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# historic structure report

historical and archeological data sections

a history of the buildings and  
structures of faraway ranch

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## CHIRICAHUA FARAWAY RANCH

NATIONAL MONUMENT/ARIZONA





HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT  
HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA SECTIONS


A HISTORY OF THE BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES  
OF FARAWAY RANCH

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT  
ARIZONA

by

Louis Torres  
and  
Mark Baumlér

Branch of Planning  
Alaska/Pacific Northwest/Western Team  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Denver Service Center



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## I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SECTION

Public Law 95-625, November 10, 1978, authorized the expansion of Chiricahua National Monument to include Faraway Ranch, which was acquired by the National Park Service in 1979.

The Faraway Ranch Historic District, including the Stafford Cabin, was entered on the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance on August 27, 1980. Stafford Cabin had been entered on the National Register based on its own merits on March 31, 1975. The Faraway Ranch Historic District is also considered to be a potential National Historic Landmark.

The treatment and use of Faraway Ranch are addressed in the following plans: Interim Management Plan for Faraway Ranch, 1980; Cultural Resources Management Plan and the Interim Interpretive Plan for Chiricahua National Monument, August 1983. The documents call for preservation and rehabilitation of the historic complex and interpretation of its significance to the public.

In 1983 efforts were begun to produce a Historic Structure Report for the property, with a number of offices involved in the project. Included in this study are the Historical and Archeological Data Sections and the Historic American Building Survey drawings of the property for additional reference.





## SITE PLAN FARAWAY RANCH

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT / ARIZONA  
U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service





- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1 Main House               | 14 Stone Fence                         |
| 2 Cowboy House             | 15 Corral and Fences                   |
| 3 Storage Shed             | 16 Water Trough                        |
| 4 Barn and Tool Shed       | 17 Pig Pen (ruins)                     |
| 5 Tool Shed                | 18 Bridge over Newton's Wash           |
| 6 Generator House          | 19 Main Ranch Roads                    |
| 7 Garage/Storage           | 20 Water Tanks                         |
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north  
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 (not drawn to scale)

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## SITE PLAN FARAWAY RANCH

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT / ARIZONA  
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## II. HISTORICAL DATA SECTION



## PREFACE

This study provides a history of the existing structures in the Faraway Ranch Historic District, including their origins, evolution, and uses over the years. At times the writer found it necessary to treat structures that are not extant. This was especially true in cases where these structures similar to existing ones led to some confusion in the records. In such cases, some clarification regarding the resource no longer extant was imperative.

Except to provide continuity and understanding of existing structures, the writer did not deal with the "Camp at Bonita Canon." Such a study was beyond the scope and purpose of a Historic Structure Report. A cursory examination of the problems that might be involved in researching such a study led him to conclude that a history of this event would be a subject of far greater magnitude than both money and time would permit. Such a study is best left to a special history or as part of a historic resource study. In any case, archeology excepted, there is today no tangible evidence of any cultural remains of this event other than the "Garfield Fireplace," and this resource has lost the integrity it had as a monument.

The writer was formerly employed with the National Park Service but retired in 1981. He was asked to return to prepare this study--an experience he found most stimulating. In return, he hopes to have contributed in some small way toward the understanding and appreciation of our cultural resources.

Without the help of others, this study would have been difficult. To the staff at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center, especially Roger Meyers, the writer owes a debt of gratitude. Although he had been on the job only one week before the writer arrived to examine the voluminous Erickson-Riggs Collection, Roger was able to lead him to pertinent materials and to be at his service for any kind of assistance. As the report progressed, he continued this support.

The writer is indebted to Regional Historian Gordon Chappell for his indefatigable efforts in guiding him in the proper direction, posing questions at every turn, and in general making sure that no stone was left unturned.

Historian Linda Greene of the Denver Service Center deserves much appreciation for having had confidence in this writer and for handling the many administrative details with which the bureaucracy abounds. She has made his return to the National Park Service a pleasant experience.

Superintendent Ted R. Scott and his staff at Chiricahua National Monument were very kind in making available materials and facilities and for contacting descendants of pioneers in the area. For these efforts, this writer is very grateful. The author also appreciates the assistance of Chief Historian Edwin C. Bearss and historian Martin Conway of the Washington Office for providing data on homesteads, research which took them to records at the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland. A word of thanks must also go to Jim Glass of the HABS team for passing on his expert knowledge of structural materials. The two days in the field with him were well spent.

Finally, the writer is grateful to Kim Doherty of the Denver Service Center for accomplishing the formidable task of deciphering the author's handwriting while typing the draft.

L.T.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Faraway Ranch Historic District has been thoroughly and completely stated in the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. At the risk of being redundant, this writer wishes to condense the statement of significance entered on the nomination form if only to emphasize the more important aspects of history associated with the several existing structures that form an integral part of the historic district.

The structures that make up the Faraway Ranch Historic District have significance in architectural, agricultural, conservation, pioneering, business (farming and guest ranching), and social (immigration and women) history.

The Staffords and the Ericksons, the builders and owners of these structures, were perhaps the first pioneers to settle permanently in Bonita Canyon, part of the Chiricahua Mountains. Neil and Emma Erickson were Swedish immigrants who sought their future in America and were daring enough to challenge the dangers and deprivations that faced them on the frontier.

When Neil became a ranger for the U.S. Forest Service, he used his ranch and especially the Main House for a headquarters. From here he conducted his daily rounds in the adjacent forest. Later his son-in-law Ed Riggs, a member of another pioneer family in the area who lived at the Erickson ranch with his wife Lillian, was instrumental in the establishment of Chiricahua National Monument.

Although Faraway was first established as a farm and cattle ranch, Erickson's daughters, Lillian and Hildegard, later (ca. 1917) introduced a guest ranch business. The guest ranch operation was a relatively new industry to the area. Thus, the female members of the Erickson family made a contribution to both the business history of the region and to women's history.

The Stafford cabin and Main House are architecturally significant both locally and regionally. With its "double log cabin," the Stafford structure is perhaps the earliest building in Bonita Canyon to survive in a good condition. From this house its owner operated a sizable farm whose produce, before the tragic droughts began to take their toll, was sold to the U.S. Army at Fort Bowie and to surrounding settlements. Trees, which at one time bore abundant fruit, still exist as a reminder of better days. The ruins of Stafford's irrigation ditch and the roads he built also remain.

Architecturally, the Main House evolved from a relatively primitive American frontier dwelling of the late 19th century into a comfortable mid-20th century rural ranch headquarters. In its history of expansion and development the house progressed through various stages. It started as a simple picket log cabin. A stone house was soon added. Then later a boxlike structure made of mill-processed lumber, or board and batten, was added. Finally, the house was expanded into an adobe structure with later alterations to suit the needs of its owners. Except for the log cabin, the Main House has retained all its earlier stages in this process of development.

The significance of all other existing structures within the historic district, some of which are in poor condition, lies in the integrity and unity which they give to the ranch. Each structure served a specific purpose, and together with the Main House they gave meaning to the ranch.

Except for the "Garfield Fireplace" in the Main House, none of the existing structures in the historic district have any direct bearing on the U.S. Army "Camp at Bonita Canon" where a detachment of Black cavalry were encamped in 1885-86 to prevent Geronimo and his Apaches from using the canyon. This event, therefore, has significant implications in the understanding of Black history and military history. Archeological and historical studies programmed for the future should contribute enormously to a better understanding of this event in the history of Faraway Ranch Historic District.

## CHAPTER ONE: THE MAIN HOUSE\*

### A. Establishing A Homestead

Even before they were married on January 25, 1887 Neil Erickson, who was a first sergeant in the United States 4th Cavalry Regiment, and Emma Peterson, who was both companion and maid to the wife of an army colonel, were familiar with the Sulphur Springs Valley and Bonita Canyon in Cochise County, Arizona. They had known each other since 1883, but it was not until 1886, when they were both at Fort Bowie, that they took regular excursions into the canyon to enjoy the magnificent splendor of the Chiricahua Mountains that surrounded them.<sup>1</sup>

Bonita Canyon had been the home of at least one or two pioneers and the camp of a small detachment of black troops of the United States 10th Cavalry Regiment in the 1880s. It is possible that Neil had some contact with the troops as well as with the few settlers who had lived in the canyon while still in the service.

There are conflicting stories about when and under what circumstances the Ericksons came to homestead in Bonita Canyon. Clarifying this event may help to understand the original structure occupied by the Ericksons. Most of the conflicting reports come from the members of the family--particularly Neil, Emma, and Lillian, their oldest daughter. Since the details of many of these stories were revealed in later years, usually in the form of reminiscences, memory often failed them. Providing accurate dates of events was not one of their stronger attributes, though they wrote prolifically. They not only contradicted one another when providing accounts of an event, but they frequently

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\*The schematic drawing of the Main House should be consulted while reading this chapter to aid in understanding the additions and major changes made to the structure over the years.

1. Of some interest is an invitation sent by a colonel and his wife at Fort Bowie to the wedding of their daughter on December 20, 1886, and addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. Neil Erickson." Neil and Emma had not been married yet. Beaumont to Erickson, ca. 1886, Erickson-Riggs Collection, Western Archeological and Conservation Center, National Park Service, Tucson, Arizona (hereafter cited as Erickson-Riggs Collection).



contradicted themselves. Nevertheless, after carefully reviewing and weighing these accounts, it is possible to piece together many of the events surrounding the Ericksons and their properties at Faraway Ranch with some degree of accuracy.

While reminiscing in the 1940s, when she was already at an advanced age, Emma Peterson Erickson noted that just before she was married she "filed" for a homestead of 160 acres. This would have been sometime in 1886. She attempted to explain how this came about by saying that while she was at Fort Bowie she learned of a "beautiful" place in Bonita Canyon which turned out to be a two-room cabin owned by a certain "Nuton" (actually Newton). Emma said she purchased the dwelling and then filed for the 160 acres upon which the cabin stood. She added that because she did not want to embarrass her future husband, she had him file for the homestead.<sup>2</sup>

In another of her recollections, written some twenty or twenty-five years earlier she was a little more accurate. At that time she wrote:

He [Neil] was in the Army when I met him. I told him I would never marry a soldier. I bought a little house with improvements in beautiful Bonita Canyon, and my plan was to move there, raise cattle, horses, chickens and plant an orchard. As soon as my Fiance was discharged from Army he went to Bonita Canyon to build fences, and make improvements.<sup>3</sup>

The last statement was corroborated by Neil as early as 1912 at which time he wrote, "I have a little home in the foothills of the Chiricahuas where I have resided ever since my discharge from the 4th

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2. Reminiscences of Emma Erickson, ca, 1940s, pp. 54-6, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

3. Emma to Landone, August 3, 1923, Box 102, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



U.S. Cavalry in which I served five years," adding "where I have lived since in the fall of 1886."<sup>4</sup>

As he prepared to retire from the United States Forest Service, Neil wrote in 1927 in an autobiographical sketch of his life that shortly after he was discharged from the Army on October 10, 1886, he located a homestead in Bonita Canyon.<sup>5</sup> In one magazine Neil was quoted as saying that "I was batching here [i.e., in Bonita Canyon] for a while, but didn't like that. . . ."<sup>6</sup> Neil was referring to the time before his marriage but after his discharge. In writing a tribute to a neighbor that had died in 1935, Neil said, "I met her the first time in the fall of the year 1886, now nearly 49 years ago, when I was summoned to go and get her to perform an act of kindness for my near neighbor Mrs. Pauline Stafford."<sup>7</sup>

There can be little doubt, after analyzing and weighing these accounts and comparing them with Emma's, that Neil had lived in Bonita Canyon at least during the fall of 1886. While there it was logical for him to have occupied his time in the improvement of facilities. Finally, it is not unreasonable to assume that he lived in the structure that Emma claimed she had purchased.

Perhaps the best account of how and when the Ericksons first appeared in Bonita Canyon was given by Neil in 1931. At that time he wrote that it was

. . . about 43 years ago when I moved in here with my bride and baby then 5 months old. Our first night in the Canyon.

---

4. Neil to Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service, ca. 1912, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

5. "Autobiographical Notes by Neil Erickson, 1927," Erickson-Riggs Collection.

6. Hoofs and Horns, Vol. I, No. 33, July 15, 1932, p. 5.

7. Neil Erickson, "A Tribute to Mary B. Riggs," newspaper and date unknown, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

No! not mine for I had been here before and had added one room to the two that were here built by a man named Newton and had been occupied by a Captain Chas Cooper of the 10th U.S. Cavalry during the Geronimo campaign 1885-86.<sup>8</sup>

An analysis of this account reveals that forty-three years earlier would have placed the Ericksons' arrival in Bonita Canyon as 1888. If Lillian, the baby Neil was talking about, was five months old when they came to the canyon, then we can determine with considerable accuracy the approximate month in 1888 this event occurred. If Lillian was born on February 9, 1888 at Fort Bowie, then the Ericksons established themselves in the Canyon sometime in July 1888, if Neil's memory was correct. Neil also implied that he had lived there before. Finally, he stated that he made improvements to a house at one time owned by a person named Newton and occupied by an officer of the 10th U.S. Cavalry. These are all very significant points in this study, and although they were made several years after the event occurred, they were made by the principal participant and therefore should be given considerable weight. More will be said about the improvements Neil made to the house and about the previous owner and occupants later in this study.

Corroborating much of the preceding account was another story that appeared in a 1934 publication. Much of the information contained in this story was undoubtedly provided by Neil because of the remarkable similarity of details with the preceding account. The account reads in part as follows:

In Bonita Canyon at that time was a small cabin owned by a man named Newton. Captain Cooper purchased the cabin as a home for his wife and daughter and shortly after, moved them into it. A tent was erected to serve as a kitchen and dining

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8. Neil Erickson, "Our First Night in Bonita Canyon," April 19, 1931, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

TER EXTENDED AND ENCLOSED

BOX HOUSE  
(BUILT CA. 1899)

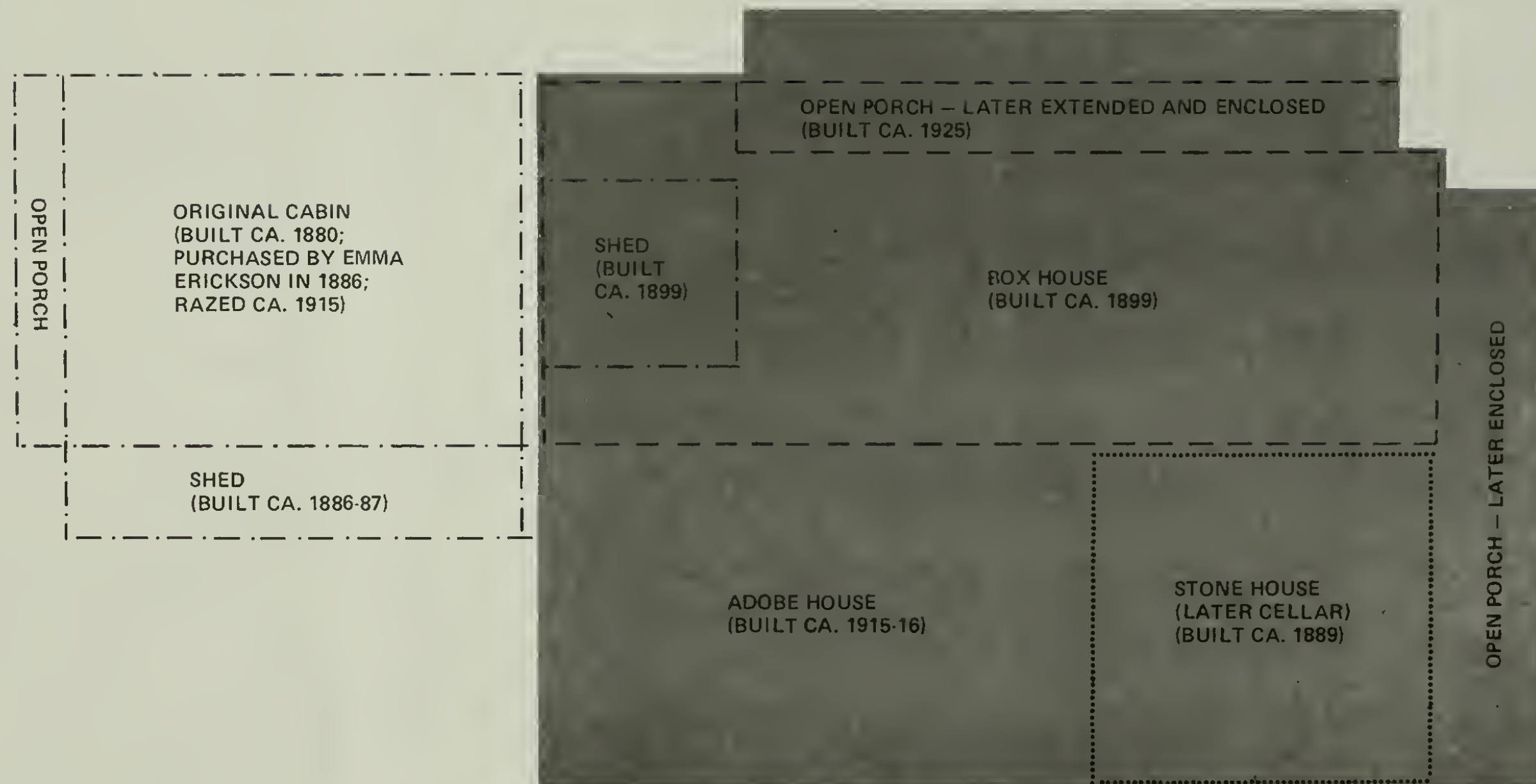
STONE HOUSE  
(LATER CELLAR)  
(BUILT CA. 1889)

OPEN PORCH — LATER ENCLOSED

## SCHEMATIC DRAWING MAIN HOUSE

SHOWING SEQUENCE OF ADDITIONS  
AND OTHER MAJOR CHANGES

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT / ARIZONA  
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- ORIGINAL CABIN . - - . - - . - -
- STONE HOUSE ..... - - - - -
- BOX HOUSE - - - - -
- ADOBE HOUSE (existing structure) ██████████



## SCHEMATIC DRAWING MAIN HOUSE

SHOWING SEQUENCE OF ADDITIONS  
AND OTHER MAJOR CHANGES

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT / ARIZONA  
U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service

room with a Negro woman in charge. The present site of Faraway's ranch house is the exact place where Captain Cooper's cabin stood and the tent kitchen stood where the ranch yard now is. Captain Cooper occupied the cabin for the eighteen months that the Geronimo campaign lasted. It was on this site that the plot was laid and conceived for the book, "When Geronimo Rode," by Forestine C. Hooker, who is the daughter of Captain Cooper. . . ."

. . . Captain Cooper sold his cabin to Mr. Stafford, who later, while visiting Fort Bowie, told of the very beautiful place he had bought in Bonita Canyon near his own home.

Mrs. Neil Erickson, then Miss Emma Peterson, living in Fort Bowie at the time heard Mr. Stafford tell of his beautiful place and decided to see it. She found the place and thought it the most gorgeous spot she had ever seen. Large oak trees lined the canyon, grass was three feet high wherever she walked, and Bonita Creek was then running like a full sized river.

Miss Peterson purchased the cabin from Mr. Stafford and then went to Tucson to file on the land. . . . In the course of the conversation in the land office, Miss Peterson mentioned the fact that she intended to be married in about eight months. At that time a homestead consisted of only 160 acres and she was informed that if she filed on the land her husband would not be allowed to file on any government land as only one in the family was permitted to homestead. She then decided to wait until after she was married so that her husband might do the filing.

On January 25, 1887, Miss Peterson and Mr. Neil Erickson were married. . . . Shortly after the wedding Mr. Erickson filed on 160 acres in Bonita Canyon where Mrs. Erickson's cabin then stood and where Faraway Ranch now stands. . . ."

Except for the different ownership, that is, Newton or Stafford, attributed to the cabin, Neil's brief account and the one just cited are remarkably similar.

Forrestine Hooker's novel When Geronimo Rode is fiction, yet it contains thinly disguised personal experience based on fact, though it must be used with caution. At one point she stated that Captain Duncan

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9. Anonymous, "The History of Faraway Ranch: The Gateway to the Wonderland of Rocks," Hoofs And Horns, vol. IV, No. 5, October 1934.



(actually her father, Captain Charles Cooper) leased the cabin from a rancher named Erickson who had built it. According to Mrs. Hooker, Mr. and Mrs. Erickson and children were tired of running off to Fort Bowie every time there was an Indian scare in the canyon. They were, therefore, happy to place the cabin in the captain's hands while he and his troops, a detachment of black cavalry, were there. Moreover, she continued, by having Captain Duncan live on his land, Erickson could satisfy the terms of his homestead claim and not lose title.<sup>10</sup> The accuracy of her statements must be seriously questioned. Although Captain Cooper and his troops were stationed in the canyon as late perhaps as mid-1886, Neil Erickson was not married until January 1887, and according to the latter's testimony, he had not brought his family to the canyon until 1888. Mrs. Hooker's statement does not stand the test of accuracy even if we assume that Neil had been living in the canyon soon after his discharge and before his marriage, that is, between October 1886 and January 1887. Neil could not have established himself in the canyon any earlier than October 1886. By then, the cavalry detachment had moved out. We must conclude, therefore, that Captain Cooper leased the cabin from either Newton or Stafford, not Erickson. It might have been the Stafford family that Mrs. Hooker had in mind as being tired of having to run off to Fort Bowie for protection during each Indian scare, rather than the Ericksons.

Lillian Erickson's unpublished novel "Westward Into the Sun," which actually consists of reminiscences of her childhood in the canyon disguised by use of fictional names, noted that the detachment's commanding officer had built "a small home near the camp and had his wife and young daughter with him." After Geronimo was captured and the Apache raids subsided, the outpost was recalled, and the officer's house was abandoned. The house, said the author, stood on the 160 acres of land that Krispin, the character in her novel (her father Neil),

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10. Forrestine C. Hooker, When Geronimo Rode (Garden City: Doubleday, Page and Co., 1924), p. 148.

had filed on his homestead.<sup>11</sup> Although this work is probably correct in placing the officer's quarters on what eventually became Erickson's homestead, it appears incorrect in stating that the officer built it.

Several early accounts provide conflicting dates as to when Neil filed for his homestead. Nor do the homestead records at the National Archives and Records Service clarify the situation. The year that Emma was said to have purchased the cabin and when Neil began to live in the canyon, that is, 1886, is frequently confused with the year that he filed for his homestead. One 1927 newspaper gave the date as 1886, and one book provided the same year. In early years, Lillian said that the homestead was filed in 1888.<sup>12</sup>

The 1934 account in the Hoofs and Horns periodical pointed out that Neil filed for his homestead soon after the wedding. A later issue of this magazine was more specific, giving the year in which he filed as 1887.<sup>13</sup>

Much of the confusion about these dates was caused by Emma's references to the purchase of the cabin prior to her marriage. Neil also contributed to the confusion in his autobiographical sketch wherein he stated that "shortly after being free from the Army, he located a Homestead in Bonita Canyon. . . ."<sup>14</sup> The implication here is that he filed sometime in late 1886.

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11. Lillian E. Riggs, "Westward Into the Sun," unpublished manuscript, 1961, pp. 28-9, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

12. Arizona Daily Star, December 22, 1927; Earl Jackson, The Natural History Story of Chiricahua National Monument (Globe, Arizona: Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, Inc., 1970), p. 67; Early History of Chiricahua National Monument: Interview of Mrs. Lillian Riggs by Superintendent Clair Cooke, July 28, 1953, Transcription in Western Regional Office, National Park Service.

13. Hoofs and Horns, October 1934; *ibid.*, February 1935.

14. Autobiographical Notes by Neil Erickson, 1927, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

The homestead records have confused matters further, and it is perhaps largely their fault that succeeding writers, including family members, have been mistaken. A government document dated November 22, 1894, granted Neil Erickson his homestead, describing it as the

South half of the South East quarter and the South half of the South West quarter of section twenty-seven, in Township sixteen South, of Range twenty-nine, East of the Gila and Salt River Meridian in Arizona Territory, containing one hundred and sixty acres.<sup>15</sup>

A further examination of the records reveals that the sale of the 160 acres was on January 31, 1894. This was actually the date of filing. Moreover, the records indicate that Neil "refiled" in 1918 and finally "acquired" his homestead on August 12, 1924, after offering final proof that he worked his land. Neil claimed that each year he grazed ten head of cattle on his land, which included a dwelling. The final certificate, which he received at this time, encompassed 240 acres, and not 160. Thus the addition of 80 acres to his homestead may serve as some explanation for the misunderstanding in dates, but how do we account for the filing date of January 31, 1894, as opposed to the grant dated November 22, 1894?<sup>16</sup>

In spite of this confusion, the dates given in most accounts as to when Neil filed for his homestead are 1886, 1887, or 1888. If we accept the grant of November 22, 1894, as having some validity, one can then reason that these dates have some basis in fact, the year 1888 probably being more correct. The five-year requirement established in the Homestead Act of 1862 would then have been fulfilled.

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15. The United States of America, Grant to Neil Erickson, November 22, 1894, Box 293, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

16. Entry 71, Tract Book, Arizona, Volume 166 and individual land record jackets, Washington National Record Center, Suitland, Maryland. The author is indebted to Chief Historian Edwin C. Bearss and Historian Martin Conway of the National Park Service, Washington Office for this information. Final Certificate Homestead, Department of the Interior, U.S. Land Office, Phoenix, Arizona, August 12, 1924, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



Another conflicting date in the history of Faraway Ranch is the year that Neil first settled in the canyon without his family. Emma wrote in 1923 that after Neil was discharged from the Army, he went to Bonita Canyon "to build fences, and make improvements."<sup>17</sup> Neil has corroborated this statement. In 1912 he wrote that he resided in his "little home" in the Chiricahuas ever since he was discharged from the Army, and "where I have lived since in the fall of 1886."<sup>18</sup> In 1935 he wrote "I met her [a neighbor] the first time in the fall of the year 1886, now nearly 49 years ago, when I was summoned to go and get her to perform an act of kindness for my near neighbor Mrs. Pauline Stafford."<sup>19</sup>

There can be no question about the accuracy of these dates. Neil was quite certain about them. One can conclude therefore that Neil lived in Bonita Canyon in the fall of 1886 before his marriage and that he made improvements to the facilities while living there. Both Emma and he made this point quite clearly.

