

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT:

OLD ST. MARY RANGER DISTRICT

compiled by

Holly Geoghegan

: Summer 1978

Glacier National Park

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT:
Old St. Mary Ranger Station

I. Historical Significance

In the early days of the National Park Service, the park ranger was a one man operation when it came to performing the various duties required in maintaining an area constituting a national park. The ranger station was the ranger's home base - not only a cabin where a good meal and a warm fire complemented a long hard day on the job, but a place that became one of the key elements in a national park associated with the administration and protection of the park.

The Old St. Mary Ranger Station was such a place. Built in 1913, it was among the first Park Service structures erected on the east side of the newly created Glacier National Park (established in 1910). The station provided living quarters and a central working location for the ranger stationed on the east side of the park until additional administrative buildings were built at St. Mary in the 1930s.

Prior to 1930, travel within Glacier Park was limited and occurred primarily on horseback or on foot; the ranger was virtually isolated at his station. Therefore, the ranger stations throughout the park were known collectively as "districts" since each station, per se, consisted of a group of buildings to provide the necessary facilities a ranger needed to carry out his assorted duties. In 1918, the St. Mary Ranger Station and the surrounding buildings comprised the St. Mary District. Today, with the ease of transportation, and the accessibility of the Going-to-the-Sun Highway and roads outside the park, there are only two active districts remaining in Glacier: Hudson Bay and West Lakes. The St. Mary area retains its label as a district, however, in keeping with its 1918 historical representation.

The most historically significant building in the district is the ranger station as it is typical of the early administrative structures once located in the major valleys of Glacier Park. The cabin was constructed under a local contract and represents the fine workmanship of the early log cabins in the area. The split log construction still plainly shows axe hewing marks, and the interior shows squared logs cut with a broad axe. This station and others like it still standing today, played a crucial role in the spreading of game protection, visitor services, and law enforcement to the most remote corners of the rugged Glacier National Park.

II. Setting, Ownership, and Use

The Old St. Mary District rests on its original site on a wooded hillside facing northeast on the east end of upper St. Mary Lake. The area currently contains the ranger station (built in 1913, stabilized in 1975), a woodshed (built in 1915), the Lubec barn (built in 1926, moved to St. Mary, erected, and restored in 1977), one pit toilet, and a flagpole (both reconstructed to approximate the originals in 1975).

The district has been owned, operated, and maintained by the National Park Service since its construction in 1913. Until its completion, the rangers were unable to spend sufficient time on the east side of the Continental Divide to provide adequate protection to park lands and wildlife. After additional administrative buildings were constructed, the ranger station became the ranger's permanent residence, and was later used as seasonal housing until 1969.

In 1972, the Old St. Mary Ranger Station was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1975, the ranger station was restored to its 1913-1920 era. Since then, the building has been used for interpretive programs such as the Living History and Children's Programs. Daily, park visitors - both

young and old alike - can relive the thrilling experiences of an early park ranger as a naturalist portrays scenes from the park's formative years.

The creation of the National Park Service in 1916 standardized the ranger organizations throughout all the national parks, and placed them under the sole jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. The ranger of the 1910-1920 vintage, however, played a significantly different role when compared to his counterpart in grey and green today.

Protection during the formative years in Glacier National Park consisted of fire control, wildlife care, guiding visitors (promoting travel and collecting fees), and controlling concessioners, inholders, and trespassers. The park ranger was responsible for all maintenance and construction projects as well. Truly a "jack-of-all-trades," a competent ranger knew a little something about everything that related to his job. Chance Beebe, ranger at St. Mary from 1918-1919, was typical in this respect.

Beebe and his family (wife Eva and two children, Edward and Chauncey) moved into the Old St. Mary Ranger Station on May 17, 1918. The station had been vacant for one year at the time.¹ Presently, the Park Service in Glacier employs a staff of several hundred persons according to their given specialty, i.e., administration, law enforcement, wildlife management, interpretation, etc. In 1918, the ranger force in Glacier Park consisted of one chief ranger, one assistant chief ranger, and twelve rangers, so there is no doubting that Beebe faced a considerable challenge!

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The first ranger assigned to the St. Mary area was William Burns (1910-1913), a local freighter who gave up rangership after a few years to return to his earlier profession. Ed Swetman was the first ranger to actually live in the ranger station upon its completion in 1913 followed by John O'Connor, but historical notes and dates on these men are incomplete at this time. See list of rangers in Appendix.

Chance Beebe's duties encompassed the entire east side of Glacier, and he alone, managed all trail work, fire fighting, patrols, and needed repairs in the area. Beebe always walked on patrols; he rarely used horses. The only time he used a horse was when the Howard Eaton horse parties stayed in the St. Mary area.² When the party was ready to travel to other parts of the park, Chance would escort them out on horseback.

Firefighting was especially important for Beebe during the summer. Sometimes the fires were in his own district, but many times Chance was called out of St. Mary to fight fires in another part of the park. Often, if the fire was small, only one or two men hiked to put it out. Beebe was known for an old method called "backfiring" in which a man-made fire was started in front of the oncoming natural fire in order to arrest the blaze.

The park's first checking station for visitor vehicles was operated by Chance Beebe beginning in 1918. Located down by the chalets at the foot of St. Mary Lake, it consisted of an 8 x 10 canvas tent, a wooden table, three homemade stools, and a lap board to write on. A light winter (1917-1918) kept the roads in excellent condition for early travel, and an "exceptionally hot and dry" summer brought increased auto travel to Glacier with 1,164 cars registering at the St. Mary's entrance in 1918.

Beebe would also meet the Great Northern Railroad buses as they arrived at the St. Mary Chalets from the Glacier Park Hotel at East Glacier. He guided visitors and greeted such prominent persons as Mary Roberts Rhinehart, George Bird Grinnell, James J. Hill, and Queen Mary and Prince Albert of Belgium. During the winter months, Beebe and his wife moved down to the St. Mary Chalets. Mrs. Beebe worked as a caretaker for the Great Northern which in turn, supplied her with food and a small salary for this service.

² Howard Eaton, called "Buckskin Rider" by the Indians because of the buckskin horse he rode, conducted large parties of tourists (around 200 people) at St. Mary.

III. Construction

The representative district of Old St. Mary now contains the ranger station, a woodshed, a barn, and a one seat privy. In 1975, the Old St. Mary ranger station and the surrounding area was restored to its 1913-1920 era to serve as a living history exhibit with the theme: "Park Management: the First Decade." Mrs. Chance Beebe, now age 88 (1978) and living in Columbia Falls, Mt., has a vivid memory of the building's interior and exterior when she and her husband lived in the ranger station (1918-1920). Mrs. Beebe was consulted throughout the restoration. Her photographs, diary, and personal interviews support any alterations made during that time unless otherwise noted. (See Restoration)

In 1914, a fence enclosing approximately 40 acres for horse pasture was constructed. Today, a much smaller version can be seen, built with poles in a simple 'A' construction matching the original (not yet completed at this date).

In 1915, the woodshed and the barn were constructed. The woodshed remains a 12 x 20 sq. ft. structure with two doorways, located approx. 20 ft. south and slightly east of the ranger station. The building is of frame construction with 1" siding, lined on the inside with black tarpaper. It is a one room building facing the back side of the ranger station with a wood door off to the right, and a slanted roof sloping away from the ranger station. Ham and bacon was hung in this shed, and bears were often seen sniffing around it. The Old St. Mary barn was^a 15 x 18 x 10 sq. ft. structure located east of the ranger station and served as a storage for stock, hay, and grain. It was later used as a garage (circa 1930), and was eventually razed sometime in the early '60s. (see photos)

In 1977, permission was granted (according to 106 Clearance standards) to raze the Lubec Ranger Station and storage shed due to the deterioration, the lack of interpretive and historic value, and the lack of administrative need for these

structures. The Lubec barn, however, built in 1926, was still in repairable condition, and a request was approved to move the barn approx. 50 miles north to the site of the original St. Mary barn, and restore it to its 1926 state.

This was completed by Harrison Goodall and students from Montclair State College, New Jersey, in August 1977.³ All replaced logs were identified with aluminum tags labeled "1977", and are located in the daubing area on the left side of each log. All the roofing was replaced including 150 sq. ft. of sheathing, and concrete footers were installed to support the barn (approx. cost of this phase \$8,000, total cost approx. \$26,000).

The present barn is log on log with a lumber and black tarpapered roof. It has log joist purlins and rafters, and a half loft. By comparing photographs of the Lubec barn and the original St. Mary barn, it will be noted that they differ in appearance, and the original St. Mary barn was smaller (15 x 18) when compared with the present Lubec barn (19 x 26). The Lubec barn, nonetheless, is typical of the barn built in the 1920s, and was included to approximate the original, thus filling an otherwise noticeable gap in the overall interpretation of the early ranger station district at St. Mary.

The restored ranger station is a 1-1/2 story log cabin, 26 x 26 sq. ft. with 14 ft. high walls, and a sloping ridge roof. The logs are round except for the interior sides which are squared off with a broad axe. The interior walls are

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Harrison Goodall is the director of a historic restoration program at Montclair State College. After meeting with Harry Pfanz, Chief Historian, Gerald Rowe, Chief of Maintenance, and Henry Judd, Chief Historic Architect in Washington, upon their suggestion, Goodall then contacted Phil Iversen (Superintendent) and Ed Rothfuss (Chief Naturalist) in Glacier concerning the proposed Lubec restoration. As it was most conducive to Goodall's program and the park's purposes as well, Goodall was selected for the Lubec project.

sheathed with beaded lumber, 4" wide. The walks are constructed of split logs calked for weather proofing, and the foundation is of wooden piles. The roof is rough sawn wood planking covered with cedar shingles. The ceiling is 12" lumber boards with cracks in between. The floor is wood, 3-5/8" fir, and a brick chimney runs through the center of the building. The windows are 1/1 double hung. There is a front and rear doorway, and a front porch 8'10" x 27'4".

