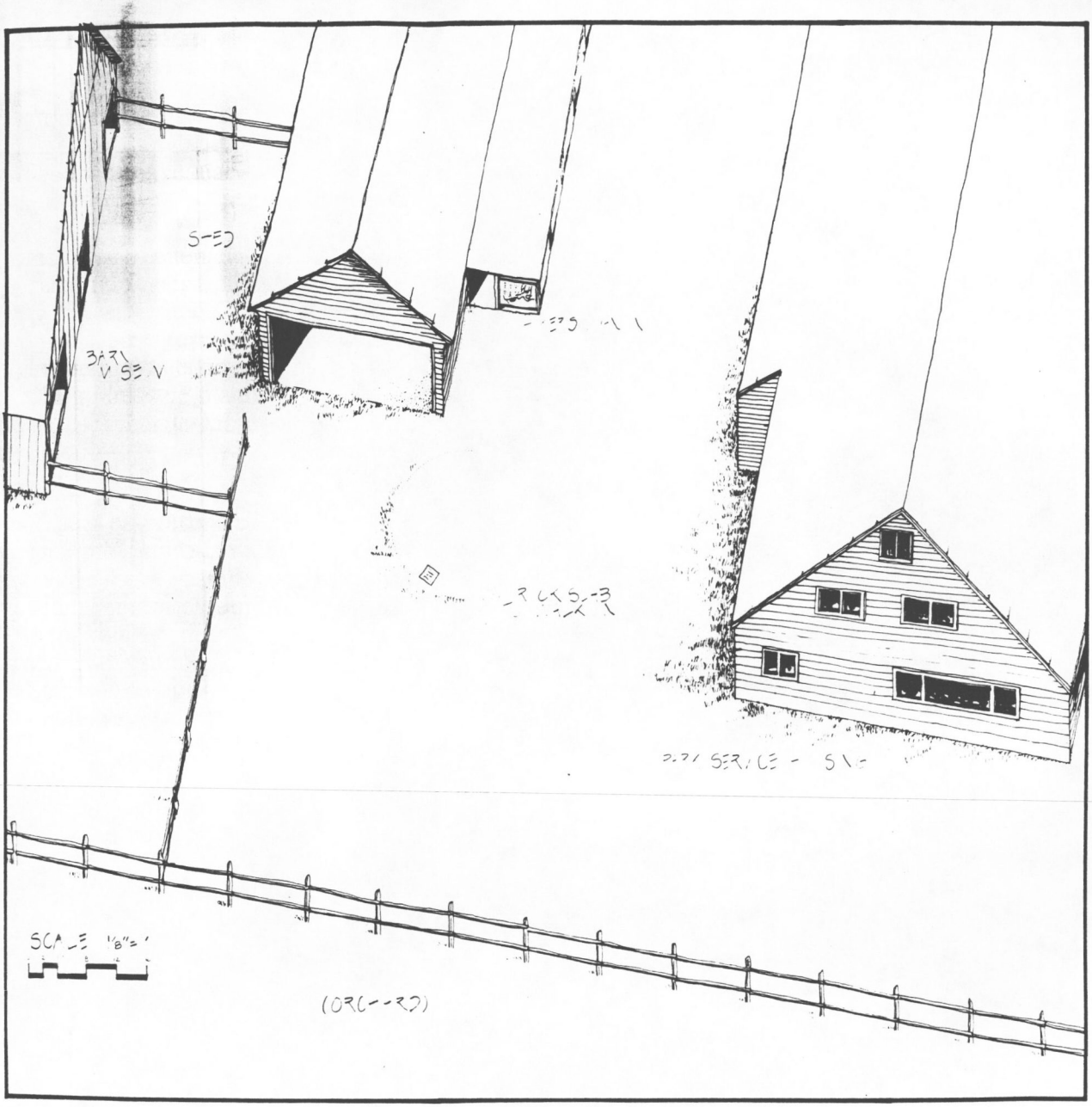
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LEGEND

- ..... location of boundary trail
- fenceline to be repaired and restored. Leave fence sections out where ever trail crosses fence
- driveway consisting of two strips of hardpacked soil with grass medians.
- dirt/grass path which needs to be kept clear of fallen branches.
- creeks allowed to meander
- bridges to be restored
- boundary of the vegetation - needs to be cut back or allowed to grow in depending on the plan
- increased apple orchard
- two rows of three Bigleaf Maples planted 30' apart - these mark the two pedestrian entrances to the site. It is the transition from wildlife to ranch. Three is also a number used often in folklore.