After Neil and Emma married and a brief honeymoon ensued, he remained alone in Bonita Canyon for a while. One day in February 1887 he wrote to his bride of one month "I am now this evening writing by the fireside in our little cabin and oh, how I wish you were here." He then added, "Mr. and Mrs. Stafford [his neighbors only one-quarter mile up the canyon] send their best regards to you and wish you would come out here and live. They say that it's kind of lonesome now with this house

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17. Emma Erickson to Landone, August 3, 1923, Box 102, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

18. Neil Erickson to Supervisor, Forest Service, ca, 1912, Erickson-Riggs Collection

19. Neil Erickson, "A Tribute to Mary B. Riggs," newspaper and date unknown, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

empty."<sup>20</sup> Neil was busy making improvements on his homestead although not living there permanently.

He found himself going to and from Bonita Canyon frequently before and after he was married. It was not until the latter part of 1888, however, that he and his small family moved permanently to the canyon. At that time the Ericksons had only one child, Lillian, who was born on February 9, 1888 at Fort Bowie. There were two reasons why it took them so long to relocate after Emma had purchased her cabin. First, Neil had to make an adequate living for his family, and he could only do this if he remained in Bisbee, Arizona, or some other town where men with his carpentry skills were needed. Second, he was reluctant to have his wife and child settle in a relatively primitive area without the minimum of adequate housing and facilities. Building equipment to construct these facilities was not cheap, and until he could work to purchase them, he preferred to remain away from Bonita Canyon. He felt strongly that the only solution to this problem was to work at his trade wherever fortune would take him, save enough money to improve his ranch to the level he wanted, and then move there. He even attempted to run a business in New Mexico after his marriage, but this failed. After Emma briefly managed a hotel in Lordsburg, New Mexico, she finally convinced Neil that they should move to their ranch in Bonita Canyon.<sup>21</sup>

#### B. The Original Structure

The cabin that Emma is purported to have purchased in 1886 was the same one that had sheltered the commanding officer, Captain Charles Cooper, of that small detachment of black soldiers of the 10th Cavalry Regiment. Who built and owned this cabin is not certain. That the commanding officer built it, as Lillian said in her fictional work, is

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20. Neil to Emma, February 23, 1887, Box 33, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

21. Emma to Landone, August 3, 1923, Box 102, Erickson-Riggs Collection; Reminiscences of Emma Erickson, Ca. 1940's, Ms. in Box 111, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

unlikely. It is more probable that the captain leased it from Stafford who earlier purchased it from Newton, the original builder. Newton may have been a squatter in the canyon. There is some reason to believe that such a person did exist. Neil has referred to him and to the ditch named after him that ran north and south alongside of the Main House.

It was this cabin, acquired by Emma, that formed the nucleus of the Main House. This cabin was the initial member, but it was already there. There are several descriptions of this structure, most of which were written independently. Emma described it briefly as a "small house with two rooms in it."<sup>22</sup> At a much earlier date she described the house as containing three rooms, but here she was counting the room that Neil had added to the house in 1886.<sup>23</sup> Neil said in 1931, while speaking of the first day he moved his small family to the canyon, "for I had been here before and had added one room to the two that were here built by a man named Newton. . . ."<sup>24</sup>

Hildegard Erickson, the youngest of the three children who was born in 1895 in Bonita Canyon, recalled her mother telling her that when she moved to the canyon there was "one big room and a lean-to kitchen."<sup>25</sup>

There are three detailed descriptions of the original structure. Two appear in autobiographical fiction written by authors who were participants in the events that took place in the canyon. The first description appeared in 1924 with the publication of the historical novel

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22. Reminiscences of Emma Erickson, ca, 1940s, Ms in Box 111, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

23. Emma to Landone, August 3, 1923, Box 102, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

24. Neil Erickson "Our First Night in Bonita Canyon," April 19, 1931, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

25. "Remembrances of Hildegard Erickson," n.d., Erickson-Riggs Collection.

When Geronimo Rode. Its author was Forrestine C. Hooker, daughter of Captain Charles Cooper, commanding officer of the black cavalry company assigned to police Bonita Canyon during the Geronimo campaign. As a young girl, she lived in the canyon with her father and mother, and the cabin in question was their home. She described it as a "tiny two-room cabin back of several tall, wide-spreading oak trees" and went on to say that

it did not require many minutes to explore the cabin. A front room well built and with two windows, had a fairly good wooden floor and an open fireplace. This room led into a smaller one which evidently had been used as a kitchen. The floor in the back room was of earth, packed down solidly enough to be swept. A small sliding window and a hole in the roof for a stovepipe,<sup>26</sup> with a door opening from the back, completed the dwelling.

She pointed out other details of the cabin, for example, that it had old newspapers posted on the walls to take the place of wallpaper. The crude cabin, she said, had been transformed into a cozy home, with the front room arranged jointly as a sitting room and bedroom. A tall screen concealed the bed during the day.<sup>27</sup>

The author described the back room, formerly the kitchen, which

had been arranged for her [Forrestine is named Bonita in the novel] boudoir. Heavy canvas tightly stretched on the earth floor was practically covered by an enormous buffalo robe, fur side up. A Sibley stove, which was simply a conical bit of sheet iron with its open base planted firmly in a box of solid soil, afforded ample heat. . . . The window at which Bonita stood slid sidewise when opened, and flaunted a gay cretonne curtain.

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26. Forrestine C. Hooker, When Geronimo Rode, (Garden City: Doubleday, Page and Co., 1924), pp. 147-9.

27. Ibid., pp. 151-2.

The author described a "low step" at the door and said that Bonita's mother found the house "so comfortable."<sup>28</sup> The conclusion is that while Captain Cooper was using the cabin, it had two rooms, one a front room with a wooden floor, the second a rear room with a dirt floor. Moreover, most of the walls were covered with newspapers.

The second major description of the cabin was written by Lillian in her unpublished novel "Westward Into The Sun." Although intended largely as fiction, the work can best be described as thinly fictionalized reminiscences of the author's childhood. Lillian took great pain to describe the cabin and other facilities she attributed to her father's workmanship. Some description of the structure can be gleaned from the several brief statements by the author. Thus she said, "the tired horses came to a stop before the little house. . . ." "Victoria [Emma] followed him [Neil] into the house. One room had been cleaned and a stove had been put up in a corner. The other room was so crowded with their unpacked furniture and other household goods that there was no place to turn around."<sup>29</sup>

Thus Lillian described the cabin as containing two rooms. One can also conclude that someone, undoubtedly Neil, had already delivered household goods and had cleaned the cabin prior to their arrival.

The author provided other bits of descriptive information. For example, the inhabitants secured "enough wall paper to paper the large front room." "Krispin [Neil] put it on and put in a ceiling of white muslin tacked between the dark varnished oak beams. This was whitewashed to keep it clean and dustproof. The little bedroom was too small for the lovely bird's eye maple bedroom suite . . . so they put the tall chiffonier and the dresser with the large beveled mirror into the

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28. Ibid., pp. 154-5, 158-9, 177.

29. Lillian E. Riggs, "Westward Into The Sun," unpublished manuscript, ca. 1960, pp. 30-31.



front room." The floor of this room was painted. The kitchen and small bedroom were papered with pages from newspapers and periodicals, chiefly Harper's Weekly and New York Times. Poems and one-page stories were used mostly.<sup>30</sup> Forrestine Hooker mentioned the papered walls in her novel, but Lillian was not clear as to whether the newspapers she described had been there already or were new ones put up by her father.

In 1931 Neil recalled that the floors of the cabin were made of boards. Both Mrs. Hooker and Lillian noted that only the front room had wooden floors, the other room having an earthen floor.<sup>31</sup>

Lack of adequate space seems to have plagued the Ericksons throughout most of their lives in the canyon, and this led to the many structural changes in their home. Neil was always inclined, perhaps largely due to Emma's constant prodding, to make facilities at home more comfortable for his family. This was true whether he was living in Bonita Canyon, in Bisbee, or elsewhere--he could always be found looking for ways of improving living conditions.

According to Lillian in her novel, soon after the family's arrival in the canyon, they realized the need for more room. "Another room was imperative," but how to build it when funds were low was another story. In place of finished lumber, her father found a substitute--Pearl Oil can cases. "He had a dozen or so of them. He had seen hundreds of them thrown away at the Post. Everyone used kerosene for lighting their houses and it was shipped in strong wooden cases that held ten gallons each. He would use the ends like shingles. It would make a warm snug room." Both "Krispin" and his brother "Jim" (John in real life), who "Krispin" had sent for from Sweden, constructed the extra room. They

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30. Ibid., pp. 38-40.

31. Neil Erickson, "Our First Night in Bonita Canyon," April 19, 1931, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

intended to use it for a kitchen, the old one reverting to Lillian's bedroom. Her father lined one wall with cupboards and shelves.<sup>32</sup>

Lillian's account gives the impression that efforts to improve the cabin's comforts were made after the family arrived in Bonita Canyon. Although some of this may be true, it is more likely, as both Neil and Emma have testified, that most of the remodeling took place before the family's arrival, especially after Neil was discharged from the Army and before his marriage and during his trips to the canyon while living elsewhere.

A third account, this one non-fictional, published in Hoofs and Horns in 1934, supports the story given by Lillian concerning the addition of a third room, indicating that "the cabin . . . was a two-room frame building. A third room was added. . . ."<sup>33</sup>

There seems to be no doubt that the small two-room cabin was enlarged to include a third room, but whether Lillian was correct in implying that it was built after the family had arrived in the canyon is questionable. Neil was quite specific when writing in 1931, as he recalled his family's first night in the canyon. "No! not mine," he said, "for I had been here before and had added one room to the two that were built by a man named Newton."<sup>34</sup>

The several months spent in Bonita Canyon after his discharge from the Army would have been the proper time to have built this extra room. Moreover, Emma said on more than one occasion that Neil had lived there after his discharge making improvements.

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32. Ibid., pp. 33, 38.

33. Anonymous, "The History of Faraway Ranch: The Gateway to the Wonderland of Rocks."

34. Neil Erickson, "Our First Night in Bonita Canyon," MS, April 19, 1931, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

There are several photographs and one drawing of what is purported to be the cabin. These illustrations were made between 1890 and 1910. A drawing by George Dunn has the caption "The original home of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Erickson in Bonita Canyon about 1892" (Illustration No. 1).<sup>35</sup>

It is not known who wrote the caption, although the handwriting might be Lillian's. The sketch depicts a structure with walls built of vertical logs and a gable roof made of wooden shingles. The front of the cabin has a porch with a lean-to roof. Lillian mentioned this porch in her novel. In an 1896 entry to one of his early diaries Neil also mentioned that he repaired "the porch."<sup>36</sup>

The photographs, most of which are not dated, reveal all or a section of the cabin. One photograph taken around 1905, viewing the cabin from the south after a major addition was built, depicts a part of the gabled roof with shingles. The long dimensions of the cabin extended east and west, the front of which faced the west. On the south side of the structure was a lean-to with a shingled roof. Because the side of the lean-to was covered with shrubs and vines, it is difficult to determine its composition. The caption contains the words "Faraway Ranch," so it had to be written after 1917 when that name was first used (Illustration No. 2).<sup>37</sup>

A second photograph, probably taken around 1907 and also viewing the structure from the south side, is a better picture in that it shows more of the cabin and more structural detail. By the time this picture was taken, the lean-to had been removed. The photograph reveals

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35. This sketch is in the Erickson-Riggs Collection.

36. Neil Erickson's Diary 1896-1899, Erickson-Riggs Collection; Lillian E. Riggs, "Westward Into The Sun," p. 100.

37. Photograph, caption: "Left to Right Rob. Larson, Mrs. Erickson, Mrs. C.M. Right Roberts, a girl from Bowie. A group at Faraway Ranch before the Lean-to on the old cabin was taken away," ca. 1905, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



external walls made of upright logs and a gabled roof with wooden shingles. The south wall depicts the outline of what might have been the connecting door between the cabin and the lean-to. It also reveals the remains of what probably was part of the lean-to. These had yet to be removed (Illustration No. 3).<sup>38</sup>

Two other photographs taken about 1908-1909 reveal essentially the same details of the cabin (Illustration Nos. 4 and 5) but a third one, probably taken around 1910, does not show the remains of the lean-to; by then all signs of the lean-to had been removed (Illustration No. 6). There is also a sketch which was obviously drawn from this 1910 photograph.<sup>39</sup>

It is not clear whether the lean-to observed in the ca. 1905 photograph was the one built by Neil just before the family arrived in the canyon or a different one. The 1892 sketch, which is viewed from the northwest, could not show the lean-to on the south side of the cabin, but it does show one at the rear (or east side) of the house. Of course, there could have been more than one lean-to built over the years, and either one might have been the earlier structure noted in the several accounts.

### C. The Stone House

After the third room was added to the cabin, Neil was determined to build a stone house, a single room structure that would serve a double purpose: to act as a small fort in the event of an Indian raid, and to

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38. Photograph in a small album marked "Photographs given to Dad by Mrs. Grey." The photograph in question has written above it "Dad, Ben and Mother, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Grey, Hildegard in Window" and below it "Our first Cabin Located 1886. Second addition/Stonehouse on Right 1888 - Box House Later 1897 or 8," Erickson-Riggs Collection.

39. These three photographs do not contain captions or dates. The drawing bears the following caption: "Our second house in Bonita Canyon/made by the Roy croftors," n.d. but after 1910. All in the Erickson-Riggs Collection.

serve as a cool room for the storage of food. As far as the first purpose was concerned, building the stone house turned out to be a lost labor of love. With the exception of one brief scare, there was never any reason to use the stone house as a means of protection against the Indians. On the other hand, the stone house and its large room served Faraway Ranch well into the end of its life as a cool "cellar" where food was stored. The 1934 account that appeared in Hoofs and Horns said that the "stone storehouse with its two-foot wall, was originally built as a refuge in case of Indian attacks. Today it is a part of the present ranch house and still serves as a storeroom."<sup>40</sup>

An article appearing in a 1958 issue of the Saturday Evening Post said that after the Ericksons settled in Bonita Canyon, the "first building to go up was a windowless structure of stones--more a fortress than a home."<sup>41</sup>

Hildegard described this stone structure as follows:

Neil Erickson decided to dig his well. His brother, John Erickson came from Bisbee to help him.

The Indians were still out at times, so they decided to use the rocks dug for the well to build a stonehouse [sic] separated and apart from the dwellings. It had walls at least 3 feet thick; portholes on all 4 sides; and a sapling roof with dirt over it. It was also sunken about 1-1/2 to 2 feet. It was later used as a storage room [or cellar] but originally used to keep the milk and butter. The floor [dirt]<sup>42</sup> was sprinkled down each night and the screen doors left open.

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40. Anonymous, "The History of the Faraway Ranch: The Gateway to the Wonderland of Rocks."

41. A.T. Steele, "The Lady Boss of Faraway Ranch," The Saturday Evening Post, Vol. 230 No. 37, March 15, 1958.

42. Remembrances of Hildegard E. Hutchison, n.d., Erickson-Riggs Collection.

In a description written years before the above one, Hildegard noted that her father and uncle built the stone house from the "mud and muck" removed from the well.<sup>43</sup>

In her novel Lillian described in considerable detail how the stone house was built:

Krispin had built rough forms three feet high, three feet wide, and twenty feet long for the lower walls. When they [Krispin and Jim] took dirt from the well, they had emptied it into these forms. When they struck water, the wet mud was placed on top of the dry. The water soaked through and made mud of it all. Thus the earth from the well was disposed of and made useful at the same time. Since the dirt from the well did not go far enough to complete the walls, they were left to harden till the well was finished. Then the floor of the room was excavated and thrown into the forms. Again this mud was left to harden. This mud when dried was almost as hard as rock. Then the forms were raised, and, since stones were plentiful, they were used with mud to complete the structure. Its outside measurements were twenty foot square, with walls ten feet high. A small high window was placed on the side overlooking the well and a heavy door of oak planks in double thickness, in the adjoining wall. A fireplace was put into one corner.

The room must also be fireproof. This was a difficult problem. Krispin solved it by using his head and the materials at hand. First he went into the woods and cut long cypress poles which would reach from one side of the room to the other. Four inches in diameter at the small end would be strong enough for this purpose. He peeled the bark from these with a hand adz, and they came out white and shining. By placing the logs in the mud of the upper wall at the top of the building, large end to small end, and striving for uniform thickness, he was able to make an almost solid ceiling.

Next [Krispin] and Jim went to the hills that surrounded the canyon and took huge corn knives along. They returned with the bed of the spring wagon heaped high with bear grass. Mexicans used it to thatch their houses in much the same way that straw was used in Ireland. Load after load was laid upon the flat roof across the cypress beams. The last step was the most difficult. . . . The creeks were full of clean, white sand. Wagonbox after wagonbox of this was hauled to the

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43. Reminiscences of Hildegard E. Hutchison, ca. 1940s, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

house. One man stood on the wagon and tossed the sand to the top of the house; the other spread it evenly. When the roof was finished, two inches of sand lay evenly over the bear grass. . . .

The stonehouse [sic] was warm in winter so that no vegetable ever froze there. The thick walls and earthen roof shut out the rays of the summer sun so that it was a haven of coolness for milk, butter, and eggs that would otherwise have spoiled in the long summer days.<sup>44</sup>

According to Lillian, the stone house was placed close to the newly built well so that in case of an Indian siege water could be quickly gotten. The well could also be closely protected in the event the Indians should decide to poison it.<sup>45</sup>

Neil had clearly distinguished between the cabin, which served as the nucleus of his home, and the stone house. Moreover, he made it absolutely plain that both structures were separate from one another. Thus, in speaking about the only Indian scare they had while living in Bonita Canyon he said:

One day while I was doing some improvement on my home, Mary Fife who was employed in the home of Colonel Stafford, came running...to our home. . . . Mrs. Erickson was ill in a room not attached to the one in which I was working. The one where I worked was stone. I went and got a bucket of water and then took all the ammunition and my gun into that room and stood by to watch the Indians.<sup>46</sup>

In another account of this Indian episode Neil established the date that the stone house was built. In it he said:

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44. Lillian E. Riggs, "Westward Into The Sun," pp. 57-9.

45. Ibid., pp. 56-7.

46. "Neil Erickson Thought First White Man to Know Beautiful Rhyolite Park in Chiricahuas", Douglas Daily Dispatch, January 20, 1929, copy in Erickson-Riggs Collection.

The first we heard of Massai after [he] escaped from the train, was in the early part of May 1890. . . .

My wife was sick in bed and could not get out. Brother John and myself were busy hauling away ground from around a well we had dug and walled up, close to the house, using a dump cart and one horse.

I got busy to carry water, and such food as was not already there, into the Stone house I had built for the purpose of storing<sup>47</sup> food in and to stand Indians off from in case of an attack.

One can conclude from the foregoing accounts that the stone house was built before May 1890, probably in 1889 soon after the Ericksons settled in the canyon. Second, the stone house was a structure separate from the frame cabin. Finally, although the stone house was the first structure to eventually become a permanent part of the Main House, it was not the Erickson's principal habitation.

#### D. First Major Renovation (The Box House)

Neil was always concerned that his home was never adequate to take care of the needs of his growing family. Moreover, he was always disturbed to see his wife living in a dwelling that was far from the relative luxury she had been used to in Sweden. After Lillian, Ben, his only son, was born in the canyon in 1891. Hildegard, his youngest daughter, was born in the canyon in 1895. Neil's efforts at farming and cattle-raising were never successful enough to provide him with adequate compensation to realize his dreams, partly because he had no inclination in those occupations. Fortunately, he was blessed with a skill in carpentry that placed him in great demand among his neighbors and in surrounding towns and settlements. His work took him away from his family and home for weeks and months at a time, much to Emma's chagrin because she was left in the canyon to fend for herself. Whatever

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47. "Some facts about (Bigfoot) Massai, said by Indian Scouts to have been the most fierce warrior of the Chiricahua tribe of Apaches," Ms. written by Neil Erickson, ca., 1933, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



improvements were accomplished on the ranch by Neil, sometimes with the help of his brother John, were usually done in between jobs elsewhere. During these long periods of absence John stayed behind to accomplish some of the improvements as well as to act as protector to Neil's family. Neil did not hesitate to let John know that he owed him this much for having been responsible for his coming to America.

Between December 1890 and December 1894, Neil worked in Bisbee for a mining company. During those years his family lived in Bonita Canyon. Although he found time to visit his family on occasions, he depended a lot upon his brother and neighbors to see that all went well with his family. When he learned of an Indian incursion along the Mexican border in 1892, he frantically wrote his wife, "have John and Stafford to ever be on the lookout for them. It is fearful to have you in the mountains and the red-Devils out, but should you hear of any imidiet [sic.] news 'of them go to Mr. Prue's Ranch and stay together so you will be out of Danger."<sup>48</sup>

His concern for his family was always reflected in his letters. Neil advised his brother of his need to stay in the canyon to help the family while he was away. He instructed him to see that they had plenty of wood. While Neil conceded that his brother could earn some money doing odd jobs for neighboring ranches, he must "first of all look after you and to fix the house", he wrote Emma. "You said it would blow down this winter."<sup>49</sup>

It is interesting to note that his letter revealed that the house in Bonita Canyon was in need of rehabilitation. The structure he referred to had to be the old picket log cabin. Other than the addition of one or two sheds, little had been done to improve it since they moved into it. How successful Neil was in getting his brother to do much of the work around the homestead is not entirely clear, but John may have had more

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48. Neil to Emma, November 18, 1892, Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

49. Neil to Emma, December 23, 1892, Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



to do with improvements around the ranch than we know. Emma, however, out of despair in not seeing her husband at the ranch, complained constantly about the poor facilities. The house her family lived in was her main concern. Neil recognized this from the very beginning when they moved to the canyon, but he put things off because he lacked the money.

It is difficult to learn whether any major construction was done to the Main House between the period 1891 and 1898. Except for one bit of evidence, a drawing said to depict the house in 1892, there appears to be a void in the records. This 1892 sketch mentioned earlier reveals three structures viewed from the northeast: the cabin on the right with a porch in front and a small attached shed in the rear; a small square frame structure with a flat roof to the left of the cabin; and the stone house on the left. Since the drawing is from an angle, the illusion is created that all three structures were connected. Certainly, no one can say this to be the case about the stone house. This sketch is extremely puzzling in the absence of other evidence. It may be that the artist took artistic license in portraying these structures.

By the end of the decade it was evident that the Main House was in need of extensive improvements since by now the Erickson family had grown in numbers.

Hildegard provided a description of the first major renovation to affect the Main House, but one must be cautious in accepting the date when this occurred. Thus she says:

It was several yrs. [sic] later that Branic [Brannick] Riggs put in a sawmill at the head of Pine [Pinery] Canyon. He sold Dad lumber and then the second part of the house was built: two downstairs rooms (dining room which connected kitchen to Mother's) and the kitchen with the door down to the cellar. Neil also built three rooms upstairs: two bedrms [sic] and the hall and landing of the circular stairway.

This was about 1908.<sup>50</sup>

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50. Remembrances of Hildegard Hutchison, Ms, n.d., Erickson-Riggs Collection.

From this brief description one can conclude that the addition made to the house was a two-story structure with two rooms downstairs (dining room and kitchen) and three rooms upstairs (two bedroom and a center hall). She was wrong, however, when she placed the date of this construction at 1908. The change was much earlier.

Lillian's account of this construction in her autobiographical fiction was much more thorough and accurate. Her explanation for acquiring the wood was somewhat different from Hildegard's. She said that "Krispin" received the wood as payment for doing carpentry work for the lumbermill's new owner. She noted that Rosalind (the girl who played the role of Lillian) could recall since she was a young child that there had always been talk of a "new house." The one they lived in was too small to take care of the needs of three children. Rosalind dreamed of having her own bedroom, and her mother reassured her that some day she would share one with her baby sister. Since Hildegard was born in 1895, this planning had to take place after that date.<sup>51</sup>

Lillian went on to say that "at intervals huge loads of new lumber arrived at the ranch. . . . Wagon, returning from town, brought doors, windows, shingles and hardware for the new house."<sup>52</sup> Construction finally began, and Lillian provided this account:

The little bedroom and kitchen were torn down. The big front room was to be kept for a bedroom till some distant day when another addition could be made. The stonehouse, never needed for a refuge, had become solely a cellar and storehouse. The new building was to connect it with the front room and make a single unit of the whole. The log and earthen roof of the stonehouse was removed and a roof put on which tied it in with the new rooms.

. . . One of the upstairs rooms would be Benjy's own, and the other was to belong to Rosalind and Baby Sister, when Sister was a little older. A funny winding stairway led up to the hall that separated the two bedrooms. Delightful twin windows looked out upon the mountains from the front of Rosalind's room. The back window opened onto a porch that ran the full length of the house.

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51. Lillian E. Riggs, "Westward Into The Sun," pp. 284-7.

52. *Ibid.*, p. 327.

The downstairs room that connected with the stonehouse was to be a kitchen, complete with tables, built-in cupboards and shelves. Large windows were to give it light and plenty of fresh air. The new living-room would connect the kitchen with the old front room. It, too, had large windows that gave pleasant views of the mountains, and an open fireplace in one end.<sup>53</sup>

According to Lillian, the new living room had a fireplace.<sup>54</sup>

There are at least eight early photographs that depict the Main House during this phase of construction and support much of the written evidence. While many of these illustrations reveal the front or south side of the house, it is unfortunate that only two provide some evidence of the east side and that none provide evidence of the north and west sides. Some of these illustrations have been mentioned earlier in our discussion of the cabin.