The interior of the rangerstation contains three rooms in the lower level: a bedroom, a living room, and a kitchen. In the early 1930s, a partition was constructed down the center of the living room to add another bedroom. Few details are available to determine the exact floor plan immediately following construction, however, similar cabins had a single partition forming two rooms (see diagrams in Appendix). The partition was removed during the restoration in 1975 according to Mrs. Beebe's specifications.

An enclosed stairwell leads to the unfinished attic on the second floor where the government once stored tents to dry. A root cellar lies beneath the kitchen. It is a shallow dirt hole, 4'-5' square, 2-1/2 - 3' deep, with no walls or shelves. The Beebes did not use the cellar for storage because a family of skunks lived in it. When the adult male and female were gone, Chance Beebe would carefully lift the offspring by the tail and play with them on the kitchen floor. (Mrs. Beebe attests that not one of the skunks ever released!)

In 1932, a two-room log bath and storage addition with vertical corner timbers was constructed to the rear of the ranger cabin in the same style as the main building. The bath consisted of a commode, toilet, and shower with a door leading off of the bedroom. The back entrance, via the storage room, led into the kitchen. Before the bath, the only water system was a pump, southwest of the cabin and half-way to the barn. It was lined with boards, but by 1918 it was rotting and falling apart. Water was then obtained from the creek at the

bottom of the hill, and was hauled up to the station.⁴ A picture of Andy Fleutsch, park ranger at St. Mary from 1927-1928, shows a pack animal loaded with two 10-gallon wooden kegs labeled "St. Mary Water System."

In 1947, a powerline was run to the station. Adolph Opalka, St. Mary ranger 1947-1948, set the poles. The source was a diesel plant in the utility area presently in St. Mary village. A few years afterward, REA (Rural Electric) came into the area. During the short interim before that, there was a small generator in a building west of the ranger station. The Beebes used kerosene lamps for light. For this reason, all electrical wires were removed from the ranger station during the restoration.

The one seat privy was torn down, but a replica was built in 1976 (per Mrs. Beebe). The construction is similar to the woodshed with vertical wooden boards and a pitched roof with cedar shingles like the ranger station. There is a peg on the inside wall for toilet paper with a square vent in the roof. It has a solid door marked "Women", and to the left one can see the foundation where a second privy was constructed, but later removed in '76 to properly represent the area as it was in 1918.

In addition to the 1913 district, there was a 12' x 18' garden between the ranger station and the barn along with a wood flagpole approx. 8 ft. northwest of the left corner of the front porch toward St. Mary Lake. Chance Beebe relaxed and enjoyed gardening, but had precious time to do so. Mrs. Beebe claims that he puttered more than concentrated on production. He grew all types of vegetables, especially radishes, carrots, and onions. While digging in the garden, Chance

⁴ Although there no longer is a creek flowing at this location, evidence of a creek bed is there presumed to be a branch of Divide Creek.

found numerous buffalo bones and a sawed off rifle in a nearby tree. The gun was loaned to a man named Ernest White, location now unknown.

The garden is presently located immediately left of the woodshed behind the ranger station, and is not functioning at this time. The flagpole was reconstructed in 1975 to approximate the original, and is now relocated to the northeast of the ranger station to avoid a large pine tree in front of the porch. It is a 25' - 30' lodgepole supported by two 6" posts sunk 2-2/2' - 3' in the ground, stripped, and painted white.

A log fire cache (circa 1930s) was built right beside the barn approx. 150 ft. east of the ranger station which served as a storage place for miscellaneous tools and equipment. The cache was log on log with a slanted cedar shingled roof, and it was without a foundation. There was a wood door facing the ranger station partially covered by an overhang supported by three logs in the shape of an upside down U (typical of most fire caches in Glacier). The cache was bought by Don Mummert (seasonal maintenance man in Glacier), and removed in 1971 when plans were made for the restoration of the St. Mary site. The foundation is still visible today.

IV. Restoration

In 1972, the Old St. Mary Ranger Station was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and plans were made to stabilize the building in preparation for a complete rehabilitation. The contract was awarded to Wallace Nolan of Kalispell, Mt., and the ranger station was then stabilized by pouring concrete footings, replacing deteriorated bottom logs, installing new floor sills, and preparing the same for the sub-floor.

The outer wall logs had rotted causing the building to settle approx. 6" so the front porch was temporarily removed to hoist the building. The porch

was replaced with new floorboards, and the roof was reset with the original poles. Although the porch was not part of the original St. Mary Ranger station it was retained by the Park Service to protect the cabin from further weathering and deterioration.

After the building was jacked-up approx. 24 inches, concrete piers 24 x 24 x 24" were poured underneath the outer walls at intervals of 6 ft. Two logs were replaced in the rear, one and 1/2 logs on each side with one log replaced in the front wall (see documentation in Appendix). The chimney was found to be unstable after the roof was cut free for raising the building. To stabilize it, a form was built around the chimney with a base approx. 6 ft. sq. and filled with 16" of concrete. The building was lowered on the new concrete base and leveled. The center sill log was replaced; new floor sills were mortised into wall logs, leveled, and prepared for the sub-floor. This phase was completed in October 1974.

In 1975, a YCC group under the direction of park aide Cindy Mish, completed several projects that enabled the park maintenance crew to complete the restoration for the Bicentennial the following summer. Initially, the entire area was cleaned-up, and all trash was hauled to the dump. A clothesline was constructed and put in place. All old, loose chinking was removed, and new chinking (a lime mortar over oakum) was put in. All miscellaneous scraps of fiberboard were removed, and the entire ceiling was sanded and repainted. Linseed oil was placed on the bottom two logs of the cabin, and a new sub-floor was laid. Shutters were made from the old flooring for each window in the station. All electrical wiring was removed, and a new flagpole and privy were installed according to Mrs. Beebe's instructions.

When the YCC group finished in August, the Park maintenance crew completed the final major projects. New beaded lumber was installed throughout the in-

5.

terior of the station. A closet, matching the original, was constructed under the stairs to the attic with the door facing south in the bedroom. Cupboards and a washboard were built in the kitchen (all beaded lumber). The window frames and sills were replaced throughout the station, both inside and outside. The red paint covering the exterior of the ranger station was removed and stained dark brown as it was in 1918 with all the new chinking painted white (per Mrs. Beebe). The entire station and porch was re-roofed with cedar shingles, and the root cellar was replaced. The chimney was reflashed. The middle wall in the cabin was straightened and secured. A door was built between the bedroom and the living room on the west side toward the attic similar to the door entering the kitchen. A wooden "button latch" was put on the door to the attic, and a solid wood door was built to replace the existing door which had a window (per Mrs. Beebe). All the loose boards in the sub-floor were strengthened or replaced to prevent squeaking, and a new top floor was laid.

No soil was disturbed on the site, although a 20 car gravel parking area was made approx. 30 yards below the ranger station. The existing road leading up to the station was kept as an access to Red Eagle Trail along St. Mary Lake.

The dedication of the St. Mary Ranger Station took place on Sunday, July 11, 1976. Through the furnishings donated by Mrs. Beebe, and interpreters playing the roles of the early ranger, Chance Beebe and his wife, the story of the park's first decade is now being retold to visitors in Glacier National Park. The restoration is viewed by the Park Service as an ongoing project with a continual upgrading of the historic furnishings and facilities at St. Mary.

5

Mrs. Beebe calls this "beaded panelling," also known as wainscotting (later wainscotting) which she says was common in the 1900s.

V. Recommendations

All of the buildings in the Old St. Mary district appear to be in good shape. The chinking on the exterior of the ranger station needs some attention as it is loose and missing in places. In addition, the roof should probably be extended sometime in the near future to prevent the purlins from rotting which are presently jutting out beyond the protection of the roof. There should also be a 1/2 moon cut in the door of the privy according to Mrs. Beebe.