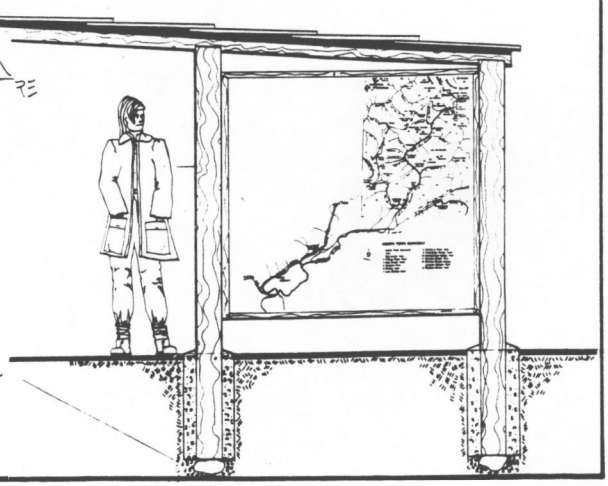


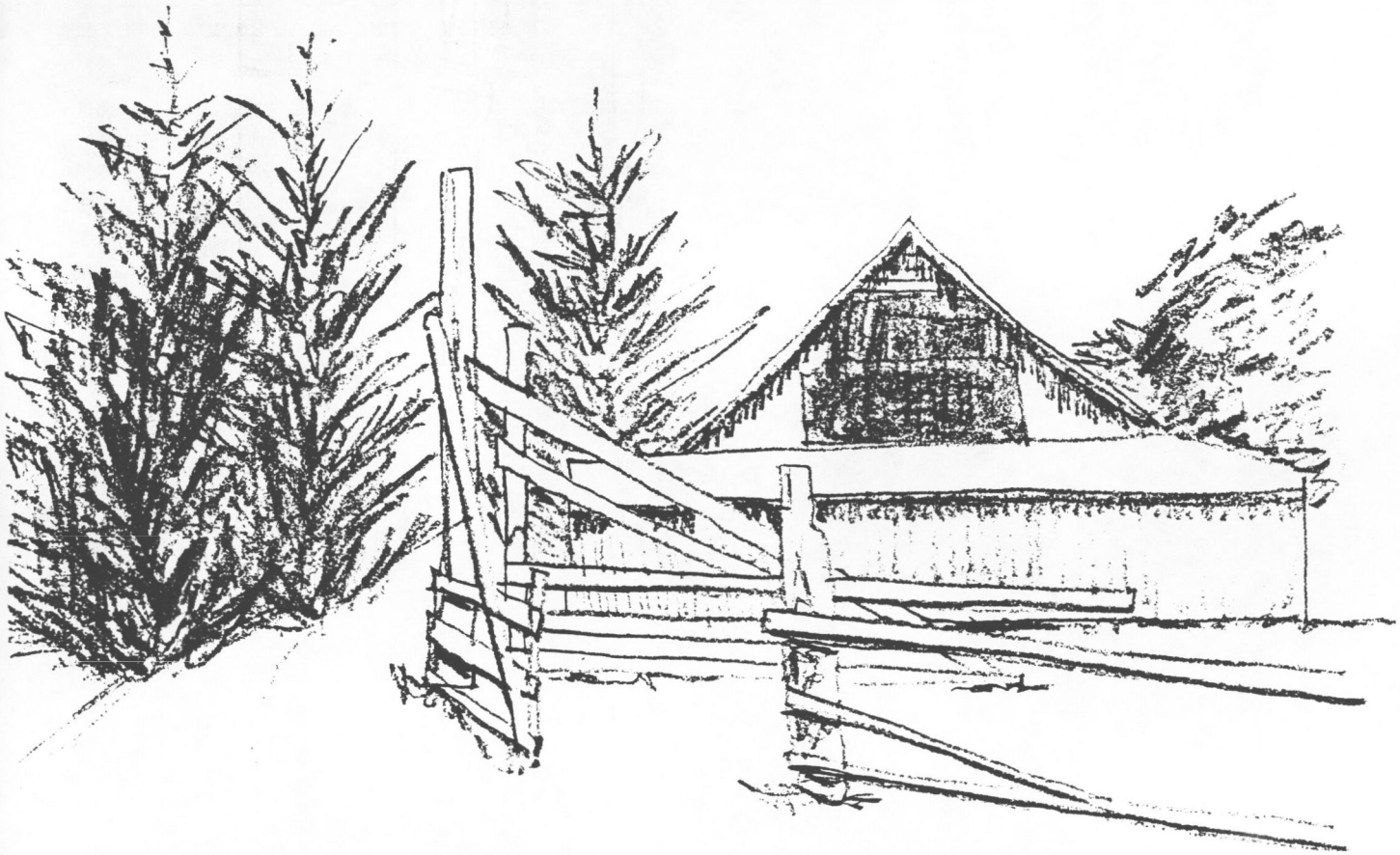
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HISTORIC HOMESTEAD STUDY