A 1905 photograph depicts sections of three basic elements of the house: the picket log cabin on the left; a box-like hip-roofed two-story structure in the center; and the stone house on the right. All three segments are connected to form an inverted L-shaped unit (Illustration No. 2). A 1907 photograph shows essentially the same details except that one can see more of each segment. The following caption appears at the top: "Dad, Ben and Mother/Hildegard in Window/Mr. Lewis and Mr. Grey." Of some significance appearing at the bottom is the following under each of the three members: "Our first Cabin located 1886/ Second Addition - Stonehouse on Right 1888/Box-House-Later 1897 or 8" (Illustration No. 3). Both captions are in different handwritings. The top one was probably written by Lillian, the bottom by Neil.

The date that Hildegard gave for the construction of the box house, that is, 1908, is obviously wrong. The 1897 or 1898 date provided in the

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53. Ibid., pp. 350-51.

54. Ibid., p. 363.

last photograph is far more accurate. In this respect, there were three letters written to Emma by a friend between 1900 and 1901 that lend support to this date.

The first one, written on November 5, 1900, said "I will always think of you where I knew you and of the many pleasant visits we had in the little house in Bonita Canon."<sup>55</sup> For the time being one need remember only that this correspondent referred to the "little house." In another letter written two months later, the same correspondent wrote:

What kind of a Christmas did you have? I thought of you all, and what a good time we had two years ago in the Old Barfoot [sic.] house, and of what a good dinner we had next day at your house. How many good times we have had in that little house! I often think of them, and wish that I could see you.<sup>56</sup>

Two points should be made here. This woman, who apparently was a good friend of Emma's and may have lived at one time in Barefoot Park, an area in the Chiricahua Mountains, again referred to the "little house." Secondly, she recalled the good times they had "two years ago" presumably at Christmas. Since she wrote this letter in January 1901, she was recalling an event that occurred in December 1898, at which time she remembered the "little house."

Finally, in a letter written by the same person in February 1901, it said, "I was delighted to hear of your comfortable new house, and I have tried to imagine how it looked. You did not say where you entered it."<sup>57</sup> The important point to be made in this letter is that this woman referred to Emma's "new house." In the first two letters written in late 1900 and early 1901 this woman recalled a "little house" in which the Ericksons lived. She remembered it as late as December 1898. By the time she

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55. Wunschorn to Erickson, November 5, 1900, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

56. Wunschorn to Erickson, January 7, 1901, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

57. Wunschorn to Erickson, February 12, 1901, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

wrote her third letter, Emma had probably answered her, telling her of her "new house." An interpretation of these letters can only lead one to conclude that by Christmas 1898, the Ericksons were still living in their little cabin, but by February 1901, they were enjoying their "new house," that is, the first major addition, or box house. Thus, 1899 (or 1900 at the latest) was probably the year that the box house was added.

A third photograph, taken about 1906, is important because it views the Main House from the east, the only early illustration to do so. The view of the house is too small to point to any significant details, but from what can be observed looking westward one is able to see a two-story narrow structure with a hip roof and a window on the second floor which faces east. This was the second addition that was sometimes referred to as the box house. One can also make out the east side of the one-story stone house that juts out from the box house (Illustration No. 7).

A fourth photograph, probably taken around 1908, views the complete Main House from a distant south. This is probably the best early view of the house at this time because it shows the whole house with all its segments. By this time, however, a small square window had been added to the second story probably to bring light to the center hall. The window overlooks the gabled roof of the stone house (Illustration No. 4).

There are two very interesting close-up views of the house that were probably taken around 1907-1908. The most important one is a picture of Emma seated just outside the east side of her house. What is interesting about this illustration is that it depicts the east wall of the stone house, or what by then became known as the cellar. The cellar had a window that still exists today. Further north is a section of the latest addition, that is the box house. There is a low square wooden platform that led to a door through which one entered the kitchen. This doorway is probably the same one that exists today. This picture is the only known illustration that provides some details of the east side of the house as it looked then and is therefore significant (Illustration No. 9).



The second photograph in this group is a picture of both Emma and Neil at the front of the house. Although not much different from the 1905 and 1906 views, this photograph does provide some excellent detail. The front door, for example, is clearly seen as having an attractive window (Illustration No. 5).

Another illustration without a caption was probably taken around 1910. It is similar to the 1908 photograph except that by now there appears a flagpole about 100 feet to the south of the house (Illustration No. 6). There is a sketch of the Main House that was undoubtedly drawn from this photograph. It contains the following caption: "Our second house in Bonita Caynon [sic] made by Roy Crofters [sic]." "Second house" refers to the second major construction.<sup>58</sup>

Some observations should be made of the strength and accuracy of the documentary and visual evidence that exists concerning the second stage of construction, at least those observations that are not readily apparent. Although the photographs generally do not provide dates, or if they do, have been fixed in later years when memory can be faulty, they can be placed in some chronological order.

With the exception of the date (1908) that Hildegard provides, her brief description of the new construction corroborates much of Lillian's more lengthy description. Lillian made some interesting observations in her fictional account. She noted that the "little bedroom and kitchen" of

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58. The Roycrofters was a commercial establishment located in East Aurora, New York. They were engaged in printing, binding, and in the production of crafts made of copper and wood. They wrote personalized brochures for various establishments throughout the United States, sometimes after visiting them. One such brochure was written for the Maurice Bathhouse in Hot Springs, Arkansas. It may be that a number of The Roycrofters visited Faraway Ranch and drew the sketch, but the sketch is such a great likeness of the illustration that it is very probable it was drawn from the latter. See brochure titled Roycroft: A Catalog of Books & Things Hand Made at the Roycroft Shops, Erickson-Riggs Collection. See also Elbart Hubbard, A Little Journey to the Maurice Baths (East Aurora, N.Y.: The Roycrofters).



the old cabin were razed, leaving only the "big front room." Did she mean that the little bedroom and kitchen were shed additions that could be torn down without impairing the cabin's central unity? The several photographs depict a cabin that has not lost this central unity, so that one must conclude that if any sections were torn down, they had to be shed-roofed appendages. But if this is true, how does one account for the addition in the 1905 photograph, unless there was more than one, a distinct possibility?

Lillian described her new bedroom as having twin windows that faced the south. Ben's room was the one with the small window facing the east. Both these features appear in the photographs just reviewed.

Of considerable interest to the later development of the house is the knowledge that the back window in Lillian's bedroom, which faced the north, "opened onto a porch that ran the full length of the house."

The remaining "old front room" of the old cabin probably became Neil's and Emma's bedroom. This was likely for two reasons: first, the evidence indicates that there were three bedrooms--one occupied by the two sisters and another by Ben, so that a third had to be occupied by the parents; second, since Emma was physically handicapped, it made sense to give her a room on the ground floor where it was easily accessible.

Nothing is said about the type of wood employed to build the box-like addition, but the several photographs reveal that it consisted of boards with battens. The gabled roof of the cellar was also made of milled planks with battens to cover the cracks between them.

After the second phase of construction was completed, Neil continued to leave home to seek work to support his family. His dream of improving and enlarging his home continued to spur him on, albeit, some of this ambition may have come from Emma's constant prodding. His absence from home did take its toll, however, for Neil was a family man who missed his wife and children very much.

From the many letters that Neil wrote to his wife during these absences one can infer that there were some difficult times for the Ericksons. Jobs were scarce and the few he had he held on to very dearly. He found little time to return to Bonita Canyon. Instead, he implored Emma to come to the city and stay with him. The little he earned, Neil sent to his family. In the meantime, Emma purchased fruit and vegetables from Stafford's orchard and garden on credit. "I am now working on a little contract that I will have finished by the last of this week, and then I will send you some more money," Neil wrote Emma from Bisbee.<sup>59</sup> Sometimes in despair Neil blamed his home in Bonita Canyon for keeping him and his family apart. If it had not been for Emma who cared very much for her house in the canyon, Neil would probably have gotten rid of it. He resented Emma's strong attachment to their home. He felt a sense of frustration in trying to please his wife by holding on to the ranch while forcing himself to be away from home so that he could earn an adequate living to maintain his family in the style that Emma was used to in Sweden and in the manner she wished to raise her children.

Upon the establishment of the Chiricahua National Forest Neil applied for a position as a forest ranger in 1902. He was convinced that only this appointment would bring him security and afford him the pleasure of remaining at home with his family. At one point he wrote Emma, "I have not heard from Washington yet since I sent off my application [i.e., for forest ranger], but expect to every day, and I hope that it will be favorable so I can again come out and stay with you."<sup>60</sup> The following extract from one of his letters reveals the frustration and guilt that Neil felt:

but poor me unless I get the appointment as Ranger soon I will not be able to come home to se [sic] Lillian an [sic] you this summer, but remember now my dear--Dear Emma I would like to have that well home fixed up and little windmill on it I can not do so now. And always remember what I said when I left

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59. Neil to Emma, June 8, 1902, Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

60. Ibid.

home, that unless I can get an income from the Ranch by staying on it I never will again go back there to live. And I do not feel like spending any more money on a place where there is no income at all. If I get the appointment I am looking for, then I will either fix it up or sell it. If not I will not willingly spend one cent more on the old place. And I will not either send any man out there to work where no benefit is assured for such work. Do now be reasonable my own Dear Emma. I love you as much as ever man loved woman and that old place has kept us constantly separated while ellse [sic] we should have been one united in mind and body and spent our days happily with our children, by our fireside and under our immediate care. Now Emma are you going to scold me for not sending you a man to work for you. You have to do as you deem best, and I am not going to grumble, but I am going right along seeking as I told you before I left you, new fields in which I can build a home that will hold us all.<sup>61</sup>

The above letter hints of the need for improvements on the ranch, but without Neil, Emma may have sought some person to come out to do the work. At one time Neil's brother did much of this work, but now even he was working in Bisbee and unavailable.

The long-awaited appointment to the U.S. Forest Service finally came, and on July 8, 1903, Neil started on his new career.<sup>62</sup> Neil finally got his dream. About half the time he found himself working out of his own home, which he referred to as his "headquarters" in Bonita Canyon, for several years. The rest of the time was spent at ranger stations in the Chiricahuas and at the district headquarters in Paradise, Arizona. A part of his duties was to build cabins, corrals, stables, barns, and other facilities for the Forest Service.<sup>63</sup>

Because Neil worked out of his home much of the time, he needed an office. In October 1910 he recorded that with a wagon and team of

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61. Neil to Emma, June 13, 1902, Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

62. Field Notes: General Land Office, "My First Book", 1903, Box 251 Erickson-Riggs Collection.

63. Ibid., "Neil Erickson Forest Ranger, Paradise, Arizona." 1904-1905, Ms. in Box 251, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

the horses drove to Wilcox where such freight as a filing cabinet, lumber, and chairs were waiting for him. The lumber was intended for the construction of a floor in a tent that was to be his office. On the following Saturday, which was a work day, he set the joints and layed the floor in his new office, and on the following Monday he refitted a door to the office tent. Several days later he set up a seven by nine-foot tent. He also used a battery-operated telephone in his office. As part of his duties he put shoes on a saddle horse, which implied that Neil had blacksmith tools.<sup>64</sup> Such tools were essential around ranches where the horse was a common animal.

Neil used the tent as an office until December 1911, at which time he moved his office into the house. As late as 1915 he referred to his office as being in the house.<sup>65</sup>

#### E. Second Major Renovation (The Adobe Structure)

The date of the second major phase of renovation on the Main House is somewhat elusive. The Erickson-Riggs Collection reveals little on this point. There are a few documents, however, that provide some clues and together with an abundance of old photographs one can arrive at a date with some degree of accuracy.

The first of these documents was a map drawn by Neil in 1911 in which as an employee of the Forest Service he processed an application submitted by his daughter Lillian for permission to build a drift fence extending southward into Forest Service preserve. Lillian had requested a special use permit. The map depicts the Main House as an inverted ell-shaped structure with the base of the ell parallel to the mountains that ran along the north side of the canyon. The flagpole is located to the south of the house and a second structure is depicted just to the southwest. Of some significance was the location of the famed Garfield

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64. Neil Erickson's Diary, September December 1910, Box 251, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

65. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1911; Small maroon book, February 1915, Box 102, both in Erickson-Riggs Collection.

Monument to the southwest of the house, facing the road that ran past the house. The map also depicts the position of the Stafford cabin as another ell-shaped building the base of which was also parallel to the mountains. Finally, the map reveals that Newton Creek ran in a northeasterly direction, passing to the west of the Main House and connecting with Bonita Creek to the north.<sup>66</sup>

Our interest in this map for the moment is in the Main House. Other points will be made later when discussing the Stafford cabin. Although not drawn to scale, the Main House is shown as an ell-shaped structure. This form matches the general design of the house as it looked after the board and batten, two-story addition (box house) was built to connect the old cabin to the stone house. Neil must have clearly had this design in mind when he drew this simple map and could therefore not have been mistaken. One must therefore conclude that by 1911, when this map was drawn, the Main House had not undergone any major alterations since the first renovation at the turn of the century.

The second bit of evidence appears in 1915 in a small diary kept by Neil, listing bills and amounts paid. At one point this list read

"In account with		
"Mr. W. R. Collin Carpenter.		
"Started work Sept. 6th		
"Finished Nov. 18th 1915		
"Worked 61 days at \$4.50		\$274.50
"By Check Oct. 28		<u>50.00</u>
	Balance	224.50
"By Board \$1.00		<u>61.00</u>
	Balance	163.50
"By Check Nov 18		<u>50.00</u>
	to Balance	\$113.50
"By Check Dec. 24		<u>70.00</u>
	Balance	43.50
"Paid by Note		
"Note redeemed to		
"Bank of Willcox <sup>67</sup>		
"Feb. 2nd 1916"		

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66. U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, Map Sheet "L.S. Erickson's Drift Fence, March 18th, 1911," Box 252, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

67. Neil Erickson's Diary, 1914-1915, Box 102, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



Two points should be made here. First, a carpenter was hired to do some work at the ranch. Second, judging by the length of time (61 days) the carpenter was hired, the job he performed had to be a sizeable one. This work could have been the second major remodeling of the Main House.

On October 6, 1915, Neil wrote in his diary, "The Carpenter work having been completed in my new office, I cleaned it out scrubbed up the floor and window and door frames and gave it one coat of oil." On October 27, he wrote, "Put a coat of oil on floor in my new office in the afternoon."<sup>68</sup>

The dates in these two entries coincide with the dates that the carpenter worked at the ranch. Neil's reference to "carpenter work" could mean he did the work himself, that the carpenter did it, or that perhaps both may have worked on the office.

On March 4, 1916, Neil wrote in one of his many diaries "carried back into the office furniture that was taken out for the finishing of the office in my absence to the Dragoon District. Endeavored to set paper, books and files in some order in the forenoon."<sup>69</sup> Why it took four more months to finish his office after the new office had supposedly been completed in October 1915 is not clear unless some new work was added.

One year later (April 4, 1917) Neil noted in his diary that he had "assisted Hildegard in papering kitchen." Three days earlier he wrote that he "labored under difficulty fixing top of mantle and freeze around chimney in front room (quite sick)."<sup>70</sup> On the back of a photograph of the Main House, having no date but believed to have been taken about

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68. Neil Erickson's Diary, October 1915, Box 85, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

69. Neil Erickson's Diary 1916, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

70. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1917, Box 252, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



1915 to 1920, Hildegard wrote "I, Hildegard, stained, painted and papered it [i.e., the house] all of the inside when it was built."<sup>71</sup>

It is evident that between 1915 and 1917 there was a considerable amount of construction going on at the Erickson ranch. In general, the written evidence seems to point to extensive work at the Main House. Unfortunately, the documents are not specific in outlining the work that was done and when it was done, but if the evidence we have is combined with photographs of the period, one can conclude that in all probability the second major phase of renovation of the Main House took place well after 1911. On the other hand, the assertion made in Janet Stewart's work on Arizona ranch houses that this construction at Faraway Ranch took place around 1924 cannot be supported.<sup>72</sup> It should also be pointed out in support of the date of construction that Neil's so-called "new office" was part of this remodeling, which meant that his "headquarters" was still at the ranch. Since Neil was not transferred to Flagstaff, Arizona, until 1917-1918, this construction had to have been accomplished before this time. The above evidence is further supported by Hildegard who wrote in later years:

The fall of 1914 Lillian got a school [i.e., teaching position] in Bowie and I stayed home. The next summer [1915] the cattle money of the entire family went to take mama and Lillian to Weltmers Inst. and Galesburg, and the following winter [1916] Lillian taught again in Bowie . . . Dad at the same time built the new house and I worked nights to finish two rooms besides the downstairs in time for Lillian's first house party. . . .<sup>73</sup>

In this manuscript Hildegard established the date of remodeling as somewhere between 1915 and 1916.

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71. Photograph of Main House, ca. 1915-1920, Box 294, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

72. Janet Ann Stewart, Arizona Ranch House Southern Territorial Styles, 1867-1900 (Tucson: Arizona Historical Society, 1974), pp. 56-63. This book has a number of misleading statements and inaccuracies, and the plan of the main house at Faraway Ranch shows the stairway in a wrong location.

73. Hildegard Hutchison, Ms., n.d., Erickson-Riggs Collection.

The many early photographs in the Erickson-Riggs Collection, albeit without dates and containing few captions, were obviously taken before 1920. In all cases they reveal the latest extensive work that was done in remodeling the house. Most important among these illustrations is a photograph of the southwest corner of the house. At the top of the stairs was Emma and a "Mrs. Collins." This could have been the carpenter's wife who worked at the ranch for 61 days. What is extremely significant in this illustration is the extensive rubble, mostly wood scraps, strewn about the grounds, an indication that construction was going on or just recently completed. The large window under the balcony has no curtains, another indication that work of some kind was underway. Still other evidence that remodeling was taking place were the several boxes, barrels, and sacks visible against the walls underneath the balcony. Finally, the long dresses, high about the neck and tight around the waist, worn by the two women were in style around 1915-1916 (Illustration No. 9).

Another photograph shows Ben in front of the remodeled house. Ben is in a World War One uniform, an indication that this illustration was made around 1917 or 1918 at the latest. Thus, the conclusion is that the house had been remodeled by the time this photograph was taken (Illustration No. 10).

A third photograph taken of Lillian and Hildegard in front of the remodeled structure has this caption on the back, "Lillian and Hildegard Erickson in front of House about 1918." Judging from the attire these women were wearing, there can be no mistake in the date of the caption (Illustration No. 11).

Finally, another photograph taken of several guests in front of the remodeled house contains the following caption: "Guests at Hildegard's announcement party 1920." This caption refers to Hildegard's wedding announcement. Since her wedding was in 1920, the house had to have been remodeled before that time (Illustration No. 12).

The photographic and documentary evidence is abundant and indisputable in establishing the date of the second major phase of remodeling as between the years 1915 and 1917. This period is well supported by other evidence deduced from events that affected the personal lives of the Erickson family. The period before 1917 were years when Neil was working out of his home for the Forest Service although he would soon be transferred.<sup>74</sup>

Emma was busy with household chores, and Lillian was teaching, first at the Old School House in El Dorado and then at Bowie. Hildegard, upon returning from school in Illinois, remained at home to help her mother. Ben did odd jobs on his father's ranch and on neighboring ranches and then entered the Army in World War I, attaining the rank of sergeant.

It was before 1917 that the idea of a guest ranch developed, and according to some reports, Hildegard must take much of the credit for nurturing it. Her youthful exuberance led her at first to invite many young people, mostly friends, to the ranch on weekends. It then occurred to her that perhaps the ranch could be opened to paying guests. She experimented with people in surrounding communities who would come to Bonita Canyon for the day or a weekend. As she gained more confidence, she lengthened the visitors' stay. In the meantime, Lillian, who was interested in cattle and horses, decided to quit teaching, and at Hildegard's persuasion, together they developed a guest ranch.<sup>75</sup> Hildegard once said,

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74. In March 1917, Neil was still in Bonita Canyon because on one weekend he and Emma were guests of Senator and Mrs. C.M. Roberts. Arizona Range News, Willcox, Arizona, March 2, 1917.

75. Lillian was still teaching in Bowie in April 1917. See Arizona Range News, Willcox, Arizona, April 6, 1917. On March 19, 1915, the same paper noted that a company had been formed to exploit the possibilities of establishing resorts in the Chiricahua Mountains. Faraway Ranch was apparently caught up in this movement.

After that there were crowds nearly every weekend so in Dad's defence and much against Lillian's wishes I started the boarder business. When our business was a proven success in the fall of 1917 Lillian gave up teaching and came home to assume management<sup>76</sup> and we together went in to buy the Stafford place.

Lillian has corroborated much of what her sister said, although they disagreed in later years about the success of the guest ranch business and who should take the credit. Nevertheless, Lillian took over the management of the new business in 1918.<sup>77</sup> The cattle ranch, meanwhile, continued to receive her attention.

The impending transfer of their parents to Flagstaff may have prompted the two young ladies to try their hands at this new venture. It was around this time that the name Faraway Ranch came into use.<sup>78</sup>

The records at the Assessor's Office of Cochise County described the Main House as a single dwelling, two-story house consisting of solid masonry. The foundation consisted of concrete, the exterior walls were of brick adobe, and the roof was of asphalt shingles. The floors were made of wood joists and softwood flooring. The interior walls were plastered. Heating was largely produced by space heating and a fireplace in the new living room. The records gave the date of original construction as 1891, probably a reference to the construction of the stone house.<sup>79</sup>

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76. Hildegard Hutchison, Ms., n.d., Erickson-Riggs Collection.

77. "Solutions and Notes Thereto," ca. 1930, Erickson-Riggs Collection. In the Erickson-Riggs Collection there are a number of photographs in a box marked "Hildegard and Lillian start guest ranch at Faraway--Pictures mostly 1918-1919--Some later rock pictures."<sup>75</sup> See Box 97, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

78. According to Murray Riggs, Ed Riggs's son by a first marriage, the name Faraway Ranch was Lillian's idea. Interview with Murray and Ann Riggs by Bill Hoy, November 1979, Park Historical Files.

79. Rural Property Record, Louis Benton Erickson and Lillian E. Riggs, appraisal made in December 1966, Assessor's Office, Cochise County, Bisbee, Arizona.

In the second major phase of remodeling the old picket log cabin was razed, and the west wall of the house was extended to approximately where the west wall of the old cabin once stood. The south wall of the house was also brought forward so that it reached the south wall of the cellar (stone house). In the process the gabled roof of the cellar was removed and a second story added above it. Thus, the major transformation accomplished in this construction witnessed the conversion of a rambling ell-shaped structure into an enlarged, almost square, two-story building.

In some of the early photographs in which the front of the house appears the new adobe brick section of the front wall is clearly distinguishable from the stone in the front wall of the stone house. At the base of this latter wall one or two rows of stone are visible while the upper part seems to have been covered with a coating of mortar. The new walls are made of adobe brick.<sup>80</sup> Adobe was still a popular construction material in this area of southeast Arizona.

Other major features of the new construction were the open porches. Most significant was the two-story porch in the southwest corner. The two stories were connected by an open staircase. The lower deck had a doorway leading to the newly constructed bedroom at the rear, said to have been Emma's and Neil's. The upper deck led to a room, above the bedroom, which was said to have been used by Neil as his office before he was reassigned to Flagstaff.

A second porch, of which there are a number of early illustrations, is one that extended the full east side of the house. In earlier years this porch was open except for a pitched single-story roof. In later years the porch was screened.<sup>81</sup> It had a doorway leading to the kitchen, the same doorway that existed on the box house.

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80. See, for example, a photograph of Lillian and Hildegard in front of the house, ca. 1918 (Illustration No. 11), and a photograph, no caption or date, but ca. 1920, with a group of people also sitting in front of the house, both in Erickson-Riggs Collection (Illustration No. 13).

81. See photograph with caption "Hildegard and Frank Daugherty feeding her french fries. About 1918," Erickson-Riggs Collection.



A third open porch existed at the rear, or north side, of the house. This feature was present when the box house was built and continued there after the addition of the adobe section. Unfortunately, there are no early views of the rear of the house which show the open porch. An entry of May 10 in Hildegard's diary, probably written in 1916, stated that "We sat on back porch and talked a long time."<sup>82</sup> This is the only written evidence of this porch which this writer was able to find. By closely examining the fabric of the house it is evident that a porch was once there. Moreover, a floor plan of the house, drawn to scale, described this area as the "Closed in Porch." As we shall see, the porch was enclosed several years later, possibly in the 1930s.

Other features of this phase of construction was the addition of three dormers--one each on the west, south, and east sides. The dormer on the south side differed from the other two in that it consisted of twin windows whereas the others were single windows.

A floor plan of the house reveals the number of rooms it contained and what they were used for. The plan was drawn in later years; hence, it included changes made over these years. When the third phase of remodeling was accomplished, the first floor had the following rooms: the old family dining room, kitchen, and cellar (already in the former structure), a new living room on the south side adjacent to the cellar, a bedroom to the west of the family dining room (said to have been Emma's and Neil's), and the three open porches.

The second story contained the following rooms: "Neil's First Office" (just above his bedroom, with a private entrance from the upper deck of the southwest porch), a second bedroom above the living room, a third room above the cellar, the old hall containing the spiral staircase above the family dining room, and finally what might have been either a fourth bedroom or bathroom over the kitchen.<sup>83</sup>

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82. Hildegard Erickson's Diary, ca. 1916, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

83. Two sheets of floor plans drawn to scale entitled "Main House/Faraway Ranch," n.d., Erickson-Riggs Collection.



#### F. Third Phase of Renovation

After the second remodeling, several events occurred in the Erickson household to change their lives. Neil and Emma left for Flagstaff in 1917 where they were to remain ten years. Hildegard was married in 1920, first to live in Bowie and later relocating to California. Finally, in 1923 Lillian married her childhood sweetheart, Edward Riggs. She and her husband remained to assume responsibility of Faraway Ranch with Ben's help from time to time when his interests did not lie elsewhere. The guest business began to assume greater importance in the ranch. Even before they were married, Ed encouraged Lillian to expand the business. A significant move in this direction was the purchase of the Stafford homestead, including its cabin and other facilities, in 1918. Said Lillian in later years, "The beginning of this particular trial was in the war days when Ben had to go [to war] and I thought I was needed to help carry on here. It was then that Hildegard and I decided to buy the Stafford place."<sup>84</sup> After Hildegard was married and living in California, the burden of operating the ranch fell entirely upon Lillian's shoulders which left a considerable strain upon her. In a letter to her father several years later she recalled the frustration of those earlier days:

Then with you and Mama in Flagstaff, Hildegard married, and myself tied up with notes and the determination to pay out the Stafford place, there seemed nothing else to do but to stick or die. It didn't even occur to me to go away and desert the home. But carrying on was an almost [sic] impossibility.<sup>85</sup>

This brought on a third phase of development in the metamorphosis of the Main House. Upon Lillian's and Ed's return from their honeymoon, one newspaper wrote that they were returning to the ranch "where they will in the near future begin extensive building improvements."<sup>86</sup>

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84. Lillian to Neil, November 23, 1930; Agreement between Wilber B. Wheeler and wife and Lillian Erickson, April 22, 1918, both in Erickson-Riggs Collection.