APPENDIX

FOR HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

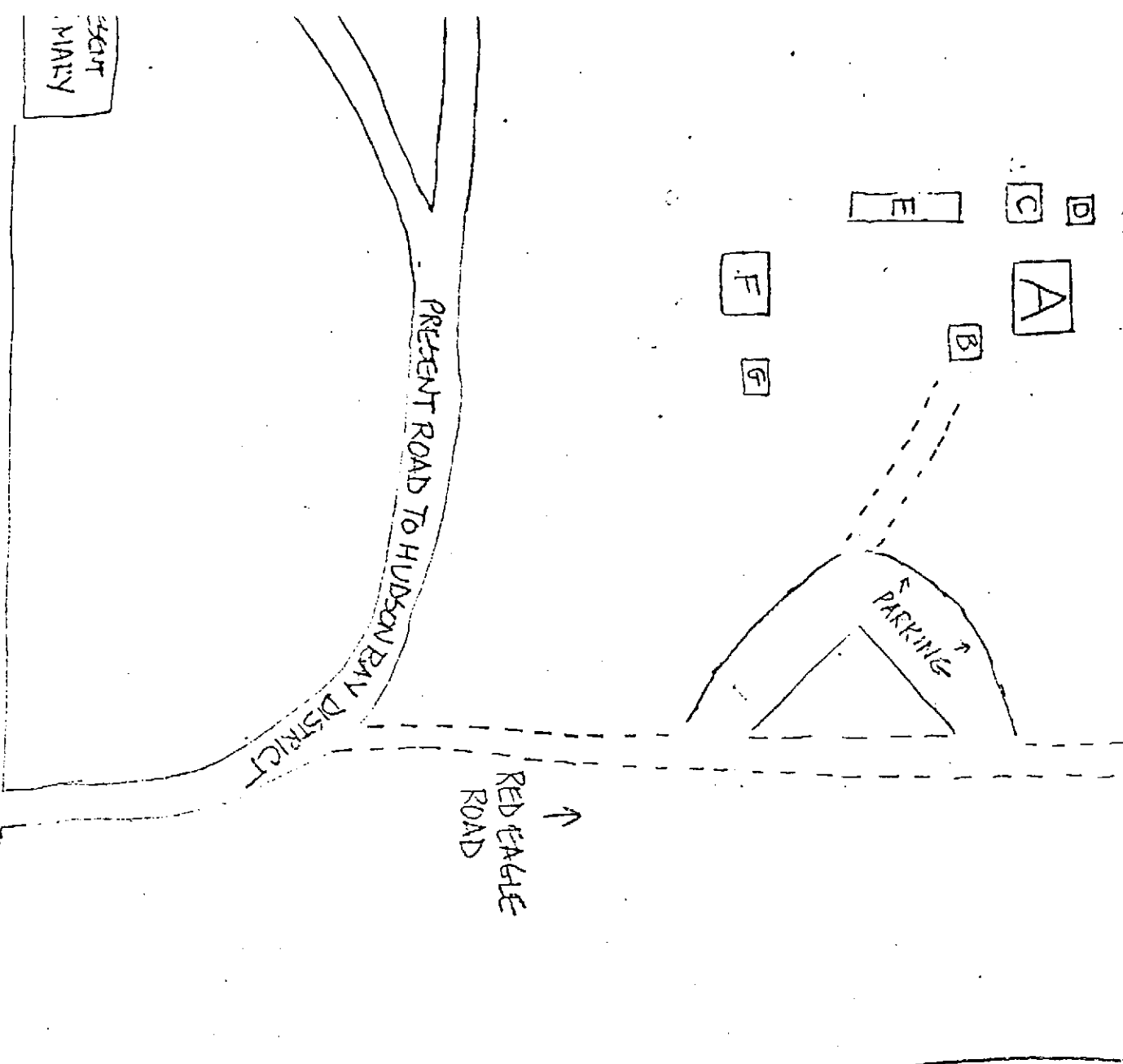
ON ST. MARY RANGER DISTRICT

OLD ST. MARY DISTRICT

1978

- A - RANGER STATION
- B - FLAGPOLE
- C - WOODSHED
- D - PRIVY
- E - GARDEN
- F - LIBEC BARN
- G - FIRE CACHE
(FOUNDATION)

ST. MARY
LAKE



EXIT
MARY

PRESENT ROAD TO HUDSON BAY DISTRICT

RED EAGLE
ROAD

PARKING

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

PROJ 5/19/78

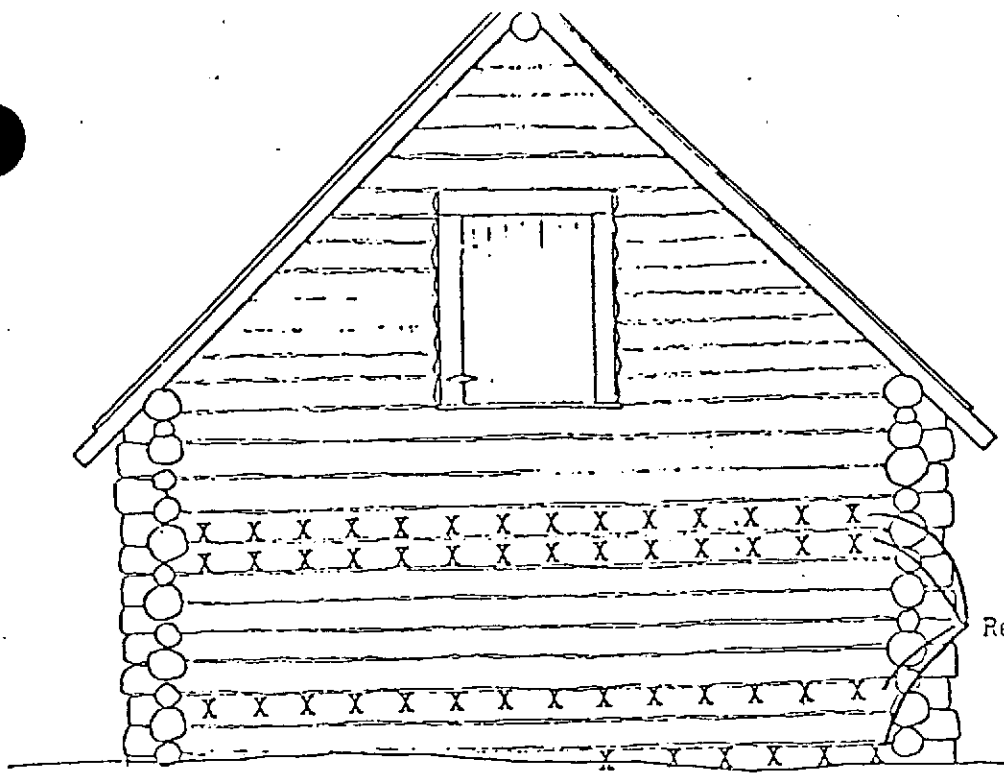
DOCUMENTATION
OF REPLACED PARTS
DURING RESTORATION
1977

Lubec Barn
at
St. Mary Ranger Station
Glacier National Park
St. Mary, Montana

Submitted by:

Harrison Goodall,
Director of Restoration

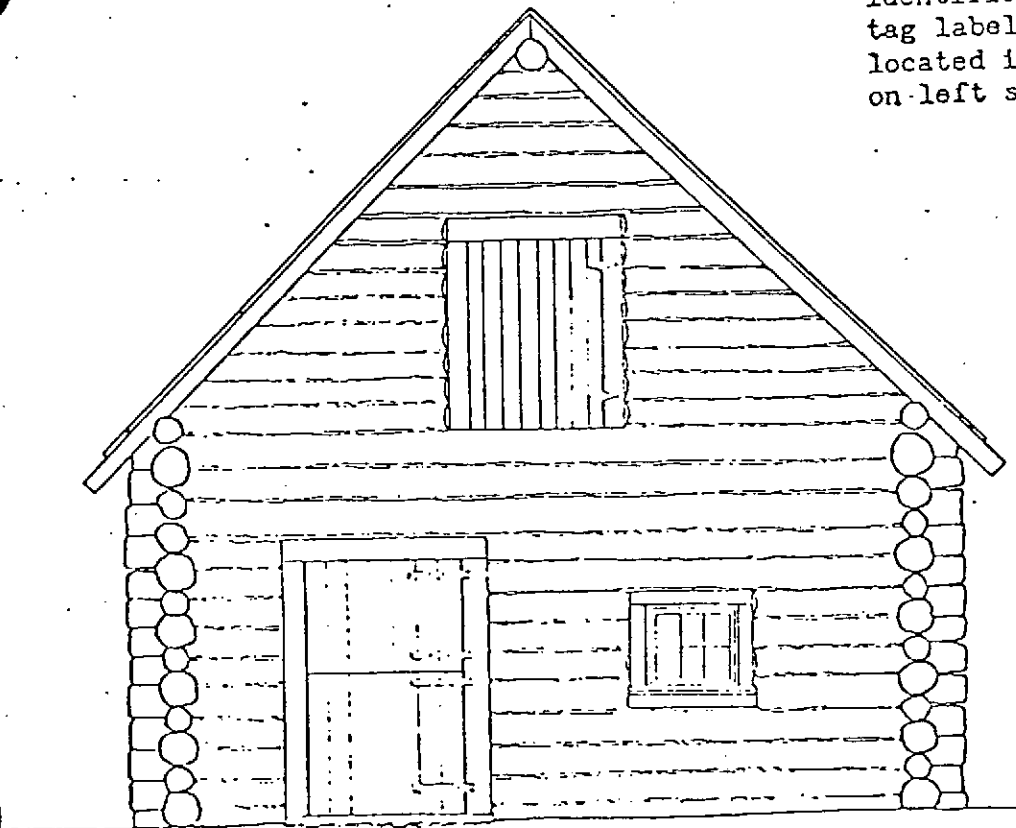
September, 1977



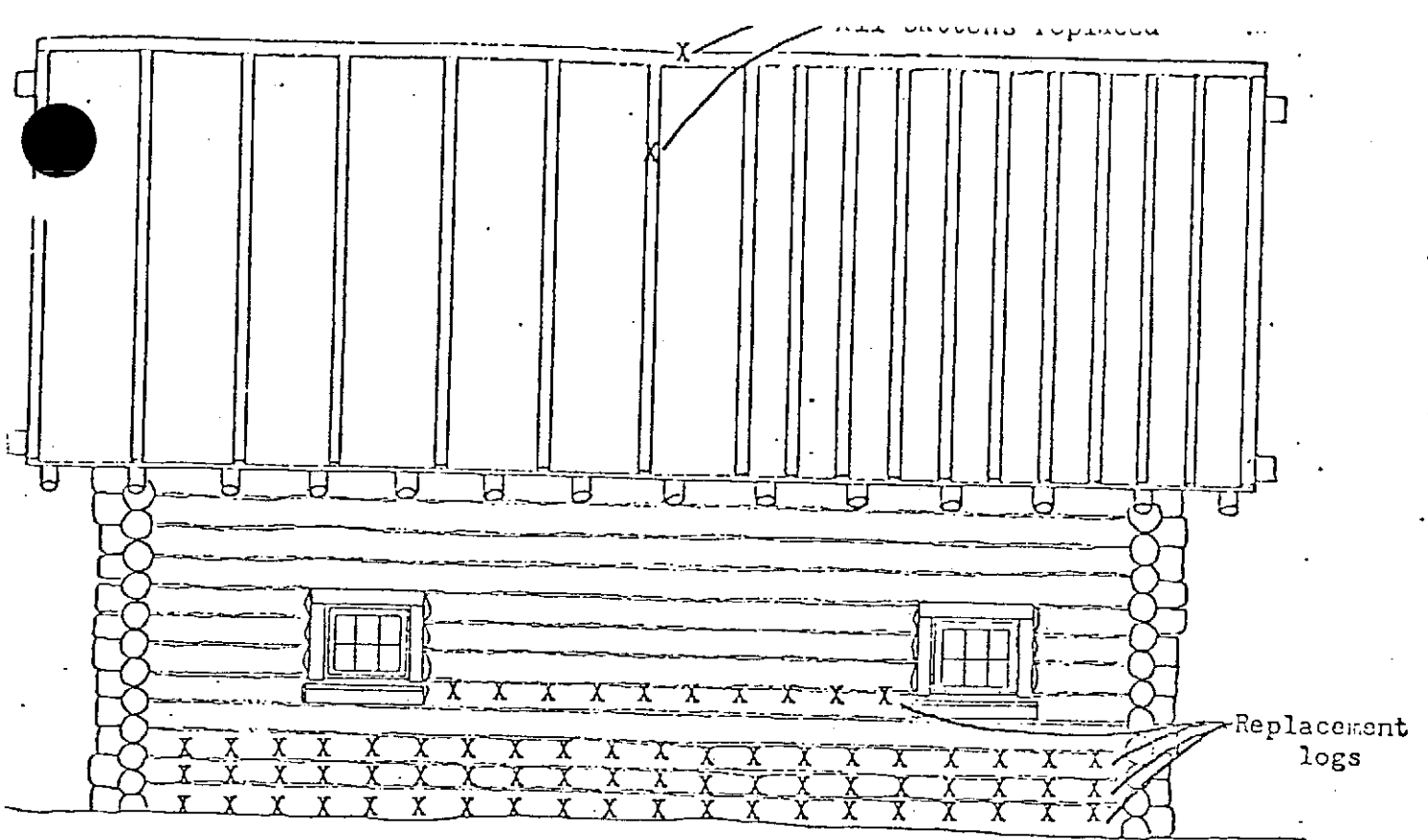
Replacement logs

WEST ELEVATION

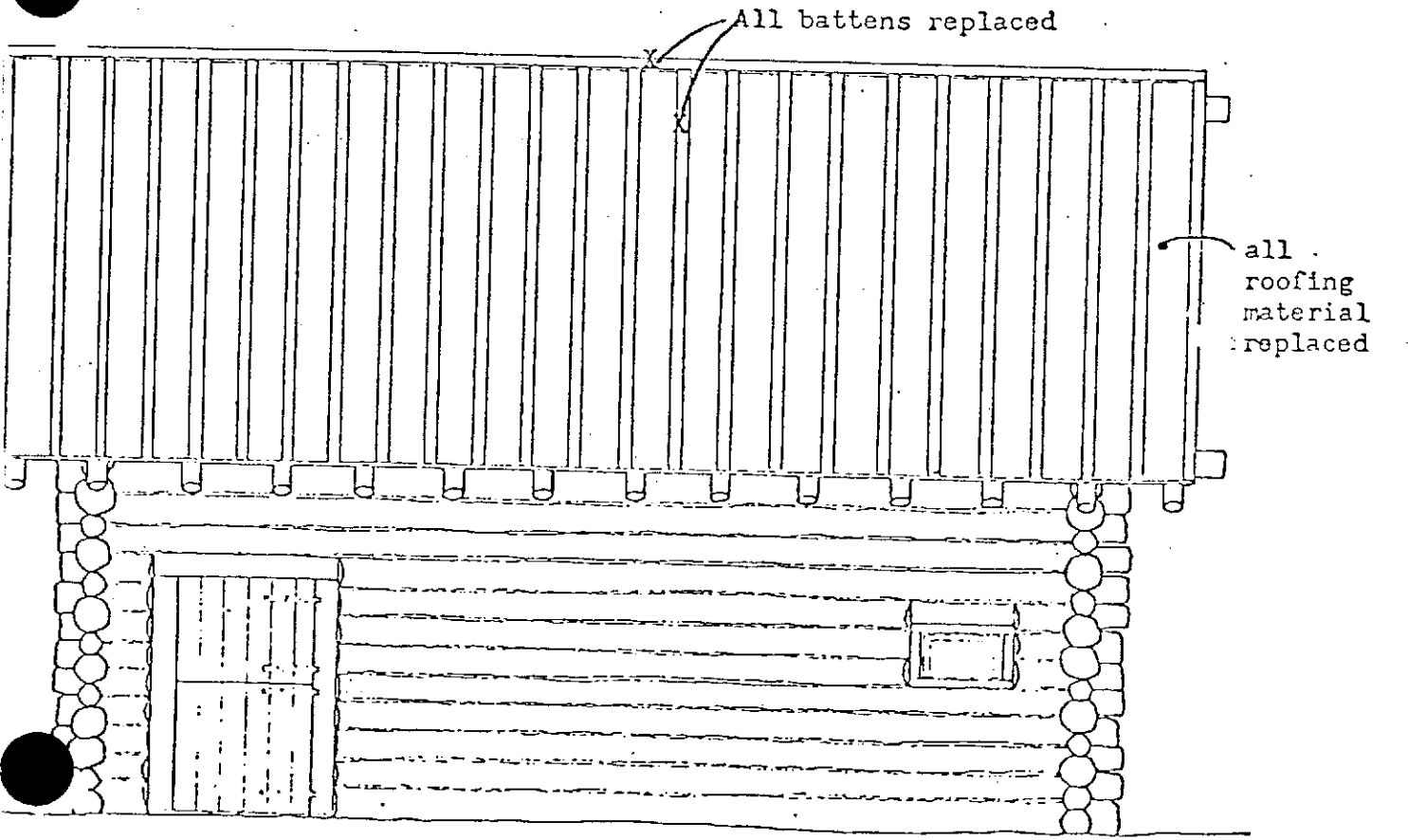
Note: All replaced logs were identified with aluminum tag labeled "1977" and located in daubing area on left side of log



EAST ELEVATION

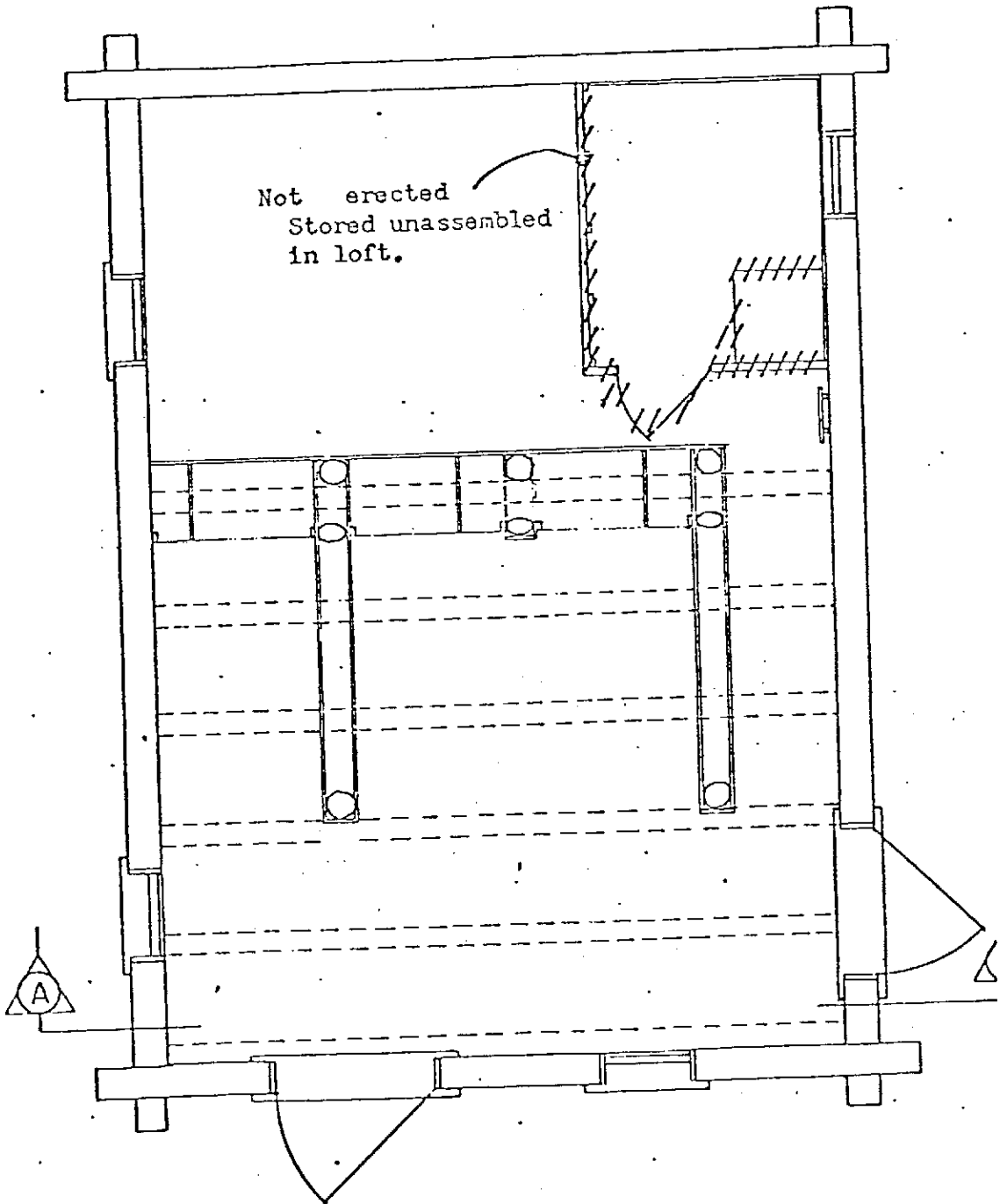


SOUTH ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



Not erected
Stored unassembled
in loft.