KESTNER-HIGLEY HOMESTEAD

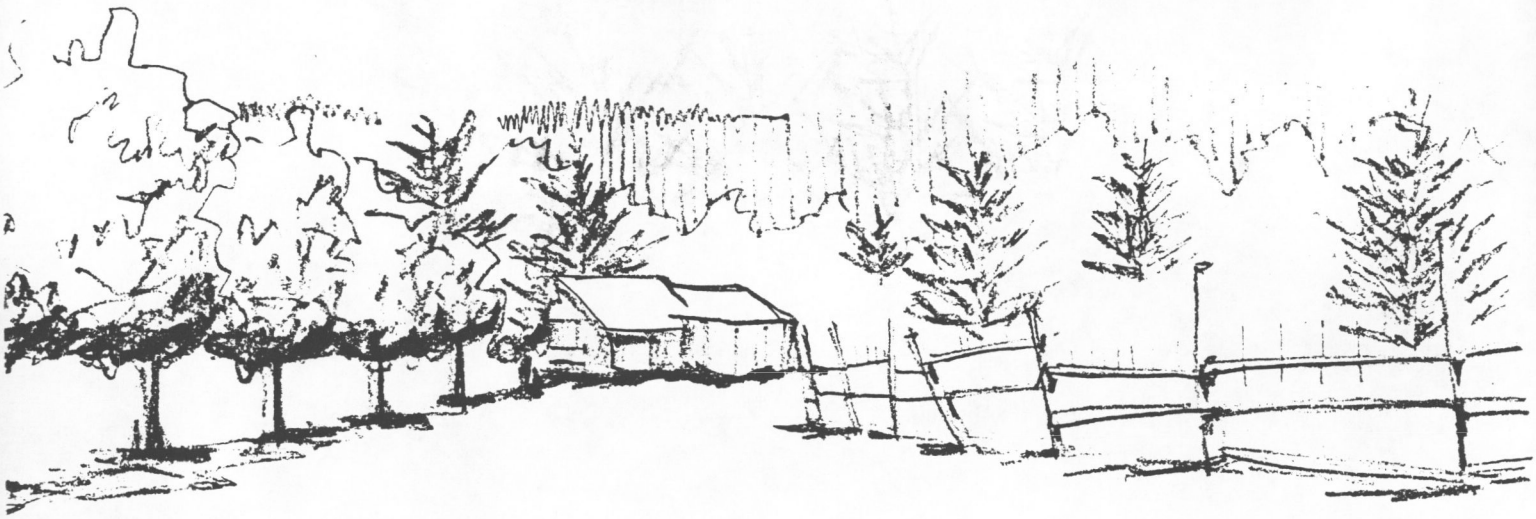
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