85. Ibid.

86. "Back From Honeymoon," news article, ca. 1923, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

Although dates for this work are elusive, this writer has concluded that this phase took place over an extended period of time and in a series of actions occurring between 1924 and the early 1930s. It was during this period that the Riggses were anxiously seeking to expand their guest ranch by trying to interest eastern investors. The Riggses wished to incorporate in their business what later became known as the Silver Spur Ranch, a separate property outside the historic district.<sup>87</sup> It was this thinking that led Lillian and Ed to make extensive improvements not only to the Main House but to other facilities of the ranch as well. They added an electric lighting system, modern plumbing, and rebuilt old facilities and added new ones so that Faraway Ranch eventually became a fairly well known dude ranch in Arizona frequented by vacationers from many parts of the country and some even from abroad.

Of all the remodeling that went on at the Main House during the ensuing years, two aspects of this work must receive attention. First of these is to learn when and how the rear, or north porch, was enclosed and the small rooms added above it. The second is to learn when the stucco was placed on the house. Since both features altered the size, shape, and appearance of the house, they are obviously important.

Although specific evidence is lacking, there is proof of a general nature that construction did go on at the ranch beginning in the mid-1920s. In an expense account kept by Ed Riggs in 1924, one entry included the purchase of lumber, windows, hardware, paint, cement, and beaver board, all items, so the account stated, intended for the "Dining Porch."<sup>88</sup> There is no doubt that the area referred to was originally the open porch at the rear of the house, which when finally enclosed became the guest dining room.

An estimate prepared by a prospective contractor of what it would cost for certain construction intended for the Main House in the 1920s

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87. McNabb to Riggs, January 11, 1932, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

88. General Fund Expenditures, 1924, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

included building materials for the "Dining porch."<sup>89</sup> Murray Riggs, Ed's son by a first marriage, who lived at Faraway as a child, said that his father and a carpenter by the name of David Ingle built the guest dining room by enclosing the screened-in porch.<sup>90</sup>

The construction of this one long room involved the emplacement of the stones that formed part of the so-called Garfield Monument into a new fireplace. A magazine article written in 1924 noted that the monument was still in place at the Faraway Ranch, albeit in a ruinous condition. Although the specific date of this article is unknown, the article is about Dr. J.J. Armstrong's visit to the Indian Caves in 1924 accompanied by Ed Riggs, a visit that was instrumental in the establishment of Chiricahua National Monument. Thus the porch had yet to be enclosed at the time this was written. Why this article called attention to this monument at this time is questionable, but it may have been because the owners were thinking of incorporating the monument into their construction plans. On the other hand, it may have been the article itself that provided the Riggs with the idea of employing the stones of the monument as part of the new room. In any event, the evidence seems to establish the date of enclosing the rear porch as sometime between 1924 and 1925. Since Neil was still in Flagstaff at the time, he had nothing to do with its construction unless Ed and Lillian had sought his advice by letter.

Photographs of the Main House taken in the early 1920s show no metal smokestack above the roof line, an appendage that was placed at the top of the chimney at the time the latter was constructed. On the other hand, photographs taken later on depict the smokestack, an indication that the chimney had been built by then.

The construction of the second story to the enclosed porch was done at a later date. This work and the placement of stucco on the house are

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89. Ibid.

90. Interviews with Murray and Ann Riggs by Bill Hoy, November 26, 1979 and September 8, 1980, Park Historical Files.

difficult to fix, and they can only be established after a careful review of the evidence and after allowing for some speculation.

After retirement, Neil and Emma were back at the ranch around 1927. One day in June 1930, Neil "drove to Willcox . . . for eve-troughs, for north side of House." Several days later he "Put up eve-troughs over dining room with assistance of Ed and Tommy Conroy." Later that year Neil wrote in his diary "Helped Ed put siding and windows on one room on back portch [sic]." The following day he "fitted windows and casing on back portch [sic]"<sup>91</sup> Neil misspelled the word "eaves," and what he called a "trough" was probably a gutter. Although he referred to putting siding and windows on the back porch, he probably was thinking of the area above the porch, because he said that the work was "on one room." It was only the upper deck that had more than one room. If he had been talking about the guest dining room, there would have been no need for a reference to "one room" since it consisted of only one room.

The foregoing analysis of the records provides ample evidence that extensive work was going on at the rear of the house, and that in all probability the upper story over the guest dining was completed in 1930 to form two or three rooms and a bathroom. A rare photograph in the Erickson-Riggs Collection of the north side of the house, taken in the 1930s before Neil's death in 1937, shows the latter in front of the enclosed rear (Illustration No. 14). In conclusion, therefore, insofar as the rear extension was concerned, the lower part, or porch, was converted to the guest dining room around 1925 and the upper deck was built about 1930.

Several photographs taken in the early and late 1920s depict the Main House as bearing the same general appearance as it had when the adobe section was added. One photograph in particular, taken of

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91. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1930, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

Emma and Neil in front of the house, has this caption on the back: "Mother and Dad Home from Flagstaff" (Illustration No. 15). Although this photograph bears no date, its reference to Neil and Emma being home from Flagstaff can only mean that the picture was taken shortly after Neil had retired in 1927. Since the house shows no stucco, we can only conclude that before 1928, stucco had not been added. Other photographs taken in the 1930s and before Neil's death in 1937 reveal the complete house covered with stucco. Thus, we can safely say that the stucco was added between 1928 and 1936. Murray Riggs has said that the house was plastered during the early 1930s, and he may have been correct.<sup>92</sup>

A photograph taken before 1930 when the house had no stucco revealed that the owners were in the process of enclosing the space underneath the staircase on the southwest porch. They were doing this with brick, and at the time this photograph was taken the wall had almost reached the halfway mark. Photographs taken in the 1930s, after the stucco was put on, depict an enclosed area under the stairway, the wall covered with stucco to match the rest of the house. A small, almost square window was built into the wall overlooking the west. In all probability there was a door on the east side of the stairway for access to what may have been a storage space.

Other substantial alterations were made to the Main House not only for the convenience of the guest but also for the Riggs family that lived there. Several of the changes had a decided affect on the improvement of the heating and lighting systems as well as other important amenities. It was soon after Lillian and Ed were married that two bathrooms and modern plumbing in the kitchen were installed. One bathroom was on the first floor, the other on the second. Before the bathrooms were installed there had been two outhouses, one on the east, the other on the west

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92. Interview with Murray and Ann Riggs by Bill Hoy, November 26, 1979, Park Historical Files.



side of the Main House. Up to that time the kitchen had no indoor plumbing.<sup>93</sup>

The earliest heating system consisted of fireplaces and wood stoves. Oil heating was introduced later and this eventually gave way to the use of carbide gas stoves.<sup>94</sup>

Oil lamps were the earliest means of lighting at Faraway Ranch. Lillian noted this in her unpublished novel. Later, probably in the early 1920s, a carbide plant was installed outside the house. It consisted of a hopper with a float. From this plant acetylene was piped into the house through jets attached to the walls. The acetylene was ignited with a match struck near the jet.<sup>95</sup>

The next lighting system employed at Faraway Ranch and the Main House was butane fuel, which was delivered from Willcox and stored in a tank. Butane gas also powered the refrigerator. Before this, an ice-box, containing one hundred pounds of ice blocks delivered from Douglas and wrapped in canvas, was used to prevent food from spoiling. The change to a fuel-run refrigerator probably took place in the 1920s. In the Erickson-Riggs Collection is an invoice addressed to Lillian, dated April 5, 1922, listing the purchase of such items as a 50-pound Colt generator, Colt burners, rod iron, lighting fixtures, gas stoves, and pipe fittings. The cost of all these items was \$406.15.<sup>96</sup>

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93. Interview with Murray and Ann Riggs by Bill Hoy, November 26, 1979, Park Historical Files. Typewritten Ms. by Lillian E. Riggs, July 26, 1972, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

94. Ibid.

95. Ibid.

96. Invoice of J.B. Colt Company, April 5, 1922, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



By the early part of the 1930s the ranch produced its own electricity through the installation of a gasoline-powered generator plant.<sup>97</sup> The generator house may have been built at this time to house the generator.

The 1930s witnessed a considerable amount of work designed to further improve facilities. The records indicate that the Riggses had grandiose ideas for the guest ranch, but the Great Depression prevented their realization. In 1931 a Tucson contractor wrote to the Riggses, "I am busy on your plans and hope to have them complete with wiring, heating, etc. by the end of this week; then I will make a definite figure on the job and also give you a list of logs and adobes that will be required. This will make it possible for you to have the logs and adobes ready and on the job in case we go ahead." In speaking of their reunion at Faraway, the contractor noted that "we were able to accomplish a lot in regards to making a definite layout for the house." The Riggses were thinking of applying for a mortgage for the work that was being considered.<sup>98</sup>

One year later the subject was again raised, but little had been done to either finance or otherwise accomplish the contemplated work. This situation went on for still another year, and it was apparent that economic conditions were taking their toll on Faraway Ranch so that any major work would have to be postponed. In March 1933 the contractor wrote to the Riggses:

How has your guest season been this year and do you think that you will soon be able to do some work on the proposed Ranch House? I sure hope that you can and that I will be able to do the work for you. If you can see your way clear to pay me a little on the work that I have already done it sure would be appreciated.<sup>99</sup>

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97. Ibid.

98. Sundt to Riggs, March 7, 1931, Box 103, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

99. Sundt to Riggs, March 21, 1932; Sundt to Riggs, March 21, 1933, both in Box 103, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

What all this meant is difficult to say. The Riggses did entertain some ideas of establishing a new modern ranch-house, and this may be the plan the contractor was referring to. In any case, the plan never materialized, perhaps because it was too elaborate and beyond the Riggses means.

Work to modernize and remodel facilities continued during the following decades, but this work did not alter the dimensions of the Main House nor did it change the floor plan materially. There was evidence that a carpenter had been hired in 1935, but it is difficult to determine whether he was hired to work on the Main House or some other building; work was going on at the bunkhouse at this time.<sup>100</sup>

In these years Neil was frequently ill with asthma, and he did less and less of the carpentry. Whenever there was extensive work to be done, a carpenter was hired. A bill dated September 1936 revealed a sizeable order of building materials from a lumber yard in Willcox, but for which structure the items were intended is not clear.<sup>101</sup>

In 1938 extensive work was done on the Main House. Victor C. Shaver, a carpenter - contractor, drew up specifications for work desired by Lillian. A portion of this work dealt with the roof; other work called for remodeling. The specifications provided some excellent detail concerning the house. Thus, Shaver was to "over" shingle the existing roof with "No. 2" cedar shingles. All portions, except the east dormer and the 6-foot 33-inch lean-to roof on the north side of the house over the guest dining room (the closed-in porch), were to be covered, presumably with cedar shingles. The roof of the top deck, that is, the area above the guest dining room, was to be covered with a ninety-pound roll of roofing securely nailed and cemented down. The portion of the roof over the guest dining room, which was then covered with a felt

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100. Neil Erickson's "Diary" for 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

101. Invoice, R.G. Lewis Lumber & Hardware, for Neil Erickson, September 1936, Box 89, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

roofing, was to be shingled. Sheet metal work was to be of a standard gauge galvanized metal. The new cedar roof over the guest dining room was to be painted with a red stain consisting of linseed oil mixed with two pounds of red mineral coloring per gallon.<sup>102</sup>

Other rooms of the house were also being worked on: living room, family dining room, "Mothers Room" on the west side of the first floor, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, Lillian's bedroom, Pink Room, and Green Room. Several changes were made to doors, stairs, and kitchen facilities. One interesting point to be made concerning this work was that the windows on the north side were to be "stipple frosted to make them opaque." Screens were to be on the inside. Most of the items in this contract were completed.<sup>103</sup>

After this work was finished, little more was done to the Main House in later years. In 1960 the house as well as the rest of the ranch was rewired. More than half the cost of this work was on the Main House. Other work of any significance was the installation of a new walk along the east side of the house.<sup>104</sup>

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102. Shaver to Riggs, March 26, 1938, with "General specifications for remodel job for Mrs. Riggs Faraway Ranch," Erickson-Riggs Collection.

103. Ibid.

104. Invoice of Bill Baldrige, April 1960; Statement, October 30, 1960, both in Box 136, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



## CHAPTER TWO: STAFFORD CABIN\*

J. Hughes Stafford, one of the earliest pioneers in Sulphur Spring Valley, settled in Bonita Canyon around 1880. He filed for his 160-acre homestead on October 17, 1880. The land was described as the "south half of the southwest quarter of Section 26 in T[ownship] 16 s[outh], R[ange] 29 e[ast] in Cochise County."<sup>1</sup>

Probably during the same year that he filed for his homestead Stafford built a one-room log cabin that was situated approximately one-quarter of a mile east of Neil Erickson's cabin. Stafford's cabin consisted of unpeeled logs squared and notched on the corners and chinked with a mixture of wooden wedges and gravelly mud. This unit formed the nucleus of what was later to become a much larger structure. It forms the southernmost section of the existing cabin.

As his family grew, Stafford added wings and shed-roofed extensions to the original unit. By the time he officially acquired his homestead on April 6, 1886, he made several improvements to his land one of which was the expansion of his cabin. In the homestead records these improvements were described as a double log house, chicken house, smoke house, corral, and a fouracre fenced-in garden.<sup>2</sup> The so-called double log house was a reference to a second unit that was added to the first between the years 1881 and 1885. Together these units formed the basic structure

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\*The schematic drawing of the Stafford Cabin should be consulted while reading this chapter to aid in understanding the additions and major changes made to the structure over the years.

1. Entry 471, Tract Book, Arizona, Volume 166, and individual land record jackets, Washington National Record Center, Suitland, Maryland. The author is indebted to Chief Historian Edwin C. Bearss and Historian Martin Conway of the Washington National Park Service Office for this information. Also see grant, United States of America "on the claim of Ja. Hu. Stafford," received June 21, 1888, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

2. Entry 471, Tract Book, Arizona, Volume 166, and individual land record jackets, Washington National Record Center.

that exists today. The second unit, which adjoins the first to the north of it, consisted of logs that were slightly larger in diameter. The large spaces between the logs were chinked with small whole logs.

Stafford may have built this second unit in expectation of his first-born child. Unfortunately, this infant, a girl, died at birth and was buried nearby in the family orchard where the grave is extant. In her unpublished fictional work Lillian noted that "a small, picket-bound square among the orchard trees marked the grave."<sup>3</sup>

After this sad incident, Stafford's family grew rapidly. On January 28, 1886, Pansy was born; on December 1, 1888, Anna Mae was born; and on September 30, 1889, Ruby was born. Thomas, the only male offspring, then followed on May 30, 1890, and Clara on June 10, 1892.<sup>4</sup> As the family expanded and there was a need for more space, Stafford added a frame board and batten shed that extended the full length of the west side of the double log cabin. He built this second addition between 1897 and 1899. There is an excellent early photograph in the Erickson-Riggs Collection depicting this section, albeit not the entire structure (Illustration No. 16). Besides showing Stafford in the process of shingling the roof, an indication that the lean-to had been completed recently, the photograph depicts four of his children. While noting that the photograph was taken about 1899-1900, Mrs. Helen Kenney, Stafford's granddaughter, of St. David, Arizona, has identified her relatives as Clara (about 7 years of age); Tom (around 9); Ruby, Mrs. Kenney's mother (about 11 years); and Anna Mae (13.)<sup>5</sup>

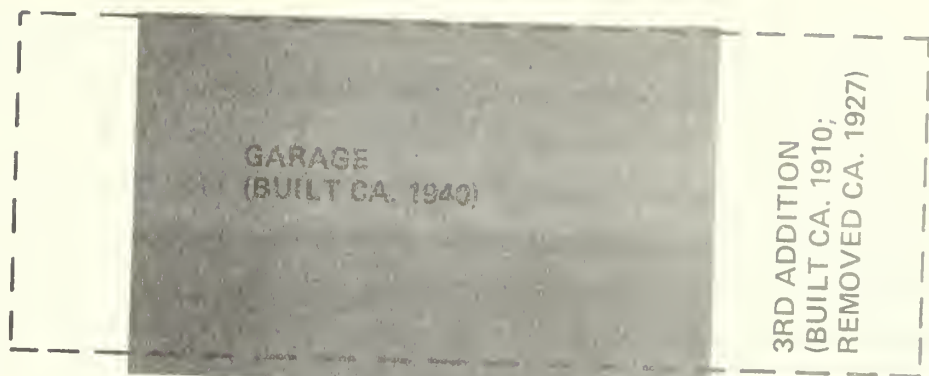
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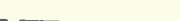
3. Lillian Erickson Riggs, "Westward Into the Sun." According to one resident of the area, the Staffords named this child Revelly because soldiers at what is now Faraway Ranch were playing reveille at the time of her birth. Interview with Ervin Bond, n.d., Erickson-Riggs Collection. Mrs. Helen Kenney, Stafford's granddaughter has confirmed this. Interview with Mrs. Kenney by Bill Hoy, August 2, 1980, Park Historical Files.

4. Biographical Information, Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, Tucson, Arizona, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

5. Memorandum of Bill Hoy, subject: Stafford Cabin, December 9, 1979, Park Historical Files.





- EXISTING STRUCTURE 
- ORIGINAL CABIN 
- 1ST ADDITION 
- 2ND ADDITION 
- 3RD ADDITION 



## SCHEMATIC DRAWING STAFFORD CABIN

SHOWING SEQUENCE OF ADDITIONS  
AND OTHER MAJOR CHANGES

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT / ARIZONA  
U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service

The latest additions to the cabin as viewed in this photograph reveal a window with six-over-six panes, facing south, and a doorway on the west side near the southwest corner. The roof line of this new addition did not extend from the eaves of the cabin's gabled roof but began at the apex of the roof and extended downward toward the west. Thus, the west wall of this new addition was higher than it normally would have been had the roof begun at the eaves of the main structure.

It is interesting to note that this photograph depicts a large quantity of wood, including milled boards, on the ground, a strong indication that Stafford was planning to do more construction. Whether this construction was to consist of further work on the cabin or on some other structure is not clear.

There is another view of the whole structure, after the second addition was built, which was probably taken around 1908. This is the same illustration that showed the eastern side of the Erickson house in the distance and Neil Erickson, himself, seated on a mountain top in the foreground overlooking the Stafford place. This interesting view depicts Stafford's cabin with a window on the south side and a doorway on the east side of the original structure. Unfortunately, the rest of the cabin is hidden by trees (Illustration No. 17).

A third addition, made largely of frame finished in board and batten, was built around 1910. This unit was connected to the first addition on the north side forming the base of an ell-shape, the apex of the gabled room running east and west. Although there are two photographs depicting this addition, little is known about its physical composition at the time. One of these illustrations, taken from the southwest, reveals a window with four-over-four panes facing the south. Incidentally, this same view shows the second addition with a window and door facing west (Illustration Nos. 18 and 19).

On November 14, 1913, Stafford died and was buried at the cemetery in the Riggs Settlement outside the canyon.<sup>6</sup> His son Tom and

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6. Arizona Range News, Willcox, Arizona, November 21, 1913.

daughter-in-law lived at the cabin for several years afterwards, although his daughter Clara inherited the property.<sup>7</sup>

With the development of a guest ranch at Faraway, both Lillian and Hildegard decided to purchase the Stafford homestead in April 1918, for \$5,000.<sup>8</sup> They rented the cabin on a monthly basis, and Tom Stafford continued to live there while working for the Ericksons. In the meantime, Lillian and Hildegard sold much of the produce raised at the Stafford orchard and garden.<sup>9</sup>

After Lillian married Ed Riggs in 1923, the latter assumed some of the responsibility for the development of Faraway Ranch as a dude ranch while also helping Lillian with her cattle. Both favored expansion. Murray Riggs said that his father was responsible for moving the third addition (that section which formed the base of the ell on the Stafford cabin) to what became the nucleus, or east section, of the existing bunkhouse. He accomplished this task by using log rollers. Mrs. Kenney has corroborated this point. The transfer of this structure to its new location was probably accomplished between 1925 and 1929. There is an early photograph of Faraway Ranch looking westward which shows the roof of the third addition of the Stafford cabin on its present site.<sup>10</sup>

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7. Interview with Mrs. Helen Kenney by Bill Hoy, November 28, 1979, Park Historical Files.

8. Agreement between Wilber B. Wheeler and Clara Stafford Wheeler and Lillian Erickson, April 22, 1918, Phoenix Title & Trust Co., Erickson-Riggs Collection. Deed recorded in Book 104, page 195, County Clerk's Office, Cochise County, Bisbee, Arizona. Final payment on this purchase was made in 1928 after a new agreement was signed in 1923. See Agreement between Wilbur B. and Clara Stafford Wheeler and Lillian Erickson Riggs, February 19, 1923, and Computations of Payments and Interests on Stafford Place, n.d., both in Erickson-Riggs Collection.

9. Account book kept by Lillian and Hildegard Erickson, ca. 1917-1920, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

10. Interview with Murray and Ann Riggs by Bill Hoy, November 26, 1979, Park Historical File; Interview with Mrs. Helen Kenney, St. David, Arizona, by Louis Torres and Jim Glass, July 13, 1983.

It was probably around this time that the Riggses also dismantled the second addition to the cabin, thereby leaving an open porch along the west side of the cabin except for a small section at the north end which was left enclosed. To make the cabin more attractive to guests, a fieldstone chimney and fireplace were also constructed at the south end of the cabin. The fireplace, which is in the original part of the cabin, was lined with brick. Underneath the new porch was a door that led to the original room. A small square window, facing the west, can be observed in a photograph of the enclosed area at the north end of the porch. It is clear from this description so far that the front of the house had always been on the west side. Finally, a window was removed from the south side of the cabin to make way for the new fireplace (Illustration No. 20).

After these changes were made, the cabin was generally referred to as the Stafford Long House, and it was used by guests frequently for extended periods. In the 1940s the cabin was rented on a monthly basis at the rate of \$100 a month. By the 1960s, however, a more flexible policy was instituted, changing monthly rates to daily and weekly rates.<sup>11</sup>

In later years, probably around 1940, the Riggses built a garage at the northwest corner of the cabin, approximately on the same site where the third addition had once stood. The garage, which exists today, is about twelve feet wide (running north and south) and eighteen feet long (running east and west). It consists of board and batten and has a gable roof. The front of the garage, which faces east, has a pair of doors each about four feet six inches wide. The northern-most door has an unfinished window cut through on a plank.<sup>12</sup>

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11. Record Book of Lillian E. Riggs, 1924-1933; Rates for Faraway Ranch Cottages, ca. 1940s, Box 245; Rates for Faraway Ranch Cottages for 1965, Box 141, all in Erickson-Riggs Collection.

12. The dimensions and descriptive material appearing in this chapter and in later sections are taken largely from the National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form prepared by Mr. Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian, Western Regional Office, National Park Service, July 1979. Since the description of existing structures in this document is so complete, this writer has freely used its valuable contents. For a more detailed account of the existing fabric, the reader is referred to that form.



Mrs. Ethel Erickson, who married Ben Erickson in 1959, and who was familiar with Faraway Ranch as early as 1957, recalled that the garage had been there when she first set foot on the ranch.<sup>13</sup>

Probably the enclosed wing on the west side and the open porch on the east side of the cabin were constructed about the same time the garage was installed. Mrs. Helen Kenney, who knew her grandfather's place very well and who worked for the Riggses as a teenager in the late 1920s, remembers the old porch on the west side of the cabin, the east porch being a much later addition.<sup>14</sup>

The new porch was built of concrete, about six feet wide, and ran the entire length (twenty-nine feet) of the house. It was covered by a shed roof made of shingles and supported on five equally spaced two- by six-inch supports at the outer edge and with fifteen two-by-six-rafters.

A 1947 typewritten manuscript lists furnishings in all the rooms of the cabin including the kitchen-dinette, as the new lean-to on the west side was called. This is additional evidence that the new lean-to was built before 1947.<sup>15</sup> Adding the frame lean-to at the same time the garage and east porch were built was probably the result of a need for more modern facilities to attract and accommodate the long-term guest. The new lean-to served as the kitchen. The remaining two rooms served as a living room (original log cabin) and bedroom (added log cabin). An examination of the north end of the latest lean-to on the west side reveals that it may have been a partial readaptation of the section that was kept after the second addition was removed by the Riggses in the 1920s (Illustration Nos. 21, 22, and 23).

The following description of the existing interior of the Stafford cabin is taken from the National Register Nomination Form:

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13. Interview with Mrs. Ethel Erickson by Louis Torres, April 29, 1983.

14. Interview with Mrs. Helen Kenney by Louis Torres and Jim Glass, St. Davids, Arizona, July 13, 1983.

15. Log Cabin Furnishings, June 23, 1947, Box 136, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

The interior of the Stafford Cabin's original room has the stone fireplace with a stone hearth on its south wall, the fireplace lined with brick. The interior walls are finished with wallboard and battens. Peeled log beams run the length of the room supporting the roof, with three on each side of the ridgepole, which is also a peeled log. One-foot wide planks run from the ridge to the eaves on top of the beams. The floor consists of three-inch planks, painted gray, and is recessed several inches below the surface of the concrete front porch and the level of the ground to the south. The second section is finished in the same manner. The rear addition has a concrete floor, and at the north end is partitioned off into a bathroom with hot water tank, stall shower, and the site where a toilet once was installed. The next room to the south has shelves on its north and west walls.