PLAN

DOCUMENTATION

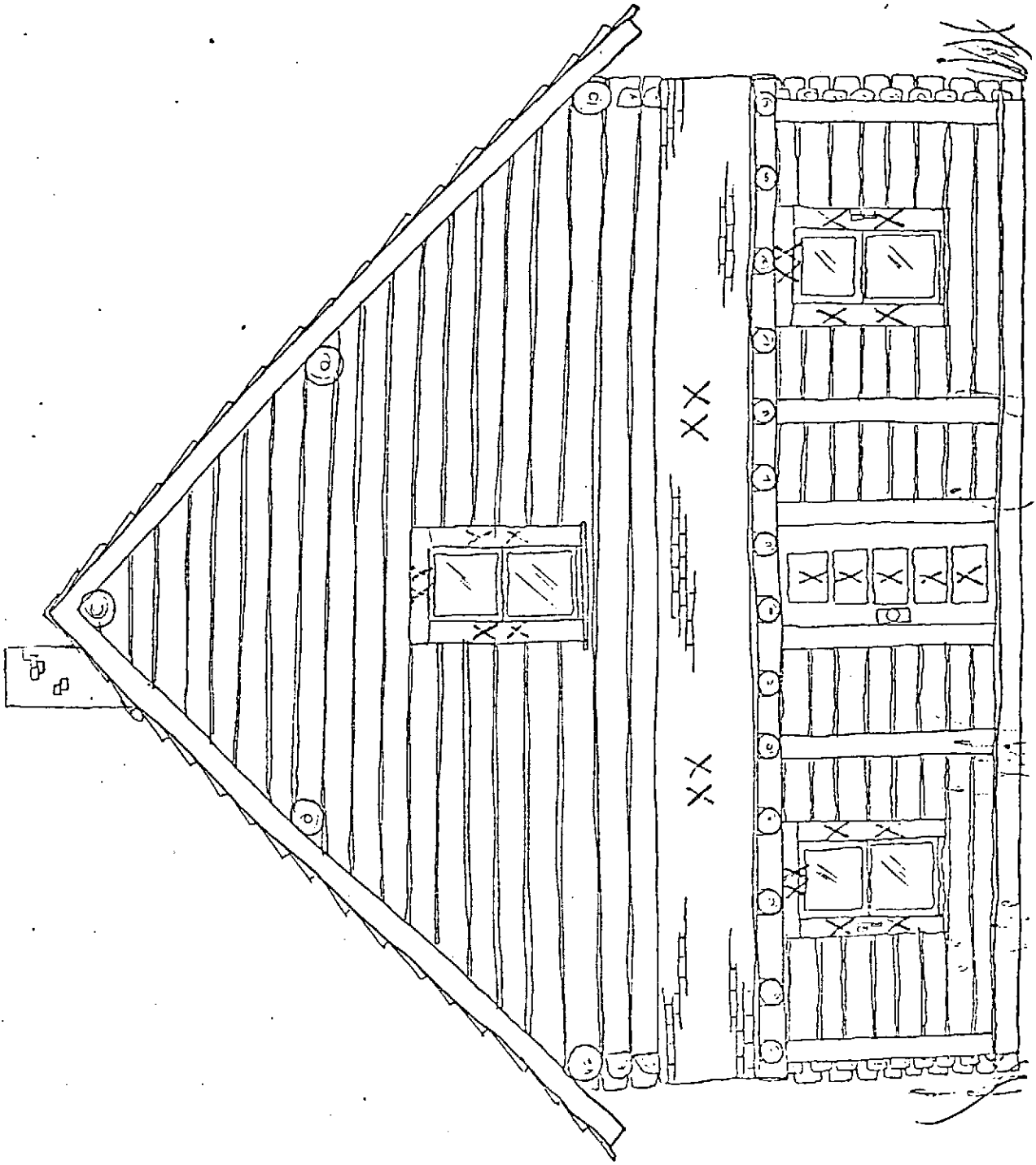
OF REPLACED LOGS

DURING RESTORATION

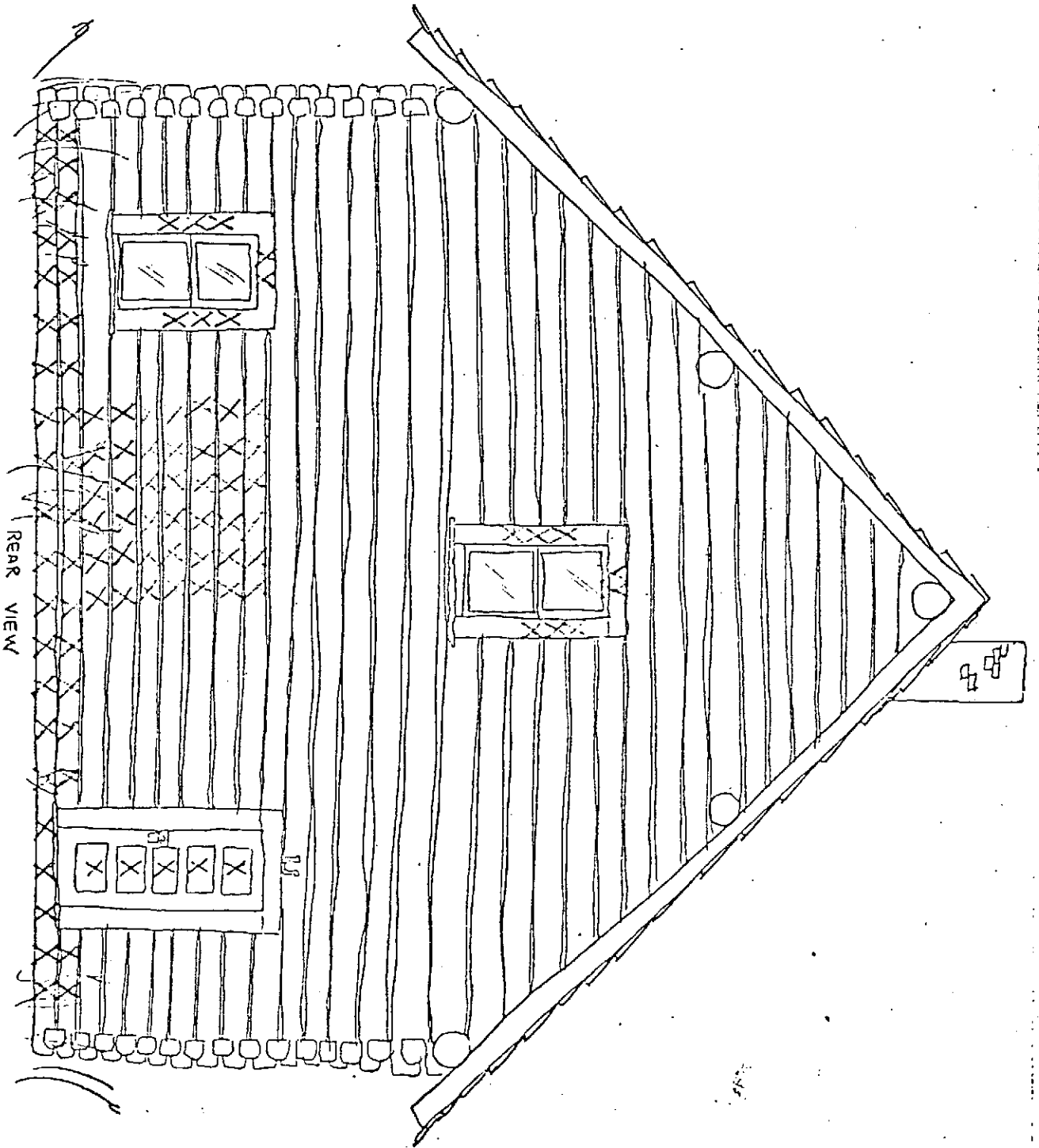
OF ST. MARY RANGER STATION

1975

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

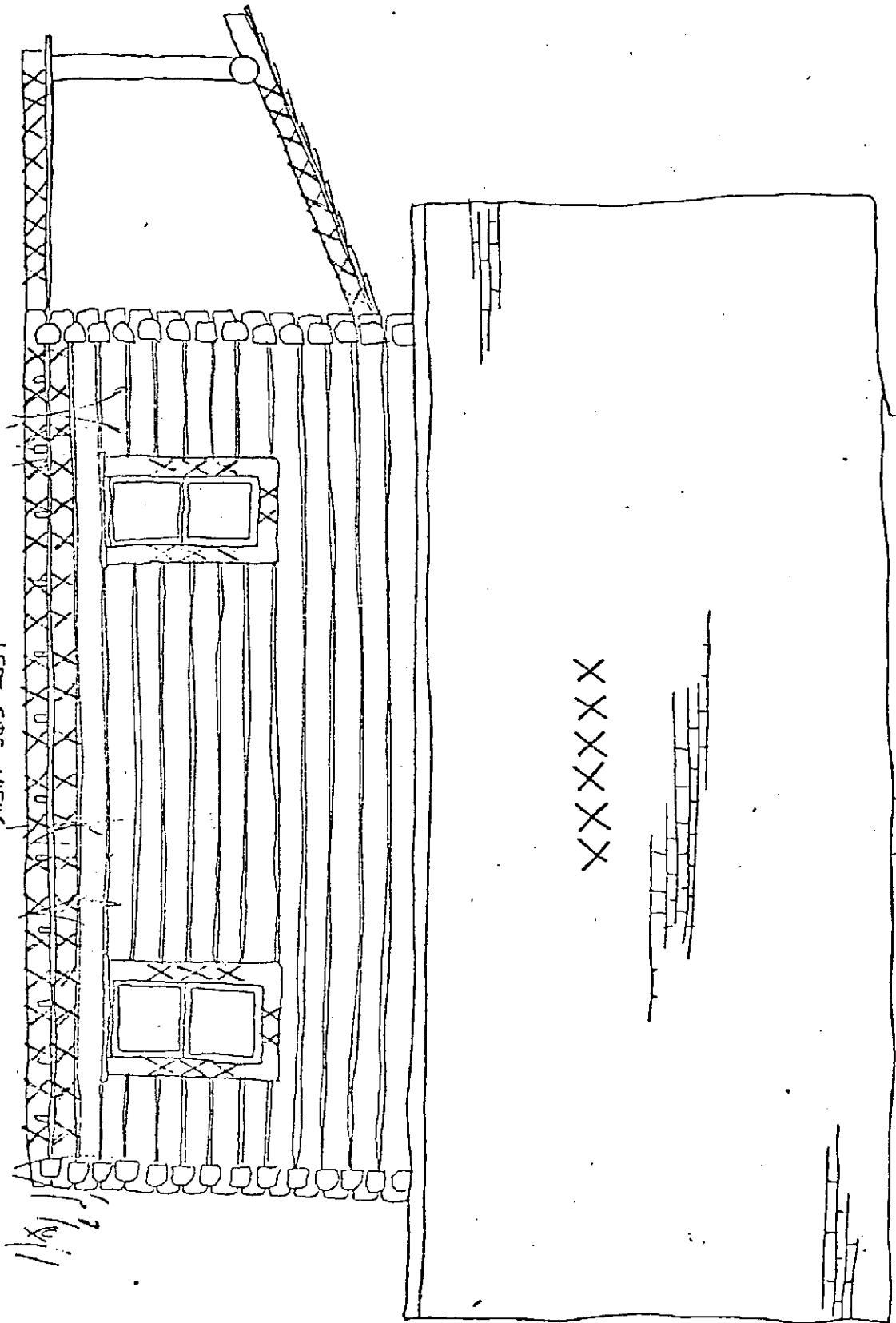


FRONT VIEW



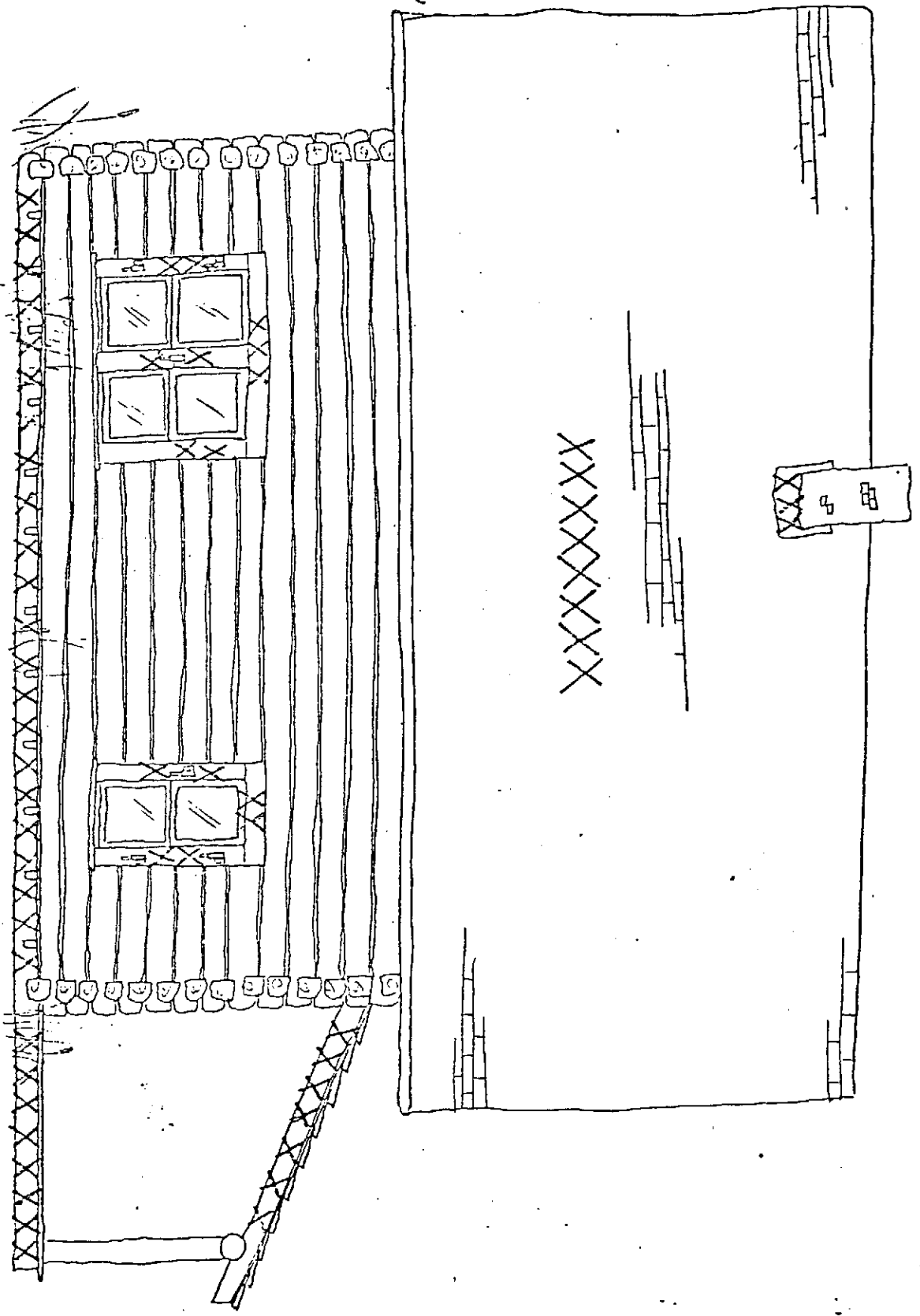
REAR VIEW

LEFT SIDE VIEW



XXXXXXXXXX

RIGHT SIDE VIEW



INTERIOR

I. Furnishings

A. Kitchen

1. Old wood stove for cooking (not copper clad, plain black iron stove - no warming ovens)
2. Built in cupboards
3. Little homemade wooden work table
4. hot cake griddle hung to back right of stove
 - wedding present from Jack Ruder
 - loaned to Many Glacier trail crew (built Iceberg Lake Trail) never returned
5. numerous pans and skillets hung on wall
6. woodbox to right of wood stove 20' x 15" x 24"
7. root cellar
8. screens on windows
9. no screen on door
10. white linoleum on counter and table, with white oil cloth on kitchen table
11. butcher knives hung on wall on a leather strap
12. white muslin cafe curtain in kitchen (only ones in house)
13. broom and mop outside by door on wall
14. green floral material Eva had ordered but not made, for remainder of house

B. Living Room

1. Old hand-crank phonograph with homemade stand and record player.
2. Three of four canvas (director's) chairs
3. Books - autographed copies of books written by contemporary authors on the park: James W. Schultz, Mary Roberts Rhinehart, G. B. Grinnell and others. These books were later stolen.

4. Homemade wooden table (about 4' x 6') with straight back wooden chairs
5. old heating stove (Cole's wood stove)
6. old rolled top desk (about 4' wide, made of oak)
7. old trunk - used to move belongings to Ranger Station
8. cot on west side of front door, close to window, back of door, short army cot, one boy at each end
9. nailed shelf nailed to wall
10. chrome (silver) gas lantern with 2 mantles - usually on table
- could be hung