## CHAPTER THREE: ALL OTHER STRUCTURES

### A. Cowboy House

Little is known about the origins and development of the cowboy house. Because of its name, it is reasonable to assume that part or all of it was once used by ranch hands. In later years it was used mostly as guest quarters.

The cowboy house is an ell-shaped structure, the base of the ell running east and west. The roof is a pitched gable roof over each section of the ell. There is a covered porch that runs on the inside of the ell. The long outside of the ell is fifty-five feet, and the short outside is twenty-eight feet six inches. The north end is twelve feet three inches. The long inside of the ell is forty feet five inches, and the short inside measures sixteen feet three inches. The porch is five feet wide.<sup>1</sup>

The records of the Assessor's Office of Cochise County, Arizona, described the structure in 1966 as a single frame dwelling, having a stone foundation, gable roof, roofing composed of prepared roll, floors containing wood joists, softwood flooring, and a wallboard interior finish.<sup>2</sup> In addition to the covered porch, the building consisted of a living room (with a stone fireplace), kitchen (with a pantry), two bedrooms, and one bath.<sup>3</sup>

Mrs. Ethel Erickson said that her husband Ben told her that at one time the cowboy house consisted of two sections fused together to form the structure that exists today. Ben had owned one of these sections on his ranch which he had homesteaded years ago. The other section was

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1. National Register Nomination Form; Records of the Assessor's Office, Cochise County, Bisbee, Arizona, 1966.

2. Ibid.

3. Drawing of floor plan of Cowboy House, n.d., Erickson-Riggs Collection.

part of the Erickson ranch. Ben's structure was brought to Faraway to join the other structure thus forming the ell.<sup>4</sup>

In Neil Erickson's diary of March 1930, he made several references to "Ben's cabin." There is no mistake that he was referring to a structure at Faraway. Thus, in one entry he said, "I & Ed worked on Ben's cabin lining the South room with Celotex." In another entry he reported, "I work home on the cabin [i.e., Ben's] South end." In still a third entry to his diary Neil wrote, "I finished Cilotexing cabin." Finally, he wrote "Ed & I worked on cabin in forenoon and part of afternoon."<sup>5</sup>

It is possible that this was the time when the two structures were joined. A photograph taken recently of Neil's office/garage from a point looking northwest reveals part of the north section of the cowboy house. A similar view of the office/garage taken just before 1930 from approximately the same angle showed no cowboy house in sight. This may mean that the two separate sections of the cowboy house had not yet been joined.<sup>6</sup>

Judging from the foundation's appearance, it would seem that the cowboy house consisted of two distinct and separate sections. The long side of the ell rests on a stone foundation held together with mortar. The section that forms the base of the ell rests on the ground or at best on a narrow strip of mortar. Moreover, it is also obvious that the existing entry hall was once an open area that is now enclosed. It is likely that the two structures were joined at this point.

The records of the Assessor's Office of Cochise County gave the date of construction of the cowboy house as 1921, and the source for this

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4. Interview with Mrs. Ethel Erickson by Louis Torres, April 29, 1983.

5. Neil Erickson's Diary, March 1930, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

6. Photograph of Office/Garage with Neil Erickson in view, ca. 1930, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

information was the owner, meaning Lillian.<sup>7</sup> It may be that this date was the age of that part of the structure which had already been at the Erickson ranch before it was joined to Ben's cabin.

In 1960, along with the rest of the ranch, the cowboy house was completely rewired. That same year a new concrete porch was built, the one that exists today<sup>8</sup> (Illustration No. 24).

#### B. Storage Shed

This structure is described in the National Register Nomination Form as a

small nearly square building, 9 feet by 9 feet six inches, faces 30 degrees north of magnetic east. Its gable roof, finished in galvanized corrugated metal, thus runs southwest to northeast. It has a small door in the front, and two six-lite casement windows on the northwest side. Three sides consist of wood frame with the upper two-thirds of the wall and the gable ends covered with horizontal 3-inch wide lap siding painted a cream verging on orange, with the lower third of the walls finished in galvanized metal emboss in imitation of a brick wall. However, the southeast side has galvanized corrugated metal in place of the embossed metal on the lower third of its walls. The building has a concrete floor. . . .

The structure appears to have been built in the 1930s or 1940s during the period when Faraway Ranch was enjoying expansion as a guest ranch. As in the case of many of the small structures at Faraway there is no specific evidence concerning the history of this shed. True, the Erickson-Riggs Collection provides numerous references to this or that shed, but the information is so vague as to make it almost impossible to associate it with buildings existing today. Moreover, over the years many of these structures were either torn down, replaced, rebuilt, or relocated, as was so often the practice, depending upon the needs of the

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7. Records of the Assessor's Office, Cochise County, Arizona.

8. Electrical Rewiring Estimate by Bill Baldrige, April 1960; Statement in account with Mrs. Lillian Riggs, October 30, 1960, by George Morse, both in Box 136, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

ranch. It is therefore difficult to rely on any specific written record for evidence regarding buildings of this nature.

Old photographs prove to be better evidence than the written record for this purpose, but they too have their shortcomings. Photographs reveal several small buildings, some of which may have been sheds, but they have long since disappeared, at least from their original locations. Other photographs contain a heavy cluster of trees in the area west of the Main House, so that if there is a structure that might be the shed in question, it is well-hidden.

### C. Barn and Tool Shed

It is very likely that Neil had some sort of barn to shelter his horses from the very early days of his ranch. In her work, "Westward Into the Sun," Lillian spoke of a "saddle room."<sup>9</sup> This reference had to be a structure set apart from the Main House. It is, however, very unlikely that the saddle room or any other structure representing a barn would be the same as the existing one. The barn that exists today is of much later vintage. Perhaps the best evidence to offer in support of this statement is a photograph of what is undoubtedly the existing building and the adjoining corral taken several years ago. It bears the following caption: "New Faraway Corrals and Shed around 1928" (Illustration No. 25). This period was during the time that Faraway Ranch was undergoing an extensive face-lifting.

An entry in Neil's diary for 1929 stated, "[I] cleaned up the grain and saddle room, put it in good shape."<sup>11</sup> References to a grain room meant the area where the feed was kept. This room and/or saddle room had to be a part of the barn. In October 1935 Neil "tore out the shelving in the grain room and put it in so it will stay put."<sup>12</sup> The

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9. Lillian E. Riggs, "Westward Into the Sun," p. 358.

11. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1929, page 35, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

12. Neil Erickson's Diary for October 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

grain room must have been the same room referred to in an old floor plan, drawn to scale, as the "Feed" room. In addition to the feed room, this plan revealed three other rooms: tack room, stalls, and shop.<sup>13</sup>

In describing the barn as it looks today, the National Register Nomination Form noted that the original barn had an additional room constructed which nearly doubled its size. If this is so, this writer has found no evidence of this in the Erickson-Riggs Collection or elsewhere.

In 1962 an inventory was taken of the tack room, and the following items were listed: 8 western saddles, 1 English saddle, 1 side saddle, 8 bridles, 6 saddle blankets, 2 horse blankets, 10 No. 0 horse shoes, 9 No. 1 horse shoes, 11 No. 2 horse shoes, 9 No. 3 horse shoes, 1 horse shoeing kit consisting of 11 items, shoe nails, 2 currycombs, and 3 brushes.<sup>14</sup>

The National Register Nomination Form has described the existing barn and tool shed as follows:

The barn at Faraway Ranch is a rectangular structure with a gable roof whose ridge runs generally east-west. It is actually oriented so that it faces 32° east of magnetic south. It consists basically of three rooms, two in front and one in the back. On the west end of the front is a rectangular room with a door on the south, and a six-lite casement window on both the west and north walls. This room is the "tack room" for storage of the horse gear, such as saddles, bridles, harness, and stirrups, currycombs, bits, etc. On its east wall are wooden racks for nine saddles each labeled with the name of a horse, north to south: "Red," "Nixie," "China," "Pebbles," "Doggie," "Tip," "Calico," "Andy's," and "Lil's." On the north wall, beneath and to each side of the window, are racks for three more saddles: on the west wall are racks for four more saddles. A wooden cabinet for stable tools fills the southwest corner of the building. At the time of this survey there were ten saddles, five bridles and bits, several piles of horse blankets, a nice

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13. Drawing, "Out Buildings: Faraway Ranch," n.d., Erickson-Riggs Collection.

14. Tack Room Inventory, October 1, 1962, Box 149, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



pair of chaps, and a full complement of tools in the Tack Room. Overhead, there is a flat storage area containing locally manufactured horse canteens. The room has a plank floor.

East of the Tack room is a rectangular stable with some more horse gear in it. To the rear is a third room running the full length of the building which is an addition, covered by a shed roof which begins immediately under the eaves of the gable roof over the original two rooms, and extends north nearly doubling the size of the structure. This connects with the older structure through a doorway, and the addition contains, east of this doorway, abutting the former outside north wall of the original structure, three horse stalls. The walls of the original building, and the roof, were all finished in galvanized corrugated metal, now badly rusting, and this addition is roofed and walled in the same material.

This room has doors closed with gates which open to the west and the north into fenced corrals. Both of these stable rooms have earth floors.

To the east end of the original gable-roofed building has been added a small shed-roofed addition entered by a door on its south end and with an open window running in its east wall. Built of frame walls and plank roof covered with rusting corrugated metal, this is a tool shed, featuring a workbench on the east and shelves on the left.

Outside, just east of this tool shed, at the time of inventory, was an outdoor workbench featuring a vise with 1906 and 1910 patent dates, once broken at one jaw and repaired by a weld.

#### D. Tool Shed

As with most other outbuildings at Faraway, little is known about this structure. No old photographs exist that might identify it. It is possible that this structure was built in the late 1920s or 1930s. In June 1935 Neil made two or three references to what could have been this structure, but the evidence is inconclusive. In one reference he said, "I fitted in the little window on the south end of tool room. [I] put on casings." Two days later, he wrote, "I cased in door to tool house," and three days later he added, "I fixed lock on door to the woodshed and tool room."<sup>15</sup>

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15. Neil Erickson's Diary, June-July 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



The date of these diary entries would seem to coincide with the date that this structure may have been built, but, on the other hand, other similar structures may also have been built about this time, and Neil may have used one of them for a tool house or tool room.

The National Register Nomination Form has described the existing Tool Shed as follows:

This is a shed-roofed building of rectangular floor plan, roughly 9 by 14 feet. It is built of silver-colored corrugated metal over a wooden frame, both walls and roof. It has double in-swinging doors in front, six-lite windows on the northwest end and northeast (back) walls, and a small screened vent on the southeast end. The building faces 2° north of true magnetic southwest. In the interior, the building has a tool bench along the northeast wall, and a red cabinet with shelves along the northwest wall. The shed roof slopes downward from southwest to northeast.

#### E. Generator House

Nothing was found among the records to provide a clue as to when this small structure was built (Illustration No. 26). In all probability it was built in the 1930s when electricity was introduced to the ranch to take the place of gas carbide. The manner of construction suggests that it was built around the same time that the stone addition to the bunkhouse was made, that is, the mid-1930s. The existing generator house has been described as:

A small square building with gable roof, aligned slightly northeast southwest by 6° from true magnetic north/south. Its door is on the south side, and it has a small casement window on the west. The ridge of the roof runs north-south, and 5/8 of the roof is finished in corrugated metal, the remainder with a green composition roofing. The walls and gable ends are of fieldstone set in a cement mortar. Inside, the building has a rectangular concrete block aligned east-west which served as a foundation for a gasoline powered generator, now missing. The building is in good condition.<sup>16</sup>

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16. National Register Nomination Forms.

## F. Garage/Storage

Historical records are frequently vague in speaking about the garages at Faraway. There were in later years at least three structures that housed automobiles at Faraway: one was attached to the Stafford cabin, built in the 1940s; a second garage that served to house a single car while also serving as Neil's office was built in the early 1930s; and a third very large garage that served to house several cars, part of which was built before 1920. This section deals with the last mentioned structure. This structure and Neil's personal garage are sometimes confused.

A close examination of the fabric of this large garage reveals that at one time it consisted of two separate structures. The larger one, containing three stalls, was probably built in the 1930's as were most of the outbuildings of the period. It was part of the development that the Riggses undertook to expand their guest ranch. Such a large garage served to house the guests' cars. When built it was located immediately to the northwest of the Main House but in front and parallel to the chicken house. There are several photographs of this structure, some showing it alone and others depicting it with other buildings around it, particularly the Main House (Illustration Nos. 27 and 28).

The structure's long axis stood east and west, the front facing south. A significant feature of the corrugated metal gable roof was its long overhang, which may have extended three or four feet. Today's roof has lost this feature, the overhang being considerably less. This is an indication that the structure underwent changes after it was built.

The small shed, which is now attached to the north side of the larger structure, may date from well before 1920 and was probably built during the first decade of the 1900s. There is an old photograph taken around 1908 that reveals the rooftop of a structure that was similar in size and shape to the existing shed (Illustration No. 4). There is also another photograph taken about 1920 that provides a better view of this structure (Illustration No. 29). The shed was on approximately the same site as the large garage that followed it, and its axis also stood east and

west. The shed was where the present generator house is and approximately where the large garage now stands.

In the late 1920s the Riggses probably moved the shed to another location in order to make way for a new large garage so that guests could have easy access to their automobiles.

An entry in Neil's diary for February 1930 stated that he "worked all day putting shelves in back end of garage."<sup>17</sup> He was probably speaking of the big garage. In 1936 Neil noted that he "put hangers on garage doors" and that he "had to go to Willcox for more." He finally "finished putting up hangers assisted by Mr. Spencer." The following day he "made two doors, and hung one on South end" also assisted by Mr. Spencer. Still the next day he "hung and completed the other door."<sup>18</sup> These references to more than one door can only mean that they were intended for the large garage since the small garage only had one door. This may mean that the large garage had been recently relocated to its present site and that it was now undergoing some remodeling, although it is also possible that it was relocated before this time. Unfortunately, the evidence is inconclusive.

In one entry to his September 1936 diary Neil wrote that "Dave & I drove to Willcox for material . . . to rebuild the old Shed, Garage so called. Rec'd. only a part. The iron from El Paso had not come." A second entry written the following day noted that "Mr. Spencer & I tore the iron off the old shed in forenoon, and started to remodel the frame. . . We continued the work, and kept no memorandum, but the work was carried forward, the walls and roof completed."<sup>19</sup>

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17. Neil Erickson's Diary for February 11, 1930, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

18. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1936, Box 102, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

19. Neil Erickson's Diary for September 1936, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

It is obvious from these statements that extensive work was being done to this structure, and one can safely conclude that first of all, the work was some kind of remodeling or repair and not the construction of an entirely new structure, and secondly, that the work was being performed on a fairly large structure. It is therefore fair to say that all this work in 1936 was probably on the large garage, or the so-called garage/storage building.

This structure has been described as it appears today as follows:

The five-stall garage, with storage room equivalent in size to about another stall, is a gable-roofed, wood-frame building aligned with its long axis basically north-south, varying about 17° from the magnetic, to run slightly northwest-southeast. Its roof is of galvanized corrugated metal, as are the back wall on the southernmost two stalls, the south end wall of the building, and the front wall of the storage room. The back walls of the remaining three garage stalls and the storage room, and the north and walls of the remaining three garage stalls and the storage room, and the north and south walls of the storage room, the latter separating it from the northernmost garage stalls, are of vertical wood planks, with flattened old tin cans nailed as sheathing over the cracks between planks of the north end. The sliding garage doors are of wood frame covered with sheet metal embossed to give the appearance of a brick wall. The lumber of the frame is milled. A separate wood bin or woodbox, with cover, stands along side the north end of the building. The galvanizing has failed on some parts of the corrugated metal which consequently has rusted in those places. The remainder is a grayish silver color.<sup>20</sup>

#### G. Office-Garage

Before Neil was reassigned to Flagstaff his office had been in the Main House. During his absence from the ranch this office was converted to other uses to accommodate the ever-growing guest ranch business. When he returned to Faraway after retirement, he again sought a place for his office, one that was conveniently located. The result was the construction of the so-called office-garage. Half of the building served as an office, the other half garaged his car.

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20. National Register Nomination Form.

The exact date of construction of this structure is unknown, but it was probably built around 1930. A lease entered into in January 1933, between Neil and his wife and Lillian and Ed Riggs, gave the latter couple the right to use the ranch freely with the exception of the "cabin and garage of the said Neil Erickson."<sup>21</sup> Neil reserved this facility for himself. Thus, the garage had been built before 1933 when this agreement was made. According to Murray Riggs, Neil built the garage.<sup>22</sup> Since the structure was to be used by Neil alone, it would seem logical for him to have given it his personal attention.

Although there are some references to work done on garages in the Erickson-Riggs Collection, one must not confuse Neil's garage with the others. There are three early photographs depicting the small garage. Two were taken at the same time. They show Neil at a workbench outside the east wall of his garage just beneath the window. In one picture the sliding garage door is open (Illustration No. 30). In the other, the door is shut. These photographs were probably taken in the early 1930s. The third photograph depicts the structure as being essentially the same as in the other pictures except that there is no workbench. This picture was also taken in the early 1930s. Incidentally, this illustration reveals part of the large garage in its old location, that is, to the northeast. Thus, at the time this picture was taken the large garage had yet to be relocated.

The National Register Nomination Form has described this structure as it looks today as follows:

The "office" is a building 15 by 24 feet with its longer axis running generally north-south. It is split in half with a 12-foot wide single stall garage in the north half, the door on the east side, and a 12-foot wide office in the southern half. It has a gable roof, whose ridge runs north-south. The roof is finished in corrugated metal painted green, and the northwest corner of the metal on the roof has been peeled back as if by a strong wind.

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21. Lease, Neil Erickson and wife to E.M. Riggs and wife, January 1, 1933, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

22. Interview with Murray and Ann Riggs by Bill Hoy, November 26, 1979, Park Historical Files.



The building's walls are of metal over a wooden frame. The metal on the walls is embossed to imitate a brick wall, but the siding was applied so that the embossed pattern intended to represent the mortared joints between bricks is raised rather than recessed. The walls are painted a cream color. The floor in the office is of planks. The office portion has a pair of double-hung windows on the west side, each six over six, and a single double-hung window on the east, with a door on the south near the southeast corner. The foundation of the structure is stone. The garage door rolls on an overhead track.

The interior of the office, both walls and ceiling, is finished with wallboard and battens, all painted light green, and storage shelves fill the north wall. The garage portion has no finish on the interior. The building has an attic, which is entered from double doors in the plank gable end on the north side.

#### H. Bunkhouse/Guest Quarters

As one of the more durable structures in the historic district, the bunkhouse, or guest quarters, developed with the needs of the ranch. It experienced extensive service as guest quarters and before that as a facility for ranch hands.

Records at the Assessor's Office of Cochise County provide two dates of construction for this structure one of which is crossed out. One date is 1910, the other, the one crossed out, is 1935. In spite of the apparent disagreement, there is some significance in both dates. The board and batten section of the bunkhouse originally was the third addition to the Stafford cabin, constructed by Hugh Stafford around 1910. Hence, the 1910 date in the Assessor's records is essentially correct. This frame structure was moved on log rollers to the present location sometime between 1925 and 1929, several years after Lillian purchased the Stafford property.<sup>23</sup> An aerial photograph of the Faraway

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23. See section on Stafford cabin for treatment of this structure. See also interview with Murray and Ann Riggs by Bill Hoy, November 26, 1979, Park Historical Files, and Rural Property Record Card of Lillian E. Riggs, Records of the Assessor's Office, Cochise County, Bisbee, Arizona.

Ranch taken around 1930 shows the roof of this rectangular structure on its existing site (Illustration No. 31).

Porches may have existed in the front and rear of this rectangular structure after it was moved. There were also two additions made to the house and possibly a third one. The first and possibly a second addition involved the enclosing of the rear, or south porch, an event that might have occurred in the late 1920s when the structure was used as a residence for a boys' private school.

After the students moved out, the building served as guest quarters. To meet the increased demands of Faraway Ranch a section, consisting largely of fieldstone, was added to the west side in 1935. During the month of May of that year there was considerable work on this structure. Neil, whose physical activities had slowed down because of his chronic asthma affliction, reported the daily progress of construction. On May 18 he said that the "boys [i.e., Mexican hired hands] and Mr. Williams hauled rocks all day for Rockhouse above the gates." There can be no mistake about his reference to "Rockhouse" nor to its location. He meant the addition to the bunkhouse. Several days later he recorded that the "carpenter Shaver and stone mason Moses and two Mexican boys worked all day." On May 30 he wrote "Rock men finished their work this afternoon and went home." Finally, he reported on the following day that "Mr. Shaver started to frame rafter after having set the plates today."<sup>24</sup> This last reference was perhaps to a new roof that replaced the old one on the whole structure.

Work on the stone addition as well as on the whole house did not end here. During June and July work went on in bathrooms, and in July the carpenter put in a "frame for the porch kitchen on Rock Cabin."<sup>25</sup>

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24. Neil Erickson's "Weekley Memo 1935," Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

25. Neil Erickson's Diary for July 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

A photograph taken in the late 1930s depicts the bunkhouse as it looked on the exterior after the stone addition was completed. It has not changed significantly since then (Illustration No. 32).

In 1965 the Assessor's records described the bunkhouse as a one-story, three-family dwelling, consisting of five rooms and made of frame and solid masonry. The foundation consisted of stone and the exterior walls were of frame wood, or composition siding, and rock. The gabled roof consisted of wood shingles and the floors were made of wood joists and softwood flooring. The interior walls consisted of wallboards and the bathroom walls of drywall. The structure had two baths, two shower stalls, two kitchen sinks, and one hot water heater. There was one open porch facing the north.<sup>26</sup>

#### I. Swimming Pool

The existing swimming pool that is located northeast of the Main House has been described as an "oval, home made structure . . . built of concrete and, except for the top foot or two, sunk into the ground, graduated in depth from the south end to the north. It is in a deteriorated and unusable condition."<sup>27</sup>

One must not confuse this swimming pool with the so-called swimming hole built near the dam just northwest of the Stafford cabin, a structure now almost gone and one that was built earlier than the pool. References in letters, diaries, and other records to such terms as "swimming pool," "swimming hole," "swimming tank," "dam swimming pool," etc., have led to confusion in identifying these structures.

As early as 1920 records revealed that some sort of swimming facility was available at Faraway Ranch. A letter to Hildegard and Lillian written that year by a friend anticipating a visit to the ranch that summer

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26. Records of the Assessor's Office, Cochise County.

27. National Register Nomination Form.

mentioned "It is getting hot and I think with pleasure of the swimming hole, hope it is in good condition when I come up, but if the old girl comes up again from Bisbee and puts her toe in it like she did before, I won't blame it from shriveling up right then."<sup>28</sup> In July 1922 Ed Riggs, who with Ben was taking care of Faraway Ranch, wrote to Lillian, then his fiance who was in California, "Yesterday we worked on the swimming hole taking those big rocks out and building up the wall on the south side where it was so low. Dug out all along and above the dam wall too so today I am going to haul the clay and tamp it in place."<sup>29</sup> In another letter written that same month to Lillian, Ed sadly reported, "Your dream about the dam swimming pool hasn't come true yet."<sup>30</sup>

A study of the above references to a swimming facility leads this writer to conclude that the facility referred to cannot be the swimming pool in question. References to the removal of "big rocks" and "building up the wall on the south side" in addition to the use of the word "dam" rule out this possibility. It may be that Lillian wanted improvements in the swimming hole at the dam and that Ed, at least at the time of his second letter, was unable to satisfy her wishes. Murray Riggs has stated that the swimming hole at the dam was built by his father, but this is not probable, because the 1920 letter to the Erickson sisters spoke of a swimming facility already in existence before that year. It is not likely that Ed was so romantically involved with Lillian and Faraway Ranch as early as this as to make him the builder of the swimming hole. However, as his letters of 1922 reveal, he may have had much to do with its improvement.<sup>31</sup>

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28. Pat to Hildegard and Lillian, May 29, 1920, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

29. Ed to Lillian, July 19, 1922, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

30. Ed to Lillian, July 31, 1922, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

31. Interview with Murray and Ann Riggs, by Bill Hoy, November 26, 1979, Park Historical Files.

After their marriage in 1923, improving facilities and making the ranch more attractive to the guests was uppermost in the minds of Lillian and Ed Riggs. A good swimming facility appeared to play a major role in attracting customers. Although in Flagstaff, working for the Forest Service, Neil wrote his daughter and son-in-law advising them that "The point you should look to is a good road into Bonita, from the nearest point in the road, from the valley, water in the house, good horses, and a swimming hole. The rest will come easy."<sup>32</sup>

One day in July 1929, Neil wrote in his diary, "about 3 o'clock all the young folks drove up to our ranch for a swim in the tank". On another day that same month he wrote, "Frank Stark came up for a swim and had a grand time in the tank for about an hour."<sup>33</sup> His reference to a "tank" in both cases might conceivably mean the open reservoir tank used for watering cattle, but this does not seem likely. In all probability, the swimming pool, the topic of this section, was installed sometime between 1925 and 1929 and by then had become quite popular with not only the guests but with the neighbors as well.

Murray Riggs said that his father built the swimming pool. He said that it was made of mixed concrete poured into rounded forms. The forms were only half the height of the pool, but they were doubled to form the desired height. The deepest part of the pool was six feet. The pool had a plug at the north end for cleaning--the water draining into the adjacent garden. It also had an overflow drain that permitted the excess water to drain in the garden. The pool was originally surrounded by a wooden deck three feet wide. In later years the wood deteriorated and the roots of surrounding trees and plants grew into the concrete. The pool also had springs at the north end that held a two-inch thick by twelve-inch wide diving board.<sup>34</sup>

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32. Neil to Ed and Lillian, March 18, 1925, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

33. Neil Erickson's Diary for July 1929, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

34. Interview with Murray and Ann Riggs.



There are several photographs of the pool, some as early as 1935. Neither a deck nor a diving board is discernable in these pictures (Illustration Nos. 33 and 34).

A brochure published by the Willcox Chamber of Commerce in 1938 noted that the swimming pool at Faraway Ranch was in operation for the guests. The regular brochure printed by the ranch in the 1930s and 1940s also noted that the pool was supplied with fresh water from the mountain carried down through pipes.<sup>35</sup>

#### J. Windmill

The existing windmill has been described as standing

to the southwest of the barn and at the northeast corner of the manmade pond or "tank" which served as a reservoir for the water. It consists of a standard pyramidal metal frame surmounted by a small platform and a metal bladed windmill. The frame is in fair condition, the rotor is in ruins, only a quarter of its framework and fragments<sup>36</sup> of four of its blades remaining in place. The vane is missing.

A windmill was an extremely important facility on a ranch in this area. Neil had to consider the construction of a windmill soon after he settled in Bonita Canyon. In 1896 he made several entries in his diary referring to his windmill. In one, he said he took "down windmill on Mrs. Rhoda Riggs place," and the following day, he wrote that he "hauled home tower." On the third day he took pains to draw a plan of the tower, and several days later he worked on the tower, finally completing it. He then had to get help from his neighbors, including Stafford, to raise the tower in place. This was not the end of his work apparently for he still had to put up "sails" and improve the pump's horsepower.<sup>37</sup>

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35. Notes on Faraway Ranch, Chiricahua National Monument, Park Historical Files; Brochure, "Faraway Ranch: The Last Frontier," Erickson-Riggs Collection.

36. National Register Nomination Form.

37. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

The windmill broke down frequently and Neil had to replace several parts.

In 1936 Ed purchased supplies which seemed to be intended for a windmill. The cost of these supplies (\$216) was fairly high. Three years later more than \$107 was spent on hardware to repair the windmill.<sup>38</sup>

It is difficult to say if more than one windmill existed in the area constituting the historical district or if indeed the references cited above were about the windmill in question. Two photographs in the Erickson-Riggs Collection, however, show aerial views of the ranch, taken as early as 1920, depicting a windmill on the existing site and on no other site in the general area! (Illustration Nos. 35 and 36).

In her brief memoir Hildegard wrote that when she was about five years old (which would have placed the time at around 1900) "because of the wind, the windmill had been working and working--going and going. Mother became worried about it and asked me to go down and turn it off. The windmill was about a quarter of mile below the house."<sup>39</sup> Her description of the distance of the windmill to the Main House appears to match the distance of the existing windmill to the house.

The Riggses continued to have trouble with the windmill in later years. One day in 1957, Lillian recorded that "one of those awful windy Arizona days. Damage so far as I know now . . . broke the windmill at the corral--in the same place it was broken before. . . ." <sup>40</sup> There can be no mistake in this reference that Lillian was speaking of the existing windmill, the corral being nearby.

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38. Invoice from Valley Hardware Co., Willcox, Arizona, December 4, 1936, Box 134; Statement of Ed M. Riggs, ca. 1939, Box 136, both in Erickson-Riggs Collection.

39. Hildegard Erickson Hutchison's Memoirs, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

40. Lillian E. Riggs's Diary for 1957-1961, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

#### K. Tank (Reservoir)

The existing tank has been described as a "rectangular open air pond, retained above the grade of the floor of the valley, to the north, by a man-made three-sided embankment faced on the outside (to the north, west, and east) with large fieldstones or small boulders from the creek bed. It is at present dry, and its interior and top surfaces are covered with native grasses."<sup>41</sup>

The Ericksons and later the Riggs had several earthen reservoirs throughout their cattle ranch. Only one of these, the one in question, stood within the historic district. Several records ranging from 1938 to 1940 deal with three similar reservoirs, but nothing is said about the one under study, which may be an indication that the latter was no longer active by 1938. This may have been true because by that time the guest ranch business was in full swing at Faraway and the reservoir was too close to the Main House and guest cabins. Cattle may have been turned away from it to water at other reservoirs.

The first that one hears of an earthen reservoir on Erickson's ranch was in 1913. On a U.S. Forest Service form, Neil, who was a ranger at the time, described a structure consisting of a watering dam on land in the Chiricahua National Forest. He classified it under "Watering Places" and described it as a "Dam earth and rock 6 feet high and 200 feet long. . . . The dam forms a water tank 150 feet in diameter and 4 feet deep in center."<sup>42</sup> It is difficult to say whether this was the reservoir in question, but it was apparently on the Erickson property and at that time the ranch was not so extensive as to include other reservoirs. In much later years (1938-1940) similar Forest Service forms were filled out by Ed Riggs describing the other three reservoirs on the Faraway Ranch.

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41. National Register Nomination Form.

42. U.S. Forest Service Form 765, October 14, 1913, Box FARA-81, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

There are several early photographs depicting the earthen reservoir in question. One that is said to have been taken in the 1920s shows cattle watering at the tank (Illustration No. 37). Two other illustrations of a later period, possibly in the 1930s depict the reservoir filled with water but without cattle nearby (Illustration Nos. 36 and 38). One might conclude from this that the reservoir under study may have been active before 1930 but abandoned as a watering hole for cattle in later years.

#### L. Stone Fence

There are two references in the written record, both very significant, that establish the date of construction of the stone fence. In one entry to his diary in February 1896, Neil said he "Built rock fence on the mountain." In another entry made a few days later he added, "at home repaired stone fence on the mountain."<sup>43</sup>

There is every reason to believe that the stone fence Neil was speaking about was the one in question. He probably built it to prevent his cattle and horses from entering Stafford's orchard since the fence extended directly up the ridge north of Bonita Creek. The stone wall marked the boundary between his property and Stafford's.

There are several early views of this barrier in photographs. One in particular clearly shows the fence as a line running north and south up the side of the mountain (Illustration Nos. 4 and 38).

What is left of the stone fence today is a deteriorated rubble wall topped by entangled barbed wire.

#### M. Corral, Fence, Chutes, and Gates

The ruins of barriers of all sorts, sizes, and shapes--made of boards, stone, wire, and barbed wire--with their gates, exist throughout the historic district of Faraway Ranch. The fences served to mark

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43. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1896-1899, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

boundaries, keep stock out of orchards, gardens, and lawns, and enhance the beauty of the ranch. The corrals and chutes served to confine horses and cattle, some times before shipment. These facilities existed from the beginning of Stafford's and Erickson's settlement in the canyon. Lillian spoke of at least two corrals on the ranch in her unpublished work.<sup>44</sup>

As early as 1891, Emma complained to Neil, who was then working in Bisbee, that she needed a new fence, but money was always scarce so that frequently the Ericksons had to put off building fences until money was available. Neil advised her that "if you have the posts set, you can send John [his brother] to Willcox as soon as you get this letter and I will have twenty dollars there with the Post Master where John can get it and I think that three bundles of wire besides what we have will be enough. . . ."<sup>45</sup>

Whenever he was home in the 1890s Neil found time to build or repair fences and gates. Thus, in 1896 he wrote at one point, "Fixed fence around the chicken yard," and again he wrote "Dug post holes and set posts."<sup>46</sup>

An early photograph taken sometime in the 1920s depicted a circular corral with a chute (Illustration No. 39). An aerial view of Faraway Ranch revealed the same corral in relation to other structures including the Main House (Illustration No. 38). The circular corral was about 200 yards southwest of the Main House across from the dirt road that ran into the canyon past the house. Since the Main House had the adobe addition in this photograph, we must conclude that this picture was taken after 1915 to 1917. The circular corral is no longer there, and it may have been removed sometime in the mid-1920s when the new barn and corral,

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44. Lillian E. Riggs, "Westward Into the Sun," pp. 332, 243.

45. Neil to Emma, October 2, 1891, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

46. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1896-1899, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



the existing structures, were built. The above-mentioned photograph as well as another one taken of the ranch about the same time do not show the existing corral, although the nearby windmill and open water tank are there. Again, we must conclude that at the time these pictures were taken, that is, between 1918 and the early 1920s, the existing corral as well as the barn were not in existence. These were both constructed between 1925 and 1929 (Illustration No. 26).

Fences and gates were on all parts of the ranch many of which still stand. These were frequently removed or relocated depending on the needs of the time. Although no longer in existence, there was one wide gate upon entering the area surrounding the Main House. Other gates were at the entrances to the garden in the rear of the house. About 1916, Hildegard wrote, "Met Alex at wire gate. He rode back up to open the other gate for me then came up."<sup>47</sup>

In 1930, Neil wrote, "Fixed the yard fence on east side." The following year he stated, "Pulled out all the posts on old fence line and bunched them by the road side. Hauled some up to the new fence below orchard." Again, he said in 1935, "Finished hanging the gate and nailed up the fence."<sup>48</sup>

In 1940 Lillian ordered an iron fence from the Stewart Iron Works Company of Cincinnati. The order was substantial, but nothing is known about its design or where it was located.<sup>49</sup>

There are several excellent views of the ranch depicting fences, gates, and stone walls in various locations. Many of these facilities are around the Main House. These illustrations also reveal how these

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47. Hildegard Erickson's Diary, ca. 1916, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

48. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1930, 1931, 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

49. Denham to Riggs, June 8, 1940, Box 136, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

barriers were relocated from time to time. As the ranch developed into a dude ranch these changes occurred more frequently (Illustration Nos. 4, 6, 30, and 40).

#### N. Water Trough

In the center of the corral is a small rectangular water trough made of concrete. It is in a deteriorated condition.

Lillian spoke of a water trough in her novel, so that such facilities were quite common on the ranch as early as the 1890s.<sup>50</sup> Early troughs were frequently made of wood, and as late as 1935, Neil purchased lumber at the sawmill to construct troughs for his pigs.<sup>51</sup> In 1922, however, Ed built a concrete trough while Lillian was in California, but in 1957 Lillian had another concrete trough made.<sup>52</sup> It is difficult to say which of these water troughs is the existing one or if in fact neither is.

#### O. Pig Pen

There exists at Faraway Ranch the ruins of a pig pen consisting of a rubble stone wall enclosure. It is northwest of the Main House.

This writer is aware of only one reference to a pig pen in the early records. In 1935 Neil wrote, "Helped Dave with a gate to Hog Pen."<sup>53</sup> On the other hand, there are several excellent illustrations, some as early as 1908, showing what was undoubtedly a pig pen just to the northwest of the Main House and directly behind the chicken house (Illustration No. 4). It stood on the same site as the existing ruin. According to these pictures the pen was fairly large and in the shape of a rectangle, the long sides standing east and west. The original stone walls were probably five feet high.

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50. Riggs, "Westward Into the Sun", page 68.

51. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

52. Ed to Lillian, July 14, 1922, Lillian E. Riggs' Diary for 1957-1961, both in Erickson-Riggs Collection.

53. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

P. Cobblestone-edged Paths

There are a number of paths around the ranch delineated by the use of cobblestones on each side. Many of these paths are found about the immediate vicinity of the Main House and nearby structures.

There is no mention in the records about the construction of such paths, nor are these paths discernable in the early photographs of the area. The cobblestone-edged paths were probably a later addition at Faraway Ranch, possibly during the 1940s, when there was a need to improve the appearance of the ranch to attract more guests (Illustration No. 25).

Q. Bridge Over Newton's Wash

The bridge that crosses Newton's Wash is to the west of the Main House and east of the cowboy house. Neil's office-garage is to the northeast of it. The bridge is a narrow footbridge made of wood and is presently in very poor condition. The park has posted a danger sign on the bridge cautioning the visitor not to cross it (Illustration No. 41).

Newton's Wash or Creek was mentioned from time to time in the written records as early as 1911. At times this creek held considerable water especially after a heavy rainfall. As late as August 1935, Neil entered in his diary that it "started raining . . . Newton Cr. run [sic] a good stream. I went out and banked the water from the yard. Then [it] rained again. . . ."54

The creek ran north and south about 100 feet west of the Main House. In order to get to and from such facilities as the cowboy house and sheds a bridge was essential, especially during periods of heavy rain when the creek rose considerably. The first reference to the existence of a bridge was in 1935 when Neil wrote, "got a can of used oil for my

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54. Neil Erickson's Diary for August 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

bridge across creek to wood shed." The following day he added, "oiled the bridge in forenoon."<sup>55</sup>

It is difficult to say whether the bridge that Neil spoke about is the same one that exists today since a wooden bridge of this nature could have been replaced after it deteriorated in time. In any case, we do know that a bridge was in existence at least as early as 1935.

#### R. Ranch Roads

The National Register Nomination Form provides a good description of some of the existing dirt roads at Faraway Ranch. It said that

a number of ranch roads, all dirt-surfaced, criss-cross the area. The trunk road runs along the south edge of the valley, passing south of all of the buildings and structures except Building FR-9 [bunkhouse] and Water Tanks FR-22. On the Stafford property, an earlier alignment of this road is visible south of the most recent alignment and undoubtedly provided pioneer access to Bonita Canyon and the Stafford homestead, hugging more closely the south slope of the canyon and leaving a maximum of bottom land for development as an orchard. In later years, drought killed much of the orchard and freed flatter land for a new alignment. Other roads, poorly defined, pass along the west side of the house, the north side of Building FR-7 [garage-storage], and reach the vicinity of the barn, splitting to terminate a short distance north and west of the barn. Another branch road leads from the trunk road northeast directly to the barn.

Many dirt roads, paths, and trails existed in Bonita Canyon before the Ericksons made it their home. Stafford had been living there since 1880 and a detachment of the U.S. 10th Cavalry had been stationed there for about eighteen months in 1885-86. Since Stafford already had a good orchard growing and sold much of his produce to the Army at Fort Bowie, a good access road from his property was important. Lillian referred in her novel to the "little path that led" between her house and

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55. Neil Erickson's Diary for November 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

Stafford's.<sup>56</sup> It was probably more than just a path if a horse and wagon had to use it daily.

After the Ericksons moved into the canyon, Neil and probably his brother built other trails and paths to facilitate movement between facilities. Neil's concern for his family, especially after his children started to attend school at the Riggs Settlement outside the canyon, must have led him to improve the existing paths and roads to make sure they were passable. Moreover, after receiving his appointment with the U.S. Forest Service in 1903 and proceeding to use his residence as a home base, good roads were necessary to make his rounds in the forest. The importance of good dirt roads continued to grow once the guest ranch business was in full operation. Neil advised Lillian and Ed that a good access road from the valley leading into the canyon was essential to a prosperous guest ranch.<sup>57</sup>

In 1931 and 1935 there were references to the cutting of new roads, projects undertaken by Neil; unfortunately, we are not certain what roads they were. In 1931 he said, "I have had Mexicans to cut up the trees in the canyon that were pulled out root and all for the new road." Again, in 1935 he wrote, "Started the boys to work on road."<sup>58</sup> Could this have been the main dirt road that was realigned and that we know today? This is probable.

There are several good photographs, some taken as early as 1908, depicting the main dirt road going into the canyon and paths and trails connecting various facilities at Faraway Ranch (Illustration Nos. 4, 33, 37, 40, and 42). Some of these paths have disappeared as facilities were removed and relocated, but others soon took their place as new structures rose.

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56. Riggs, "Westward Into the Sun," p. 36.

57. Neil to Lillian and Ed, March 18, 1925, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

58. Neil Erickson's Diaries for February 1931 and December 1935, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



## S. Water Tanks

High on a ridge southeast of the Main House are two water tanks fed from the well east of the house (Illustration No. 43).

There are several references to water tanks in the records, but it is evident that some of these tanks were replaced over the years, especially if they were built of wood. The use of tanks was first mentioned in 1922 at which time Ed wrote to Lillian in California that "Tomorrow . . . we will make a start on the tanks over the hill."<sup>59</sup> It is difficult to say whether tanks were already in place at this time or whether Ed and Ben were about to construct them.

Not until 1936 do the records again refer to a water tank and at this time we learn a little about its makeup. Neil wrote in his diary of August 6, 1936, "My RedWood tank is full of water this morning, the first time since I put it up about the middle of June."<sup>60</sup> This redwood tank was apparently built in June 1936 by Neil. Six days later Neil reported that he "took overflow pipe out of the R.W. [i.e. redwood] tank & packed a flow in one stave near the top. . . ."<sup>61</sup> Neil must have been referring to a leak in one of the staves which he then proceeded to seal. The tank that was built in 1936 may have replaced the one that was mentioned by Ed in 1922.

By 1959 Neil's tank (or tanks) had been replaced with the existing ones, for in her diary Lillian said, "Cement tank and steel tank each about half full today. Water running into steel tank. . . ."<sup>62</sup>

There was always some concern for the amount of water in the tanks, and if the tanks were losing water because of a leak, Lillian made

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59. Ed to Lillian, August 2, 1922, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

60. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1929-1936, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

61. Ibid.

62. Lillian E. Riggs' Diary for 1957-1961, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

sure that it would be repaired as soon as it was discovered. She frequently reported the level of water in both tanks. As was quite natural for ranch owners in these areas where drought was always a present danger, Lillian once wrote "I want to save all the water in cement tank as much as possible for spring use."<sup>63</sup>

The tanks were part of a water system first installed by Neil in the 1920s and later refined by Ed, the latter's son has said. Neil dug the original water ditch, and Ed later built a two-inch steel pipe in a water spring above the Stafford cabin. The pipe was placed six feet deep, and it ran along the ditch between Stafford's place and the Main House. At the southeast corner of the swimming pool Ed bolted a hydraulic ram that pumped or lifted water to the concrete tank on the hill where it was stored. The tank then overflowed into the pool, which in turn overflowed into the nearby garden. Before reaching the ram, the spring water flowed directly into a sump box where some of the water was filtered for drinking.<sup>64</sup>

#### T. Well

There are the remains of three wells in the historic district as far as records and visual observations can determine. The oldest well is just outside the kitchen door of the Main House, and it was built to supply the needs of the household. A second well has the windmill above it and lies some 200 feet west of the house, near the barn and open tank and where Neil's orchard once stood. The third one, which is listed on the National Register Nomination Form, lies near the west end of the Stafford orchard, about 100 feet east of the Main House. Although the date that the first well was built can be determined pretty closely, the same cannot

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63. Ibid.

64. Interview with Murray and Ann Riggs by Bill Hoy, August 9, 1980, and interview with Murray and Ann Riggs by Bill Hoy, November 26, 1979, both in Park Historical Files. Mrs. Kenney provided essentially the same story in her interview with Bill Hoy, August 2, 1980, Park Historical Files.

be said for the other two. In these last two cases the evidence is conflicting.

The oldest well is frequently mentioned in Lillian's fictional work and in the records. The need for a well soon after the family settled in the canyon was imperative. In later years, while writing about the Massai incident, Neil fixed this event in May 1890. At that time, said Neil, both he and his brother John had completed the digging of the well and were moving the accumulated earth to where they were completing the stone house.<sup>65</sup>

There is not much description of this first well in the records; however, whatever little there is has been provided by Lillian in her unpublished novel and in early photographs. Krispin (the character in her novel who represents her father), had had experience in digging a well at a mine in which he once worked. Using picks and shovels to dig and crowbars to loosen the rocks, both Neil and his brother dug deep into the earth. The windlass was a wooden round roller about four inches in diameter and six feet long. It was set on a frame over the well. A heavy rope one-inch in diameter was then fastened to the roller and at one end a large bucket was tied.<sup>66</sup>

There are some early photographs (taken about 1908) of the Main House that include the well, but the latter is not always clearly discernable. A wall about two and a half to three feet high is sometimes visible with a tall wooden frame above it to which the windlass was attached.

The original wall was probably built of stone. In much later years, possibly in the 1920s, the stone wall was covered with concrete forming the shape of an octagon. The top has a concrete cement moulding all

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65. Neil Erickson, "Some facts about (Bigfoot) Massai said by Indian Scouts to have been the most fierce warrior of the Chiricahua tribe of Apaches," ca. 1933, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

66. Riggs, "Westward Into the Sun," p. 41.

around it. The framework stood on top of this moulding on four legs. Today the framework and windlass are no longer there, and the opening of the well is covered with a board (Illustration Nos. 4, 9, and 44).

In her fictional work Lillian said that a second well was built during the "first winter" and "fitted with a horse power to pump the water for the orchard that was to be set out in the spring. . . ." <sup>67</sup>

Although the need for an additional well soon became evident as the orchard and garden developed, thanks to Emma's constant care and persistence, it is hardly likely that a second well was built as early as Lillian would have us believe. A succession of letters written by Neil to Emma while he was working in Bisbee between 1890 and 1902 spoke of a need for a second and perhaps a third well. In a letter containing only the month and day, but probably written no later than January 1891, Neil said,

It is alright that you are having the well dug now, but I don't think you can go down deep enough so there will be constant water, and we will only have to <sup>68</sup>pay out money again to have it dug deeper next summer. . . .

According to this letter, Emma was anxious to have a second well built, even going to the extent of hiring someone to do it, but apparently Neil discouraged her. In a letter written several months later, Neil wrote to Emma that she "will have to let the well be as it is at present because I will not work my life out and hurry it on the ranch. . . ." <sup>69</sup> This writer would interpret these letters to mean that a second well had yet to be built although Emma was constantly prodding her husband to build one. Neil, however, was not easily convinced of this for reasons which he saw as purely economical.

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67. Ibid., pp. 59-60.

68. Neil to Emma, January 28 [1891], Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

69. Neil to Emma, October 1, 1891, Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

Statements made by Neil in his diary between 1896 and 1898 indicate that at last a second well had been built. In 1896 he spoke of a pump that he was working on to increase its horsepower. The following year he wrote again that he worked all day on the pump taking "the big 6" ironpump from house well and placing [it] on the big well and mill." Still one year later Neil noted that he "worked on the well having caved some. Completed well and pump."<sup>70</sup> There is no doubt that by now a second well had been installed with a windmill. The purpose of this well was to provide water for stock and for the orchard and garden which were constantly growing. The well was probably larger than the house well. It is the one with the existing windmill.

There follow some rather confusing statements by Neil. Writing from Bisbee where he returned to work, he said in a letter of June 1902, "I would like to have that well at home fixed up and a little windmill on it [but] I can not do so now."<sup>71</sup>

Does this mean that a third well had already been built, and if so was Neil thinking of putting a windmill on it? Neil certainly was not thinking of putting a windmill on the first, or house well. It was not that kind of a well. This well was built for household needs. If a third well had been built by now, where was it located? One month later Neil wrote, "and now about that well that you are so anxious to have dug. I am sorry to tell you but the man that I promised to send you, have now got a steady job that will probably last till about the middle of next month but I will then send him out. I would send him before if I could."<sup>72</sup>

It is probable that when Neil said he would "like to have that well at home fixed up," he really meant to have it built and then have a windmill

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70. Neil Erickson's Diary 1896, 1897, and 1898, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

71. Neil to Emma, June 13, 1902, Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

72. Neil to Emma, July 13, 1902, Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



placed upon it. As a foreign born pioneer, Neil's English did not always clearly express what he meant. This lack of clarity is often noticable in his writings and particularly in his early letters.

In any event, there is no conclusive evidence to prove that a third well was built at this time. The second "big" well that was built is the one that lies to the west of the Main House, that is, the one with the windmill. It would have been wise to have built it there for the Erickson orchard stood just to the west of the windmill.

If Erickson did develop a third well soon after 1902, it is difficult to imagine where it was located. In later years, however, a well was built in what was Stafford's lower orchard. It is the one that is listed in the National Register Nomination Form. Writing in his diary of March 1932, Neil said that "two boys from Dos Cabezas came out and located [i.e., camped] by the big well preparatory to clean up the lower orchard."<sup>73</sup> The term "lower orchard" had always been used to distinguish the orchard to the west of the Stafford cabin from the "upper orchard" located outside of the historic district. Although several photographs of the ranch do not show a windmill, Mrs. Ethel Erickson (Ben's wife) said that there was one (Illustration No. 45).<sup>74</sup> This well is described as having

a small walking beam pump, which the National Park Service has modified by the addition of electrical connections and new piping. The pump is a Jensen straight lift Jack, Serial No. 115, size 25 DC rated at 35 strokes per minute, manufactured by the Jensen Brothers Manufacturing Company of Coffeyville, Kansas. The well may originally have featured a windmill.<sup>75</sup>

If there was a windmill over the well, it is not known when it was removed. In 1957 Lillian recorded the following:

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73. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1932, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

74. Interview with Mrs. Ethel Erickson by Louis Torres, April 29, 1983.

75. National Register Nomination Form.

The Old North Well went to pieces in summer. I knew it would. . . . Put in a cement water trough and an electric pump well is about 200 feet deep and is a fine well. Twice crows got into the transformer and shorted out the pump. . . . But my credit at the bank is still good and<sup>76</sup> I was able to borrow what I needed to put in the new well..."

It is difficult to say what this all means. Some references have been made to the "old north well" in the records. but this writer has been unable to identify it unless it is meant to be the big well (and windmill) to the west of the Main House.

#### U. Faraway Ranch Cemetery

The tiny cemetery plot in which the Erickson family, except Lillian, is buried is outside the Faraway Ranch Historic District. It is at the mouth of Bonita Canyon and is a rectangular piece of land measuring 20 by 30 feet. An ornate iron fence set in a stone foundation encloses the plot (Illustration No. 46). Just outside this plot and a few feet to the east Lewis Prue is buried in an area also enclosed by an ornate iron fence set in a stone foundation.

Prue was another early pioneer of the area who settled just outside of Bonita Canyon. In 1892 he fell off a horse and was killed. He had expressed a wish to be buried at the mouth of the canyon where "he could see his cattle passing on their way to water in the canyon." Neil, who was working in Bisbee at the time, wrote to Emma saying,

I am sorry to hear of Mr. Prue's death, that it should happen in such a way, but our journey's end in this world is soon reached and therefore we should all make the best of the life while we do live. . . . At any rate, give my respect to Mrs. Prue that I feel as much as any one the loss of a good friend and neighbor, but I am pleased to hear that you have fulfilled his last<sup>77</sup> wish and laid him to rest under the oak on the hillside.