11. calendar
12. Mr. Beebe kept a log that was given to the park, location now unknown
13. no rugs or carpets on the floor
14. no pictures or maps on wall
15. no curtains on windows
16. baby nest - hook by patch in front room

C. Bedroom

1. Bed, 4' x 4', wooden posts stained brown (perhaps same stain as outside of station.) Mattress was curly-sprung and very soft. Muslin sheets were used in summer and double-cotton (flannel) in winter. Hudson Bay blankets were used also.
2. dressing table 2' x 30"
3. table from chalet
4. lamp on table, greenish glass with bubbles
5. trunks
 - a. wardrobe type purchased from Wards or Sears while at St. Mary for about \$60.
 - b. box type brought to St. Mary (plus 1 suitcase for the four of them!)
6. rifle on wall above bedroom/front door
7. Hudson Bay blankets, probably from chalet

8. no rugs, no curtains, no pictures, no candles

D. Shed

1. washtub
2. hung bacon and ham
3. bears clean up dogs' dish but no shed

E. Porch

1. no roof
2. four canvas director's chairs

II. Miscellaneous

A. Clothing

1. white nurse's uniform with white pumps
2. checking station - navy blue uniform with pleats from yoke down, with belt, trimmed with white

B. Laundry

1. 2-3 strands of telephone wire
2. present location
3. bears claw laundry
4. use tin lids, bang together to scare bears
5. Mrs. John MacGillis, Cree Indian, do laundry
6. washboard - brass 18" x 12"
7. copper wash boiler 2'

C. Telephone

1. crank style
2. line, single wire, from East Glacier, St. Mary, Sun Point
3. only means of communication
4. Chief Ranger at East Glacier (Chance received orders from Chief)
5. located by stairs to right of window

D. Candles

1. used only in constructing palusa
2. lantern made of 5 pound lard can
3. hole punctured in bottom of can
4. candle fit in
5. puncture 2 small holes for a wire handle to go through
6. more information on palusa: Oscar Thromson, Ralph Thayer
(historical interviews, Glacier Park Historical Files)