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76. Lillian E. Riggs' Diary for 1957-1961, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

77. Neil to Emma, December 23, 1892, Box 83, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

Thus, Prue was buried on Neil's homestead, and in Neil's absence Emma had made the decision to fulfill Prue's wish. There are two good photographs of the Prue gravesite before the Erickson gravesite was built, one a 1915 illustration, the other around 1930 (Illustration No. 47).<sup>78</sup>

Neil was the first of the Ericksons to die, on October 18, 1937, and he was buried in the newly constructed family plot just west of where Prue was buried. Said one obituary, he was "buried at the mouth of Bonita Canyon where years ago he planted some cypress trees to mark his desired resting place."<sup>79</sup> Prue may have influenced Neil's selection of this burial site.

Whether the plot was fenced in at this time or at a later date is difficult to say. The ornamental iron fence may have been put in when Lillian ordered one in 1940. In any event, when Emma died, she was buried alongside her husband. Hildegard and Ben were also interred there.

There are two bronze plaques hanging on the west side fence. One is a memorial to Hildegard, the other has the following long inscription:

Sacred to the memory of these pioneers  
They came when only the brave dared come:  
They stayed where only the valiant could stay  
Born in Sweden, Americans by choice--not by  
accident of birth, they loved their adopted  
country and served her well.

#### NEIL

Served five years  
the Army during the  
Indian Wars and then  
twenty five years as  
an officer in the United  
States Forest Service.

#### EMMA SOPHIA

As wife, mother, friend,  
God's spirit was imbued within  
her. Perils of Indian warfare,  
incessant toil and loneliness  
of a pioneer land:-nothing  
daunted her, this valiant  
lady, our mother.

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78. Photograph of Prue's gravesite, ca. 1915, Box 89; photograph of Prue's gravesite, ca. 1930, Box 103, both in Erickson-Riggs Collection.

79. "Southwestern Monuments," 262 Monthly Report for October 1937, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

They carved a home from the wilderness  
with the ward of labor and the woof of dreams  
They wove a patern of life as beautiful as the  
sunsets and as enduring as the mountains they  
loved so well.

L.E.R.

As the initials indicate, Lillian wrote this.

#### V. Landscape, Orchards, Gardens

Before Erickson settled on his homestead, Stafford, who had been in Bonita Canyon almost a decade earlier, produced at least one large orchard that is included in the historic district. This orchard, referred to as the "lower orchard," contained all sorts of fruitbearing trees. The Staffords were dependent almost entirely upon their orchards and garden for their livelihood, selling their produce to the Army at Fort Bowie and to pioneers in neighboring communities. Stafford's lower orchard extended from his cabin west to Erickson's ranch. It consisted of trees that bore pears, peaches, apples, and persimmons. A few of these trees still exist.

After the Ericksons settled in the canyon, Emma lost little time in getting a garden started. This was not easy because the area was frequently subject to severe droughts. Irrigation was extremely important, and she insisted at every opportunity that Neil provide her with the necessary facilities to water her garden. An interesting order placed by Neil as early as 1889 included such trees and plants as six apple trees, six dwarf pear trees, four plum trees, two prune trees, six peach trees, two apricot trees, six currant shrubs, and six gooseberry shrubs, all to be shipped to Willcox at a cost of \$38.50<sup>80</sup>. This was probably one of Erickson's first orders after settling in the canyon. Other orders must have followed. The Ericksons orchard was to the west of the house adjacent to the open tank and windmill. Reminiscing in the

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80. Order blank in folder marked "Log Book 1875." Dates actually cover orders for 1889-1890, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

1940s, Emma noted that "we planted fruit trees and shrubs and vines, and raised plenty of vegetables for food" when they first settled in Bonita Canyon. She also did not lose any time in planting an abundance and variety of flowers around the Main House.<sup>81</sup>

There is considerable evidence to show the variety of fruit and vegetables planted at the Erickson ranch over the years. In 1896 Neil at one point said he ploughed the home garden with a mule. He planted potatoes, lettuce, leek, radish, mustard, and turnips in the home garden. He also irrigated and planted some sweet corn, beans, cabbage, tomatoes, squash, watermelon, and other items. The following year he planted onions, celery, and lettuce. Stafford even gave Neil permission to plant some beans and corn in his own garden.<sup>82</sup>

For many years the Erickson garden was located northeast of the house, and in all probability this is where it has always been.

After Lillian purchased the Stafford homestead, the Faraway Ranch had more produce than it could absorb even for the guest ranch operation. Between 1924 and 1933 a considerable amount of produce--cherries, peaches, apples, plums, pears, squash, corn, beans, tomatoes, cauliflower, and lettuce--grown in the Stafford orchard was sold through various outlets.<sup>83</sup>

As the ranch catered more and more to its paying guests it was natural for the Ericksons and Riggs to improve the landscape, particularly in the immediate vicinity of the house. Emma had done much of this in the early years. Now that the ranch had turned to the guest business, this improvement became even more important.

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81. Reminiscences of Emma Erickson, ca. 1940's, Box 111, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

82. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1896-1899, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

83. Miscellaneous Ranch Lists. Guests (1924-1933), pp. 56-7, Erickson-Riggs Collection.



There are several photographs of the ranch, some depicting large areas, others focusing on single subjects, which provide the reader with excellent views of the landscape at Faraway Ranch at different periods. Views of the orchards and gardens are especially useful (Illustration Nos. 4, 8, 30, 33, 37, and 48).

#### W. Nonextant Miscellaneous Structures

A significant number of structures in the historic district built over the years are today either totally or partially gone. Like many ranches of the period many structures were built, later moved to other localities, and still later razed, depending on the owner's needs at the time. The Martha Stark house was one such structure except that its destruction resulted from accidental fire.

On the north side of the Stafford orchard, a short distance south of the stream bed, is the site of the Martha Stark house. The Assessor's Office of Cochise County gives the year of construction as 1935.<sup>84</sup> Before 1950 Lillian and Ed purchased the house and had it moved by Roy Rising of Douglas to Faraway Ranch for the sum of \$1,519.40. In addition to moving the structure and furniture, Rising was to build a foundation and septic tank connecting the bathroom to it.<sup>85</sup>

The house was fairly large, consisting of four rooms--two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, and bathroom. It had two doors, front and rear, with a small 13-1/2-by 5-1/2-foot porch in the front which faced the south. The structure was made of a composition siding, a gable roof of asphalt shingles, and floors of wood joists and softwood flooring. The interior walls consisted of drywall. It was heated by hot water space heaters.<sup>86</sup>

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84. Rural Property Record Card, Martha Stark House, Assessor's Office, Cochise County, Bisbee, Arizona.

85. Agreement between Roy Rising and Lillian E. Riggs, n.d., Box 256, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

86. Rural Property Record Card, Martha Stark House, Assessor's Office, Cochise County, Bisbee, Arizona.

The structure was used for several years to house guests and employees of the ranch. In 1967 the building was totally destroyed by fire, the cause of which was a defective gas heater. At the time the National Register Nomination Form was prepared there remained only the concrete foundation, but this was later removed and the debris dumped in a three-foot-square concrete hole that probably was the ruins of the septic tank. A few feet away from the site where the cottage once stood is a six-inch pipe partly exposed, leading from the cabin site to the septic tank. This was probably the connection between the tank and bathroom.

There are two photographs, almost similar views of the Stark house, taken from the east at a considerable distance. The east side of the single story cottage contained two windows. Details of the rest of the house are difficult to discern because of the distance. These pictures were probably taken in the late 1950s. By then the Stafford orchard, except for a few scattered trees, had almost disappeared (Illustration No. 49).

The chicken house was a much older structure than the Martha Stark house, although this writer has been unable to document its original construction. The chicken house was just to the north and slightly west of the Main House.

References to a chicken yard and chicken pens were made as early as the 1890s. A fence ran around the "chicken yard" and this also might have served as the "chicken pen." The first reference to a chicken house, however, appears in Neil's diary for May 1898. At that time he said, "Repaired the Chicken House."<sup>87</sup>

In August 1899 he wrote, "Completed chicken coupe," and eleven years later Neil said, "put roof on the chicken coop." Finally, in 1935,

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87. Neil Erickson's Diary for 1896-1899, Erickson-Riggs Collection.

Neil repaired the "old" chicken coop. He, however, had yet to fill in some of the small openings.<sup>88</sup> It seems clear that the chicken coop and chicken house, terms used alternately by Neil, were one and the same structure.

There are some excellent photographs, one as early as 1908, and others as late as the 1930s, which depict the structure. The best view, however, is one in which Emma is seen leaving the chicken house, a picture perhaps taken around 1915 (Illustration No. 50).

The chicken house was a relatively large structure whose long side stood east and west and whose facade faced the south. The two ends were enclosed by walls on four sides. The central portion, except for the roof, was opened in front. The roof, which covered the complete structure, was a lean-to, sloping downward from south to north.

Today there is nothing left of this structure other than some debris. It was probably considered a nuisance to the guests and eventually removed in the late 1930s.

Many of the same early photographs depicting the chicken house also show the pig pen directly behind it. The ruins of the pig pen still remain. When it experienced its greatest use, however, it was almost a square structure walled-in by stones on all four sides. According to photographs, the walls were about five feet high. Like the chicken house, the pig pen may have been permitted to go to ruin because of the nearby guests.

The National Register Nomination Form referred to the existence of an "Animal pen or cage (FR18)" lying south of the cowboy house. It described the structure as a "frame and wire pen of unknown use,

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88. Ibid.; Neil Erickson's Diary for September-December 1910, Box 251, and Diary for 1935, both in Erickson-Riggs Collection.

enclosed not only on four sides, but also on top, for some small animal(s)." This writer did not observe any such structure other than debris in the approximate area.

Throughout the historic district there are signs of the possible existence of structures at one period or another. There is a small concrete foundation, for example, of unknown origin just to the east of the generator house. One cannot conclude that this was part of the chicken house since it is difficult to understand why a chicken house would have a concrete foundation. It is more likely that this concrete slab may have been part of the foundation of the old large garage before it was moved to where it now stands. Subsurface archeological investigations should reveal more about vanished structures including the privies used by the Main House before indoor plumbing was installed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The National Register. The National Register Nomination Form should be revised so that the boundary of the historic district is extended further southward. Recent archeological studies have revealed subsurface remnants of structures and artifacts that may have been associated with Faraway Ranch and the Black military detachment stationed there in 1885-86. The form should also be revised to include the following corrections and omissions brought to light as a result of this study:

- a. (Item 7, p. 1, 4th paragraph). The original Stafford Cabin was more likely built in 1880 than 1879.
- b. (Item 7, p. 2, 2nd paragraph). We now know that, except for a small section at the north end, the existing western addition is not the section built by Stafford and which was removed in the 1920s. The existing lean-to shed was built in the 1940s.
- c. The third addition, that is, the structure that stood where the garage is now and which now forms part of the bunkhouse, should be listed.
- d. (Item 7, p. 3, 3rd paragraph). The foundation of the Martha Riggs House is no longer there, but the concrete septic tank is. The house was burned in 1967.
- e. (Item 7, p. 4, 2nd paragraph). The box house was more likely built in 1899 rather than 1897 or 1898. The adobe addition was probably built in 1915-1916 rather than 1924.
- f. (Item 7, p. 6, last paragraph). The furnishings are now at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center.



g. (Item 7, p. 13). The animal pen or cage is no longer at Faraway Ranch.

h. The house well, just outside the kitchen, an important cultural resource, should be listed in the form.

i. (Item 8, p. 9, 2nd paragraph). I think we can say with some certainty that Neil Erickson did not demolish the original cabin used by Captain Cooper. He probably added lean-to sheds to it. Neil demolished the cabin when he built the adobe addition in 1915-16. The cellar, or the stone house as it was called earlier, was built by Neil around 1889.

j. (Item 8, p. 9, last paragraph). Lillian was born in 1888.

k. (Item 8, p. 10, 1st paragraph). The picket, or log, cabin was located by Emma in 1886, but it was built before then.

l. (Item 8, p. 11, 2nd paragraph). It was Hildegard who started the practice of taking in guests, not Lillian.

m. (Item 8, p. 11, last paragraph). The evidence provided by Neil Erickson seems to point to 1889 as the date when the Massai incident occurred.

n. (Item 8, p. 12, 2nd paragraph). The date of construction of the adobe addition should be 1915-16, and the date of the frame addition should be 1899.

2. Research. Additional research is needed in the form of a Historic Resource Study, a Special History, or both. The scope of the resource study should include the whole park with special emphasis on the Faraway Ranch Historic District and the military detachment that had been stationed there. It should also stress the role that Neil Erickson and Ed Riggs played in the history of conservation. A Special History should focus on the historic district, including the role of the Black military

detachment. A strong effort, meanwhile, should be made to have Neil Erickson's letters translated from the Swedish.

3. Managing the Resource. The Faraway Ranch Historic District should largely be managed as a dude or cattle ranch of the 1917-1974 period. It was during this time that the Main House, the principal structure, attained its existing configuration in order to serve as a dude ranch. The Stafford Cabin, another significant structure, also underwent important changes between the mid-1920s and 1940 to serve as guest quarters. Although there is a temptation to restore this structure to the pre mid-1920 period, it would be unwise. It is best, therefore, to leave this structure as is and to manage it as part of the dude ranch. Many of the other structures, such as the barn, corral, bunkhouse, cowboy house, and Neil's office/garage, should be adaptively restored. The bunkhouse should continue to be used as quarters for park personnel, and the cowboy house can be used for the same purpose or as an office. Other structures could be mothballed.

4. Interpreting the District. Whereas the whole district should be opened to the public, only a few selected buildings should be interpreted either as furnished structures or as museums. The Main House should serve both as a visitor center and furnished house. The Stafford Cabin should contain exhibits interpreting the Stafford period as a case study of the early pioneer in Bonita Canyon. The barn and corral could easily be furnished, perhaps even making use of some livestock. Neil's office/garage might also be furnished, exhibiting his personal library and other memorabilia.



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Bisbee, Arizona, Cochise County. Assessor's Office. Rural Property Records.

These records are useful in some cases in providing description of structures and dates. Unfortunately, they only go as far back as 1966.

Tucson, Arizona. National Park Service. Western Archeological and Conservation Center. Erickson-Riggs Collection. 1880-1970.

This large collection of papers relating to the history of the Erickson family and the Faraway Ranch is divided into two sections. The first part consists of letters (written in Swedish and English), several diaries, news clippings published principally in Willcox and Bisbee, Arizona (containing items on the Ericksons), reports of Neil Erickson's work in the U.S. Forest Service, photographs of the family and ranch, and a wide assortment of data, including maps and books. The second part of this collection consists of data originated by Lillian Erickson Riggs and her husband, Ed Riggs, and includes such records dealing with the operation and management of Faraway Ranch, her reminiscences of early days, her personal letters and those of her husband's, and a wealth of photographs of the family and guests at Faraway Ranch. This section also contains Lillian's unpublished manuscript "Westward Into the Sun" (483 pp.). The Historic Structure Report, Historical Data Section, is largely based upon this collection. Without it, such a study would be almost impossible. Once the collection is carefully indexed, it will serve as a very useful tool for students of Southwestern History.

### Books

Hooker, Forrestine C. When Geronimo Rode. Garden City: Doubleday, Page and Co., 1924.

This is an autobiographical fictional account of the period when a detachment of Black troops of the U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment was stationed in Bonita Canyon. Mrs. Hooker was a child then (1885-86), but she recalls the cabin in which she lived and which later was acquired by the Ericksons.

Jackson, Earl. The Natural History of Chiricahua National Monument. Globe, Arizona:

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This work is of some interest, but contains several errors.

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<u>Hoofs and Horns</u>	July 15, 1932
" "	October 1934
" "	November 1934
" "	February 1935
" "	September 1935
" "	October 1935
" "	November 1935
" "	December 1935
" "	January 1936

The October 1934 issue contains the article "The History of Faraway Ranch: The Gateway to the Wonderland of Rocks." This article provides a brief but accurate account of the history of Faraway Ranch.

The Saturday Evening Post. March 15, 1958.

This issue contains the article "The Lady Boss of Faraway Ranch" by A.T. Steele.

## Newspapers

<u>Arizona Daily Star.</u>	Tucson, Arizona.	December 22, 1927.
<u>Arizona Range News.</u>	Willcox, Arizona.	November 21, 1913.
<u>Arizona Range News.</u>	Willcox, Arizona.	March 19, 1915.
<u>Arizona Range News.</u>	Willcox, Arizona.	March 2, 1917.
<u>Arizona Range News.</u>	Willcox, Arizona.	April 6, 1917.
<u>Douglas Range News.</u>	Douglas, Arizona.	January 20, 1929.

## Miscellaneous

Interview with Mrs. Ethel Erickson by Louis Torres, April 29, 1983.

Interview with Mrs. Helen Kenney by Louis Torres and Jim Glass,  
July 13, 1983.

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by Gordon S. Chappell, Regional Historian, National Park Service,  
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Tucson, Arizona. Arizona Historical Society. Photographs of Faraway  
Ranch.

Willcox, Arizona. National Park Service. Chiricahua National Monument.  
Park Historical Files.



## ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

"The original home of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Erickson  
in Bonita Canyon about 1892"  
Drawn by George Dunn  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

17 Aug

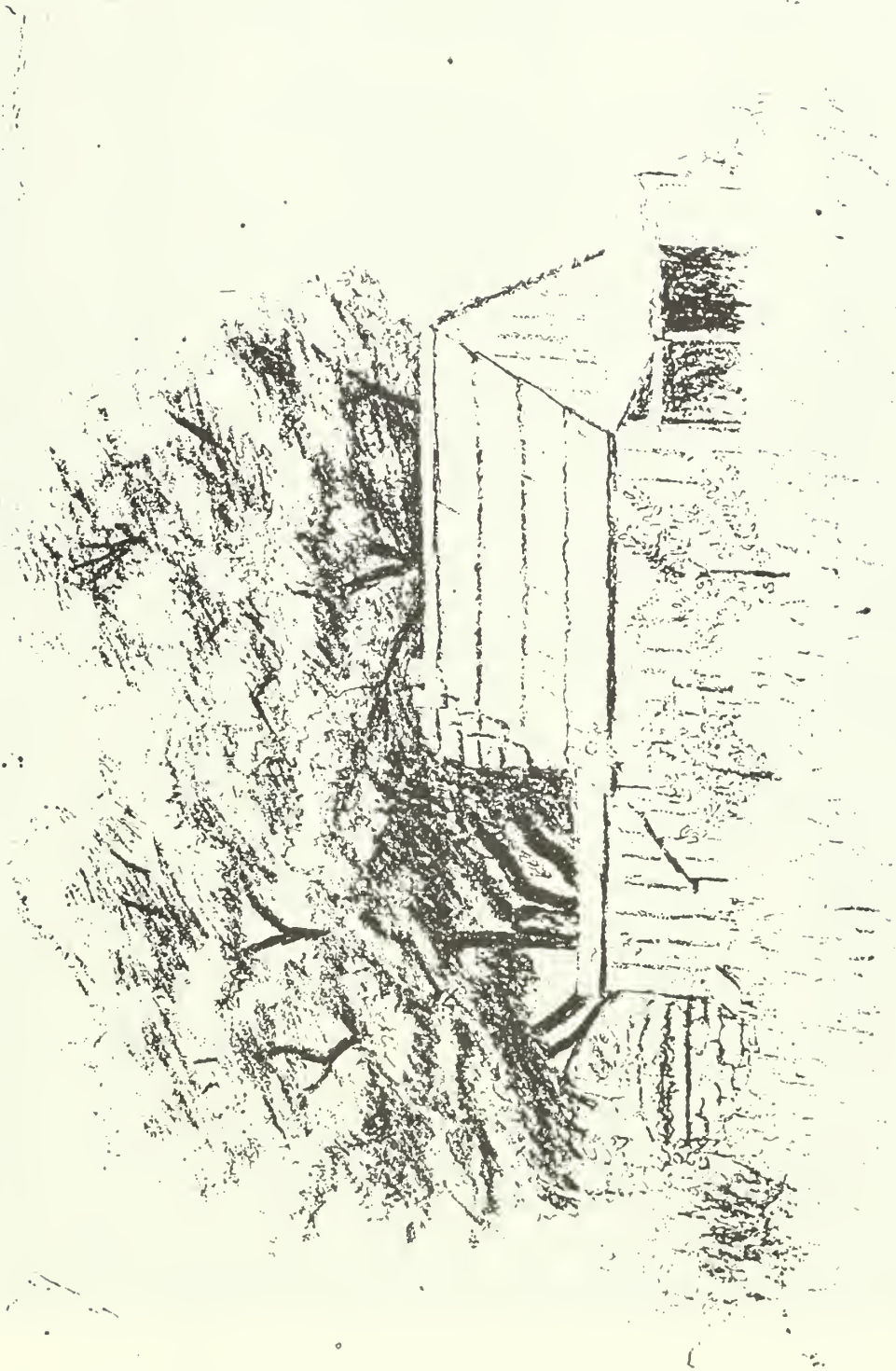
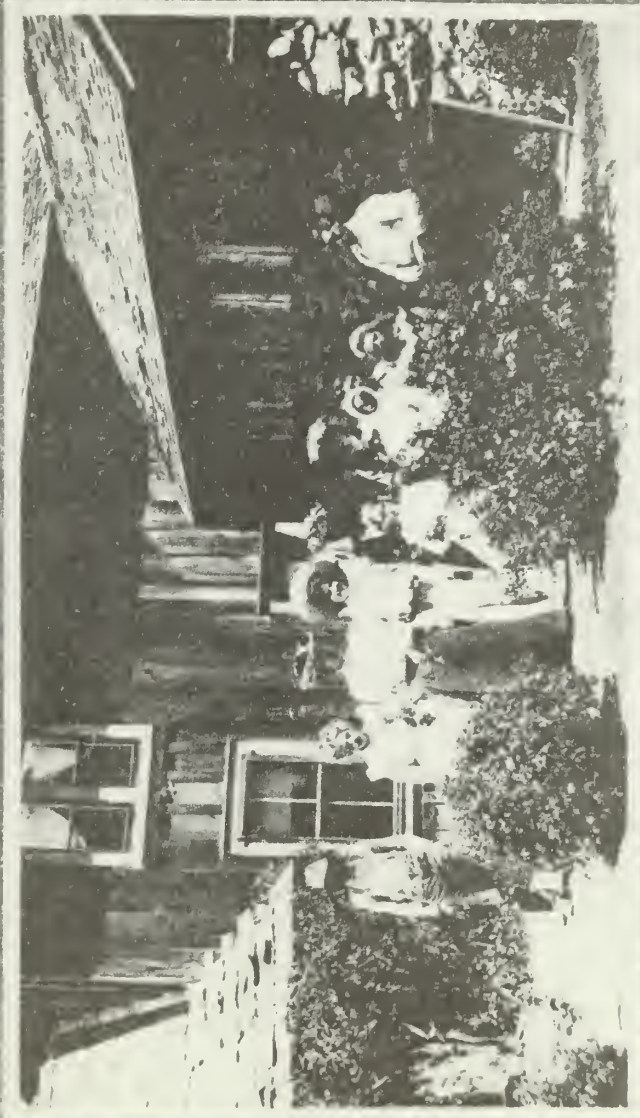


ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

Main House, ca. 1905  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



Left to Right: Rob. Dawson, Mrs. Erickson, Mrs. L. M. Roberts,  
 J. a girl from the house.  
 The group at the house near the  
 to on the old building near taken today.