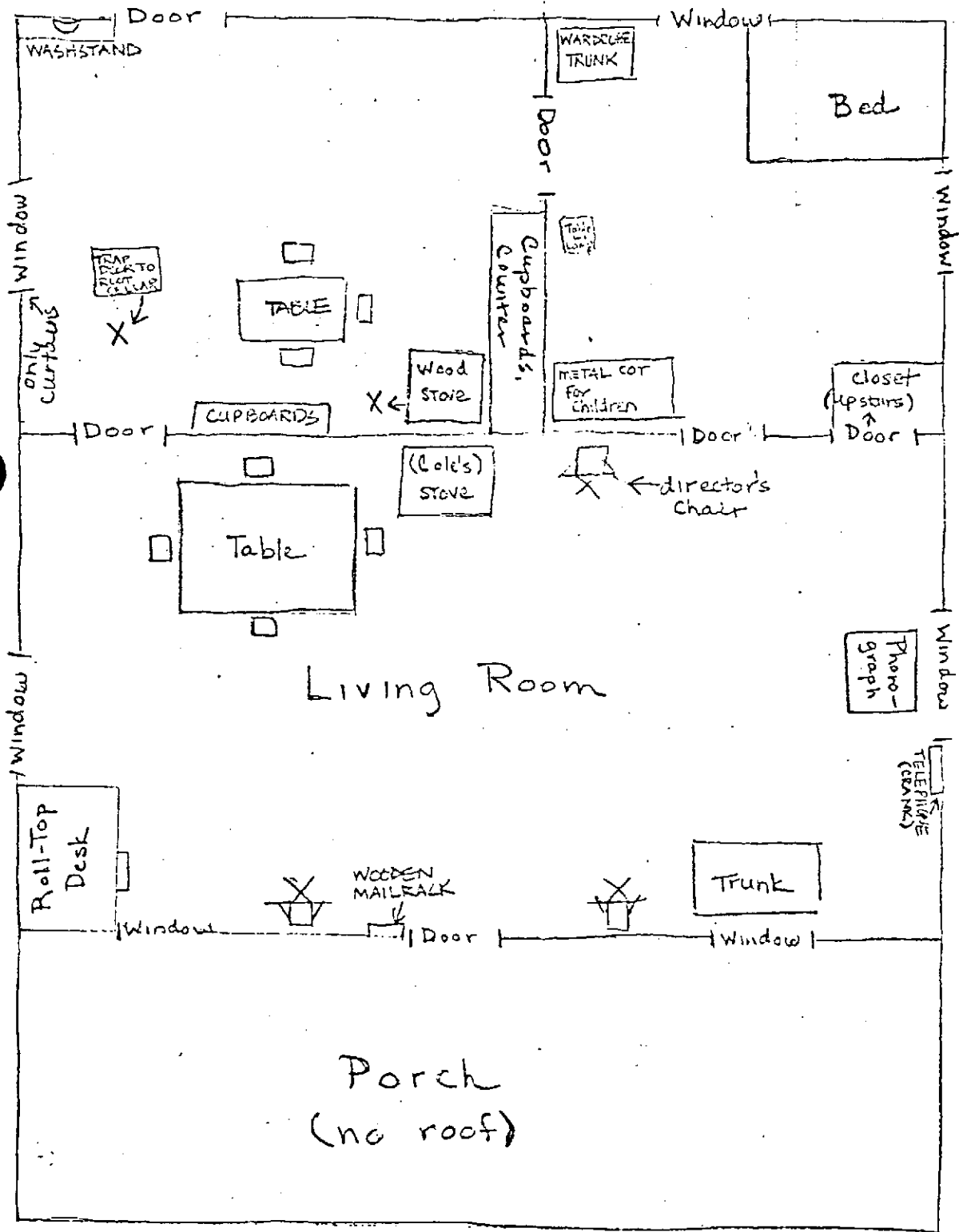
E. Snowshoes

1. bear paw pair
2. long ones pair
3. no skis

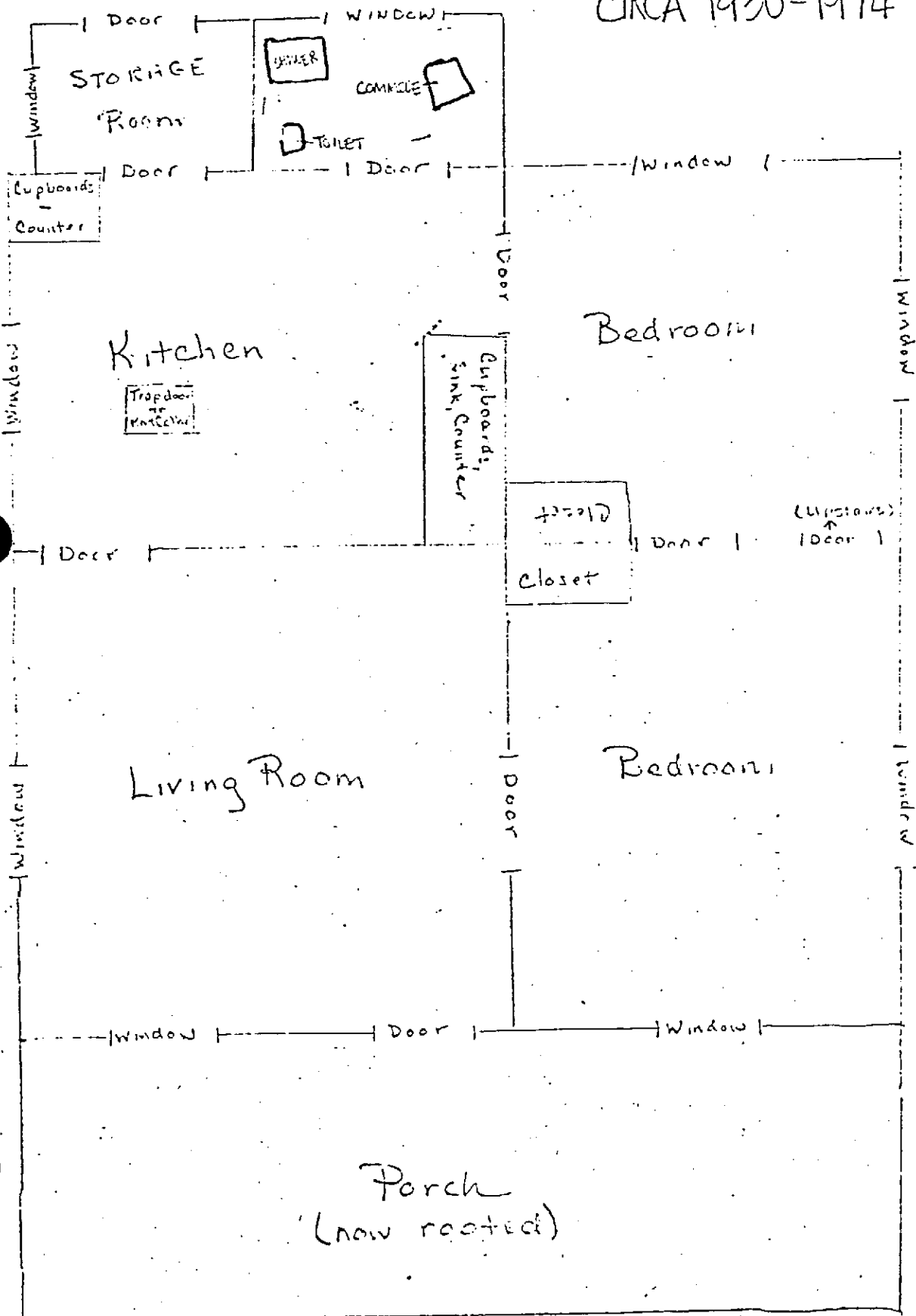
F. Burros

1. pastured at St. Mary
2. used to haul luggage at Sun Point Chalet from boat to chalet

Old St. Mary Ranger Station 1918



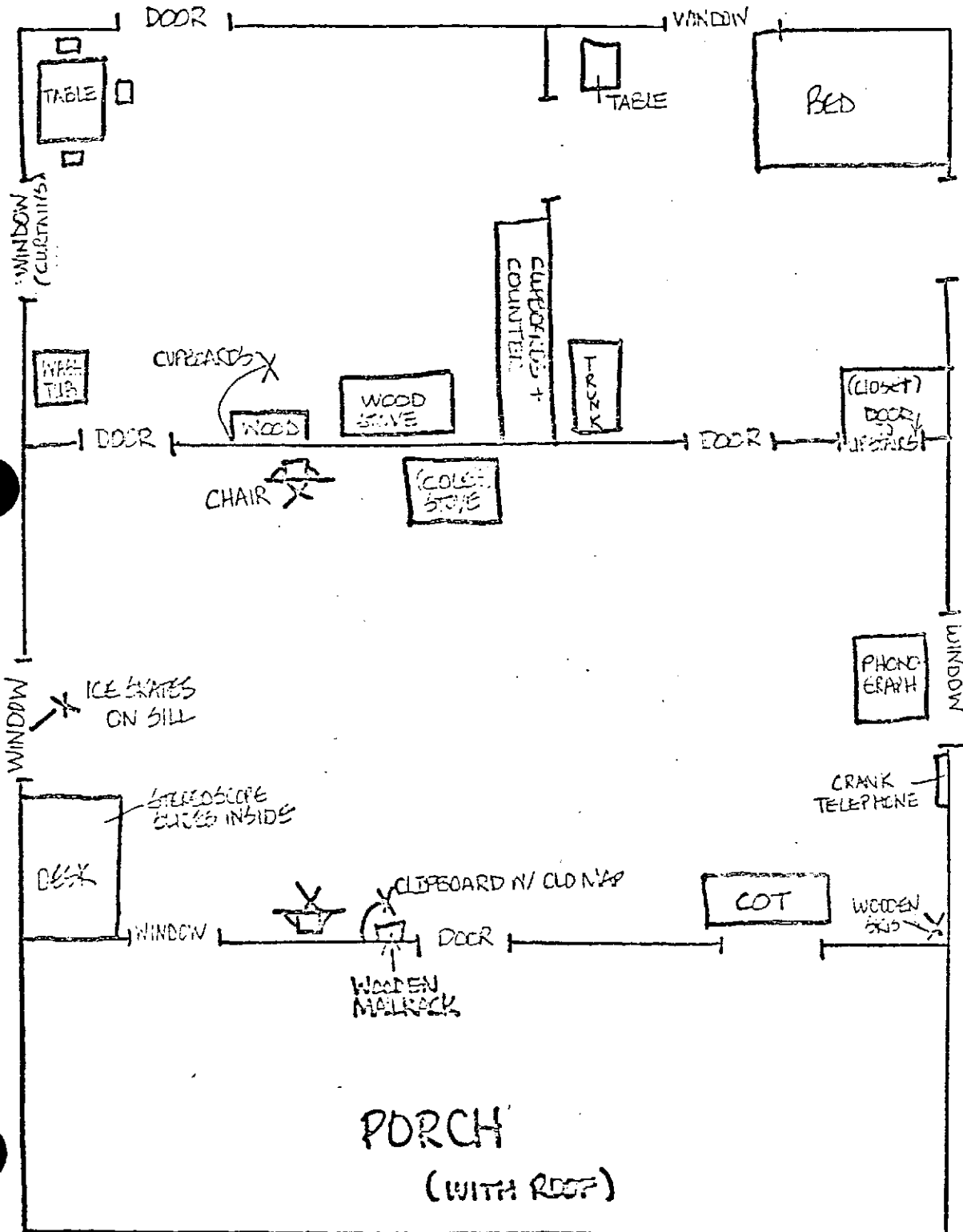
OLD ST. MARY RANGER
STATION
CIRCA 1930-1974



OLD ST. MARY RANGER STATION

(1978)

to be continually upgraded



ANECDOTES

A. Wildlife

Chance Beebe would say "There are lions in the attic, skunks in the cellar, and bears in the backyard.", so this was an active, interesting area for wildlife.

Bears were always around the station according to Mrs. Beebe. Blacks would appear in the daytime, and grizzlies usually only roamed during the night. Mrs. Beebe had to constantly guard her laundry while it was hanging outside to dry or else the bears would come up and rip it to shreds.

There was some elk on the flats below the ranger station, and several huge mackinaw trout were caught in St. Mary Lake. The largest Mrs. Beebe recalls weighed in at 48 lbs.

B. Food

The Beebes ate a large quantity of Lake Superior whitefish that had been planted in St. Mary Lake. They also had lots of bacon and ham since these meats kept much better than others. Occasionally they went to Lindy's General Store and Trading Post in East Glacier for supplies, but other than that, they only made it to town once a year.

C. Visitors

Many dignitaries and influential people visited the Park while the Beebes were stationed at St. Mary: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Lewis and James J. Hill, Mary Roberts Rhinehart, George Bird Grinnell, James Willard Shultz, Queen Mary and Prince Albert of Belgium. The Beebes greeted and visited with many of these people. Mrs. Beebe recalls when the Queen and Prince came to Glacier, they had lunch with the Beebes at the St. Mary chalets. Mrs. Beebe remembers the Queen playfully spanking two-year-old Chauncey (one of the Beebe's sons) who happened to "talk back" to the Queen while they were visiting.

D. Stories

1. Horses

Chance Beebe brought two three-year-old unbranded colts from the east side when he moved into the St. Mary Ranger Station: No brand was necessary on the west side, and when Chance turned the horses loose to pasture, they were gone the next morning. Chance posted a \$10 reward for the return of the horses. Beebe discovered two boys in the area were riding them. He recovered the horses after the boys hurriedly dismounted, by pushing the saddles off and leading the horses home. The colts remained in the barn until Chance branded them on the left jaw.

2. Logan Pass Survey Party

Chance was notified by phone from East Glacier to accompany two surveyors. Eva wished to go and finally convinced Chance, so the entire family went along, one boy in front of each parent on saddle horses.

They started from St. Mary on trail up to Reynolds Creek. From there to the pass the going was slow, but no problems occurred. Lunchtime was spent at Logan Pass. Going down the west side was extremely steep. Soon Mrs. Beebe was grasping the rock to her right in fear of falling off the cliff. Eva dismounted and crawled behind the party. One of the surveyors tried to humor her, and advised Mrs. Beebe to get off her knees or she would wear holes in her riding breeches. Mrs. Beebe exclaimed that if she ever got back alive she would get a divorce for mental and physical cruelty.

Due to Mrs. Beebe's crying and begging, the party turned back. Before the surveyors parted at St. Mary, one looked Mrs. Beebe straight in the eye and said, "The next time you go over Logan Pass you will have two daughters." The next two children were girls!

3. Mountain Lion

One summer day in 1918 just after the Beebes had moved into the ranger station, Chance accompanied Capt. Swanson, who operated the launch on St. Mary, to the Sun Point Chalet. Originally they planned to dock below the chalet, but the mosquitos were terrible so they camped overnight in the boat in the middle of the lake.

While Chance was away, Eva was caring for Swanson's four-year-old daughter, Thelma, and her two sons, Edward and Chaunuey. That day, Mrs. Beebe says the dog kept barking at the door leading to the upstairs attic. She finally opened the door and found big cat claw marks all over it. She then realized that a mountain lion must be in the attic. Apparently, the mountain lion had gotten in through a broken window and made its nest among the tents being stored there while the station was unoccupied.

Mrs. Beebe latched the door shut so the lion wouldn't get downstairs. That night, while crocheting in the living room, she heard the baby screaming in the bedroom. She went in to find the window screen above the baby's crib pushed in from the outside. The mt. lion had tried to get in, but had failed and she scared it off.

In the early morning, Eva called the St. Mary Chalets for someone to bring a gun. Capt. Swanson's niece, Mary, brought a pistol and was met by Mrs. Beebe at the front door. Eva quotes Mary as saying, "here Mrs. Beebe, you go upstairs and kill it." Neither Mary nor Eva reopened the attic door which Mrs. Beebe had toenailed shut. They left via the front door with three children still dressed in pajamas, and hurried down the trail to the chalets.

The mountain lion had climbed up the back outside kitchen wall and entered the attic through a broken window. Needless to say, the window was immediately sealed when Chance returned. This first experience upon moving at the ranger station is still vividly recalled by Mrs. Beebe.

RANGERS ASSIGNED TO ST. MARY RANGER STATION

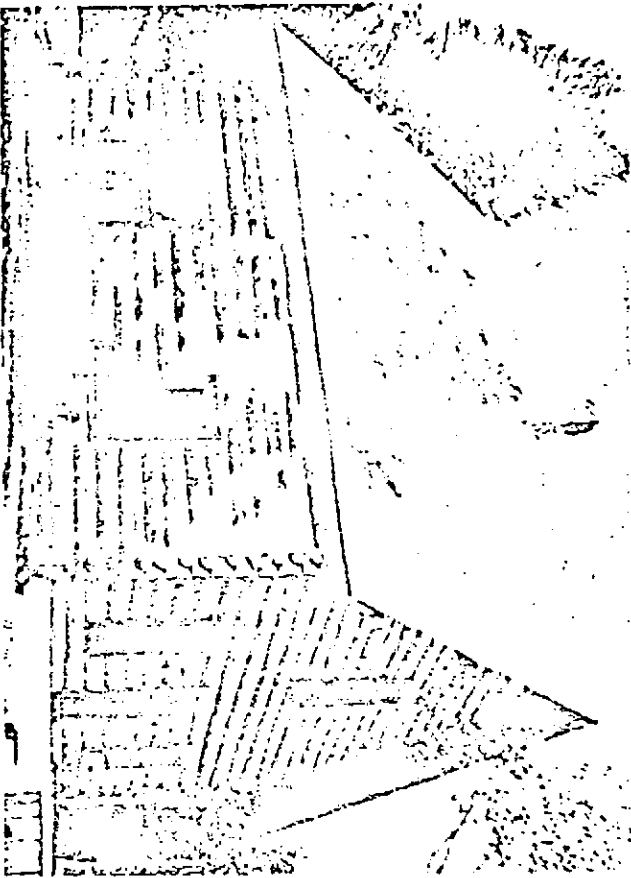
This list was made from ranger station logs, historical notes, and old-timer's memories, however, some dates and names are still missing at present.

DISTRICT RANGERS

Elmer Ness	1938-1940
Channing T. Howell	1940
Donald Robinson	1941-1946
Floyd A. Henderson	1946
C. Donald Barnum	1947-1958
Rudy L. Grimm	1959
Jim Godbolt	1960-1962
Charles A. Budge	1962-1964
Robert N. Frauson	1964-1976

SEASONAL RANGERS

William Burns	1910-1913
John O'Connor	-1918
Chance Beebe	1918-1919
William Hossack	1920
Frank O'Brien	-1926
Dan Huffine	1926-1927
Andy Fleutsch	1927-1928
Ray Newberry	1928-1929
Channing T. Howell	1930-1931
Elmer Fladmark	1931-1932
Arthur Best	1932-1933
Elmer Ness	1934-1938
Joseph Heimes	1937
Theo. W. Barnett	1938
Ray W. McINTyre	1941
Paul Webb	1943
Clem J. Harner	1944-1945
J. Roy Hutchinson	1946
Adolph Opalka	1947-1948
Paul A. Berger	1949
John C. Lindhal	194-1950
Hugh W. Buchanan	1951-1957
Edward P. Olmstead	1957-1959, 1961
Aulton Hoover	1963-1965
J. Fred Wood	1966
S. Buck Brant	1966-1967
William M. Colony	1967-1971
Joseph Ries	1971-1973
William Pierce	1974
Lloyd Kortge	1975-1976



1918 Photo.

Old St. Mary Ranger Station

restoration project

Sunday Afternoon, July 11, 1976

at St. Mary, Montana

within Glacier National Park

Program

Old St. Mary Ranger Station site

Glacier National Park

Sunday, July 11, 1976

1:00 p.m.

DEDICATION AND RIBBON

CUTTING CEREMONY

Chief Naturalist Edwin L. Rothfuss

Superintendent Phillip R. Iversen

Mrs. Eva Beebe

1:15-4:00 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE

Tour of the Ranger Station and visit with
the ranger and his wife (the date July 11,
1919).

Park Naturalist Nancy Paul

Park Naturalist Richard Mattson

REFRESHMENTS

Glacier Park Women's Organization

Glacier Natural History Association

Park Staff

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Lubec Barn File, Glacier Park Historical Files

Excellent documentation of proceedings for relocation of the barn and restoration. Contains correspondence between Harrison Goodall (director of restoration) Phil Iversen (Glacier Superintendent), and Ed Rothfuss (Chief Naturalist) detailing all aspects of the restoration from beginning to completion. Includes description of MontClair State's historical restoration program. Also includes photos of the barn: 1930, 1949, 1975, 1977.

2. Historic American Buildings File: St. Mary Ranger Station, Glacier Park Historical Files

Contains good information on restoration of ranger station, ie., concept, specific projects, procedures, costs, etc.

3. Index and Listings of Historical Structures in Glacier National Park, GNP Library, document box

Contains Classified Structure Field Survey Report for St. Mary ranger station and the Lubec barn with details on construction and treatment required for restoration

4. St. Mary Ranger Station Notebook, GNP Library

Very good for overall view of historical background on ranger station. Contains many photos: 1918-1919, National Register Nomination, character sketch of Mrs. Beebe and various anecdotes describing park life circa 1918, also photos taken during the restoration in 1974-75.

5. Restoration of Objects of Historical Interest, GNP Library

Contains photos of reconstruction stages of Lubec barn and documentation of replaced parts in barn.

6. Buildings File, Development and Maintenance Files, GNP Headquarters

Not very complete, a few photos and some info on measurements and construction of ranger station and accompanying buildings.

7. Museum Catalogue Record, GNP Headquarters

Accession numbers and list of all items contained in ranger station.