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

Main House, ca. 1906  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

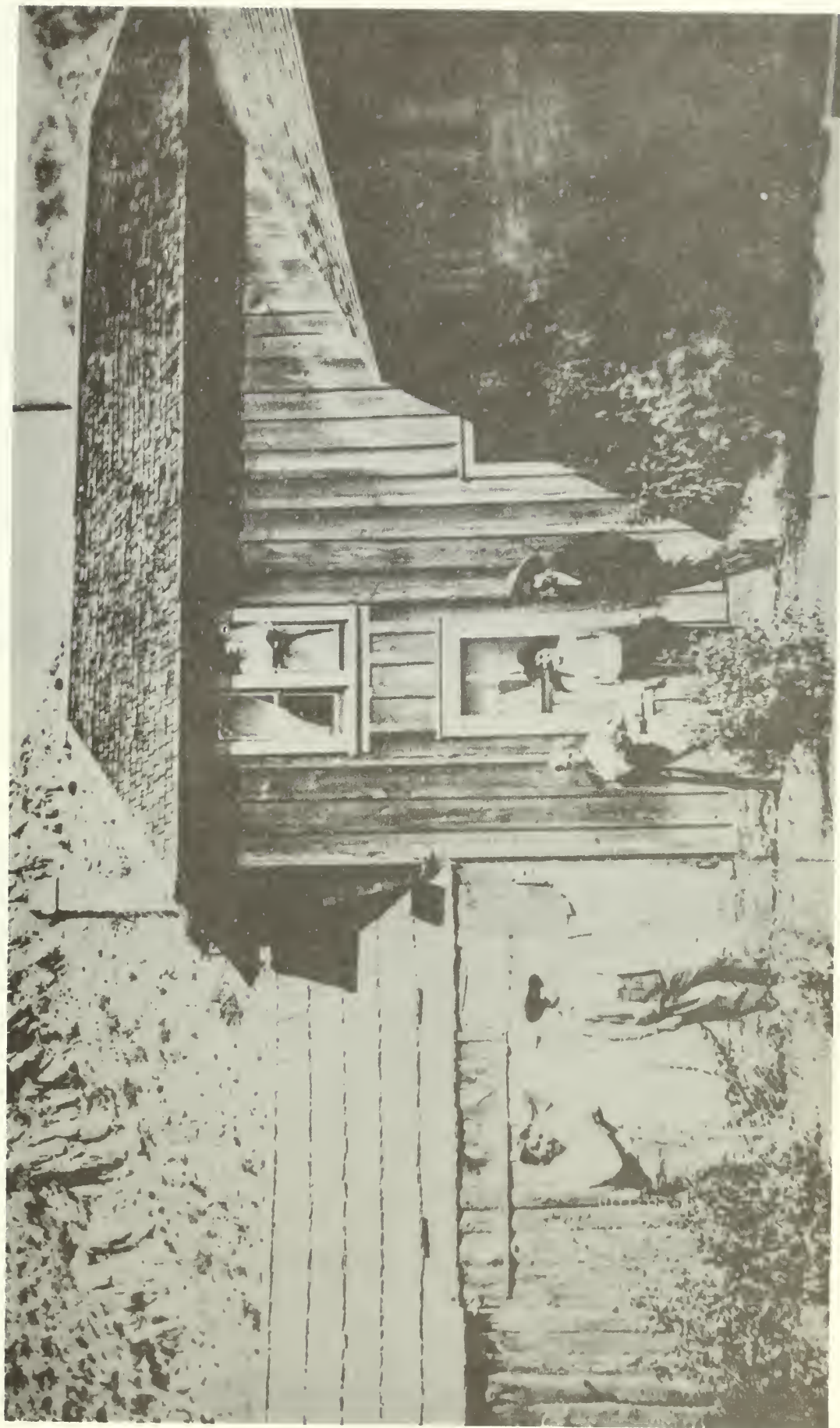


ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

Main House, ca. 1907  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

Main House, ca. 1908  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION NO. 6  
Main House, ca. 1910  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



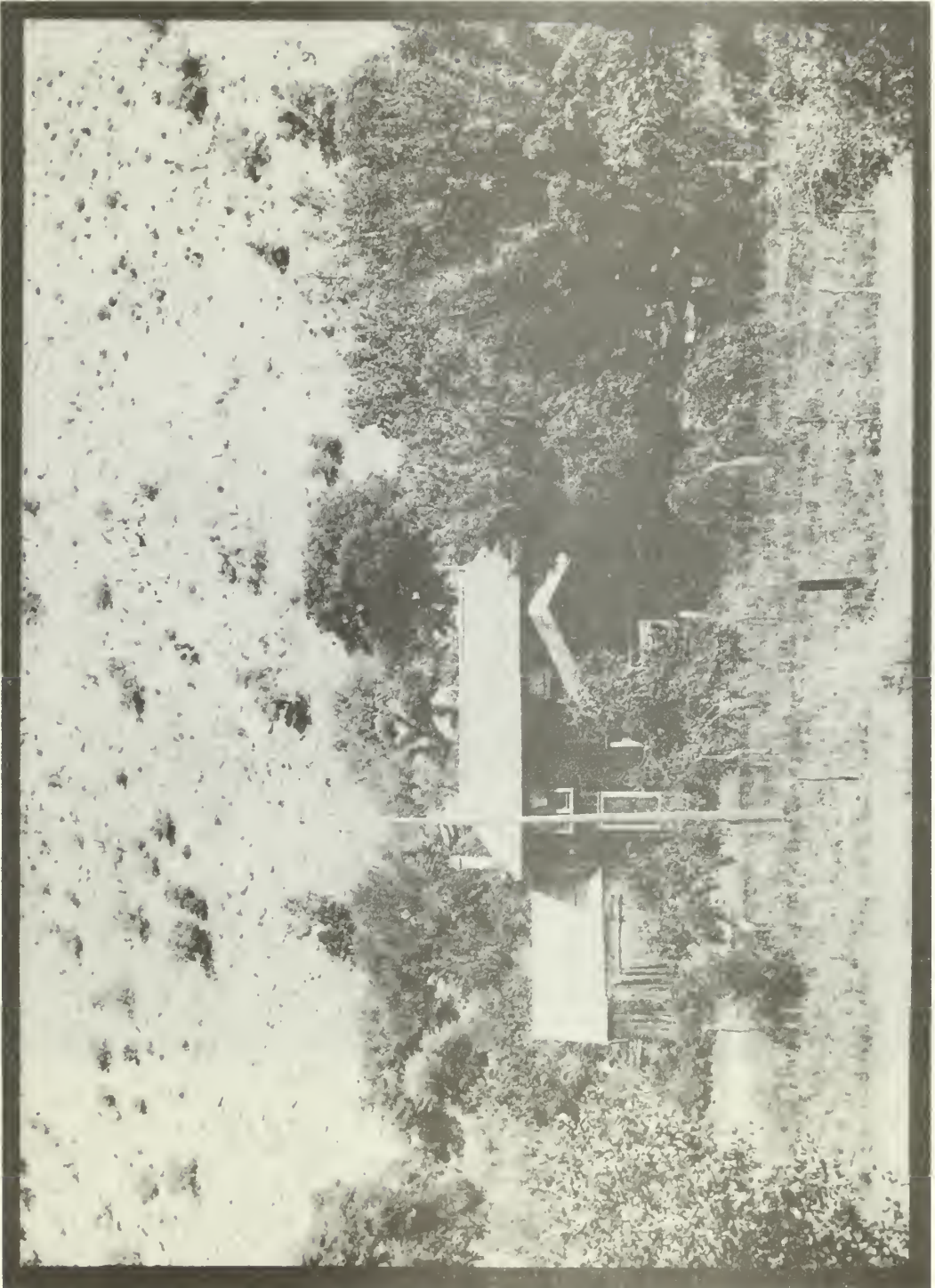


ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

Main House, ca. 1908 (in left center)  
Stafford Cabin (in lower right corner)  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

Main House (section of cellar on east side), ca. 1908  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 9

Main House (adobe construction) ca. 1915  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



Mrs. Eriksson, & Mrs. Lallier.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 10

Main House (adobe construction), ca. 1917  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION NO. 11

Main House (adobe construction), ca. 1918  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 12

Main House (adobe section), 1920  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION NO. 13

Main House (adobe section), ca. 1920  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

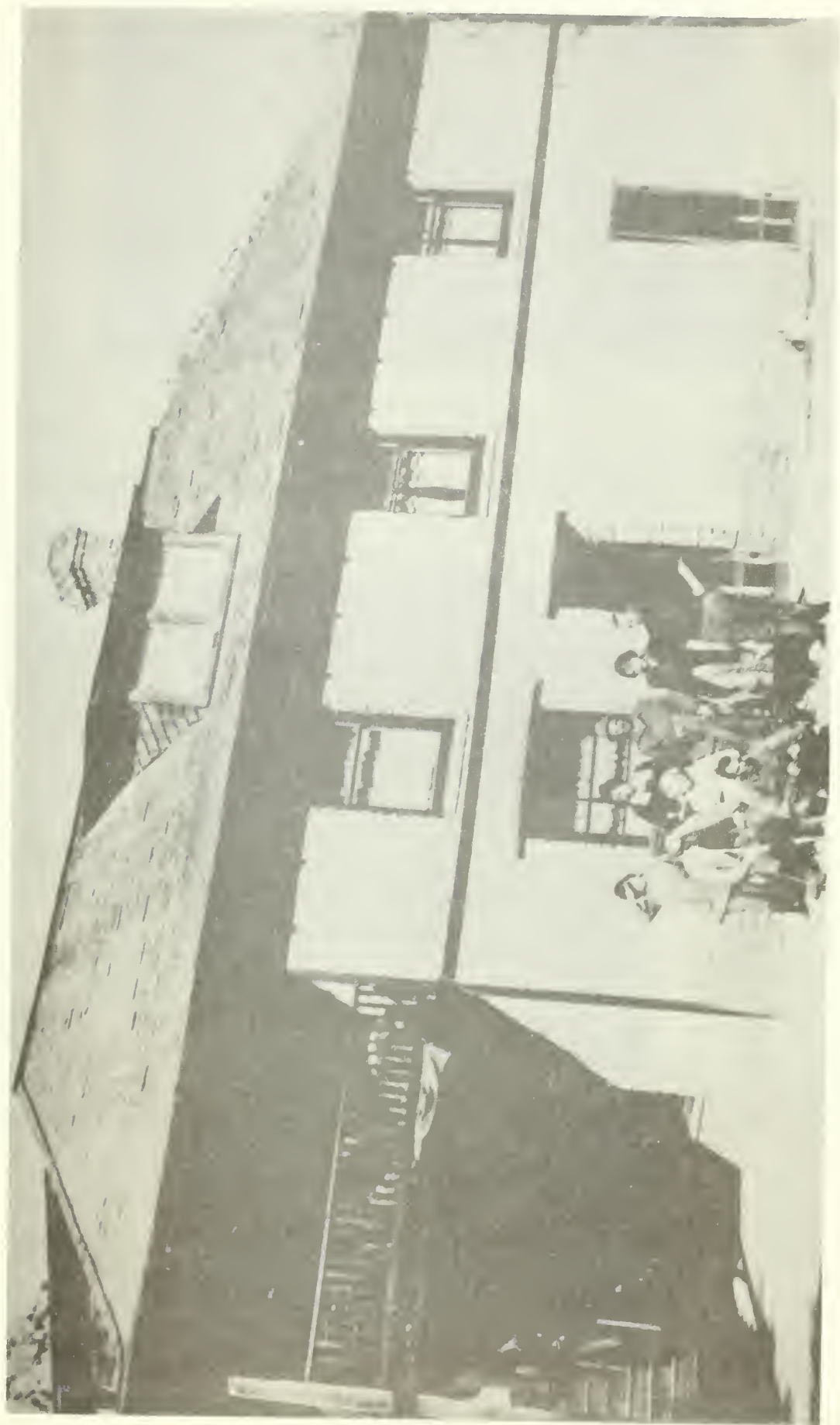




ILLUSTRATION NO. 14

Main House (enclosed rear porch), ca. 1935  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

ILLUSTRATION NO. 15

Main House (adobe section), ca. 1927  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION NO. 16

Stafford Cabin (second Addition or lean-to), ca. 1900  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



STAFFORD - Cabin. - in early days  
Mr. Staffor on Top - Shingling -

ILLUSTRATION NO. 17

Stafford Cabin (enlargement from a  
broader view of Bonita Canyon, ca. 1908  
Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 18

Stafford Cabin (second addition at right and third  
addition at left), ca. 1910  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



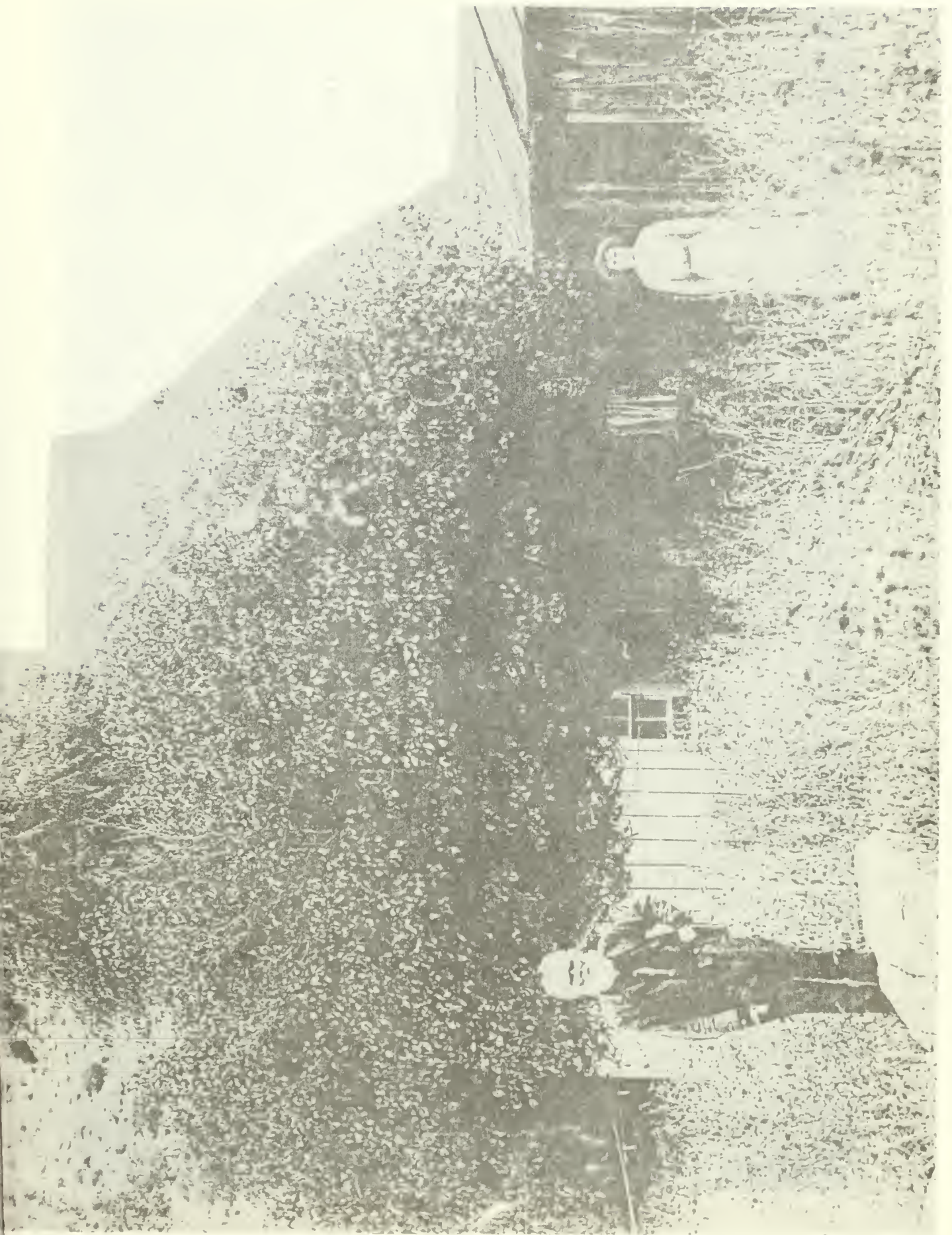


ILLUSTRATION NO. 19

Stafford Cabin (enlargement from another print,  
showing third addition), ca. 1910  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



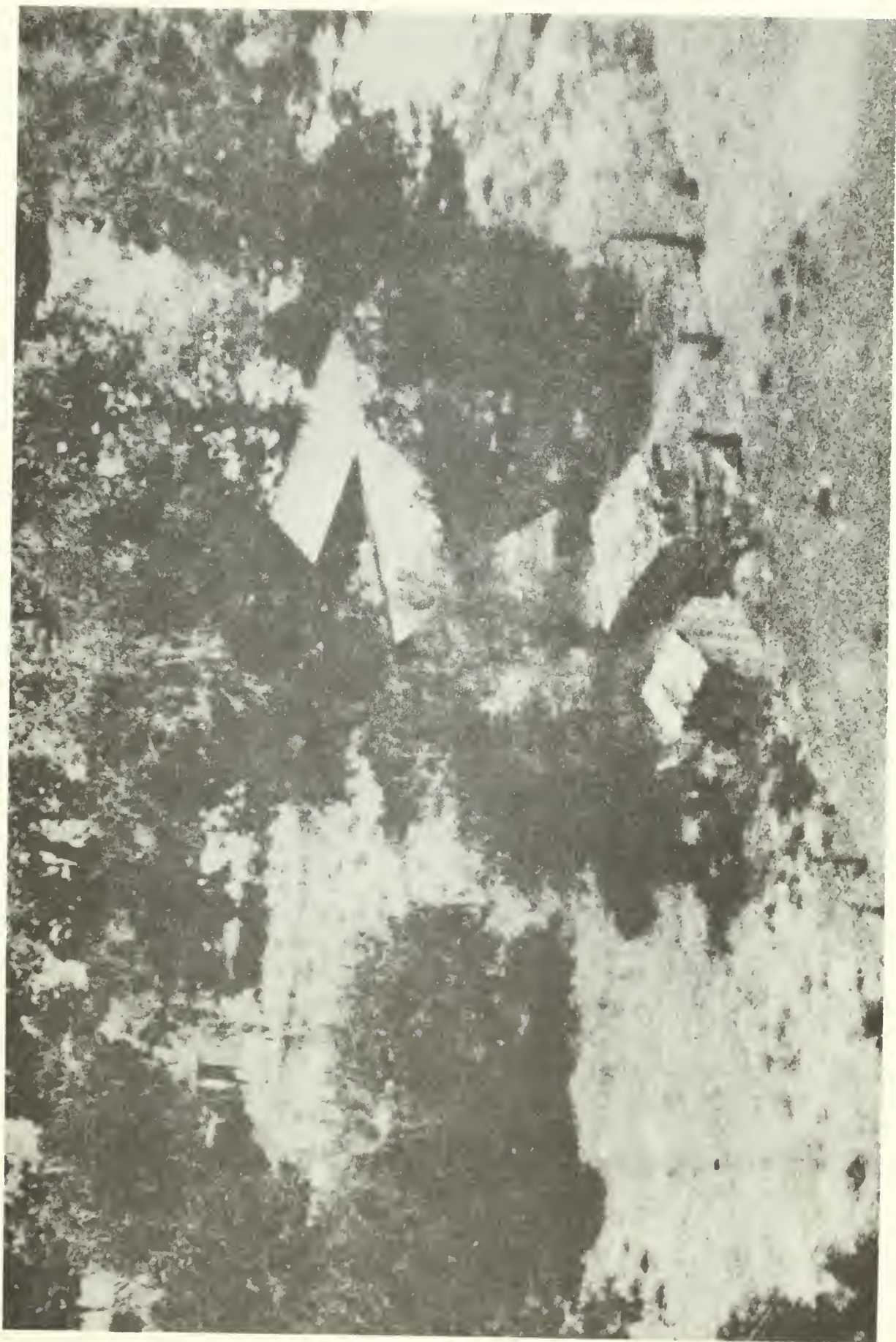




ILLUSTRATION NO. 20

Stafford Cabin (open porch on west side), ca. 1930  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

ILLUSTRATION NO. 21

Stafford Cabin, 1983



ILLUSTRATION NO. 22

Stafford Cabin (lean-to and rear of garage), 1983

ILLUSTRATION NO. 23

Stafford Cabin (garage), 1983



ILLUSTRATION NO.- 24

Cowboy House, ca. 1973  
(Arizona Historical Society, Preston L. Stocum, Photographer)



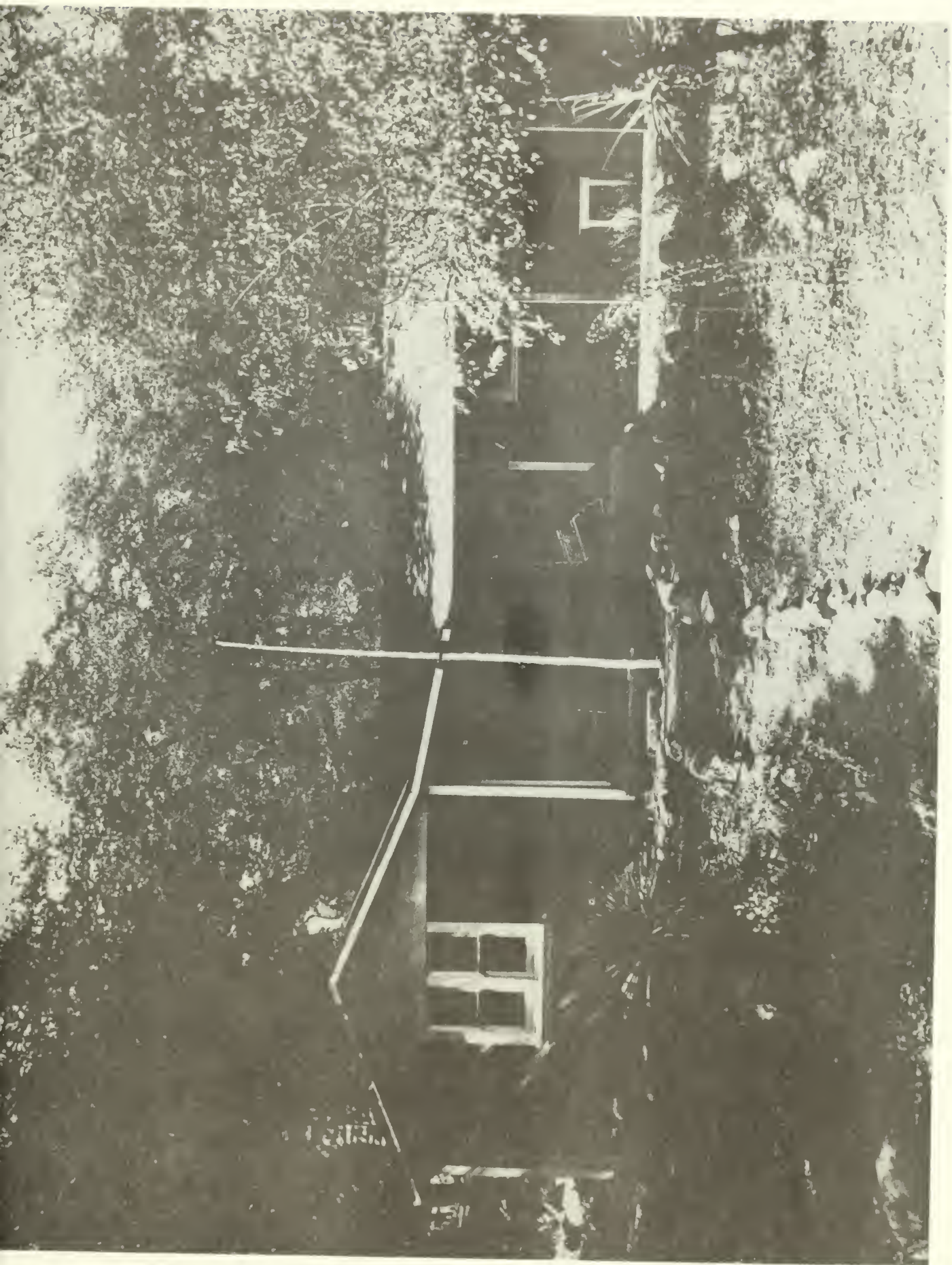


ILLUSTRATION NO. 25

Barn and Corral, ca. 1925  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION NO. 26

Generator House (On its left is the barn;  
on the right are the ruins of the chicken house), ca. 1973  
(Arizona Historical Society, Preston L. Stocum, Photographer)



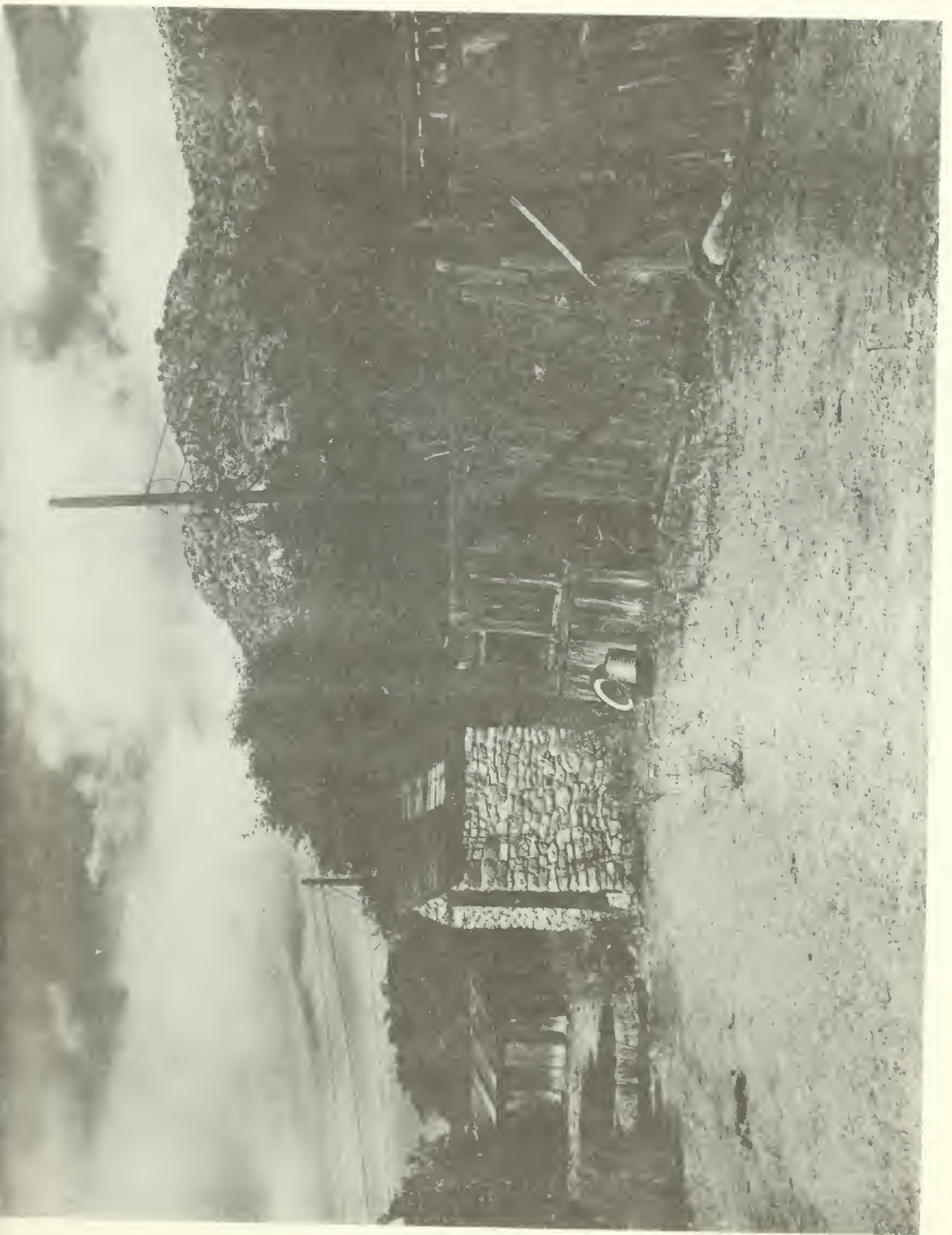




ILLUSTRATION NO. 27

Garage (to the left of Main House), ca. 1933  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

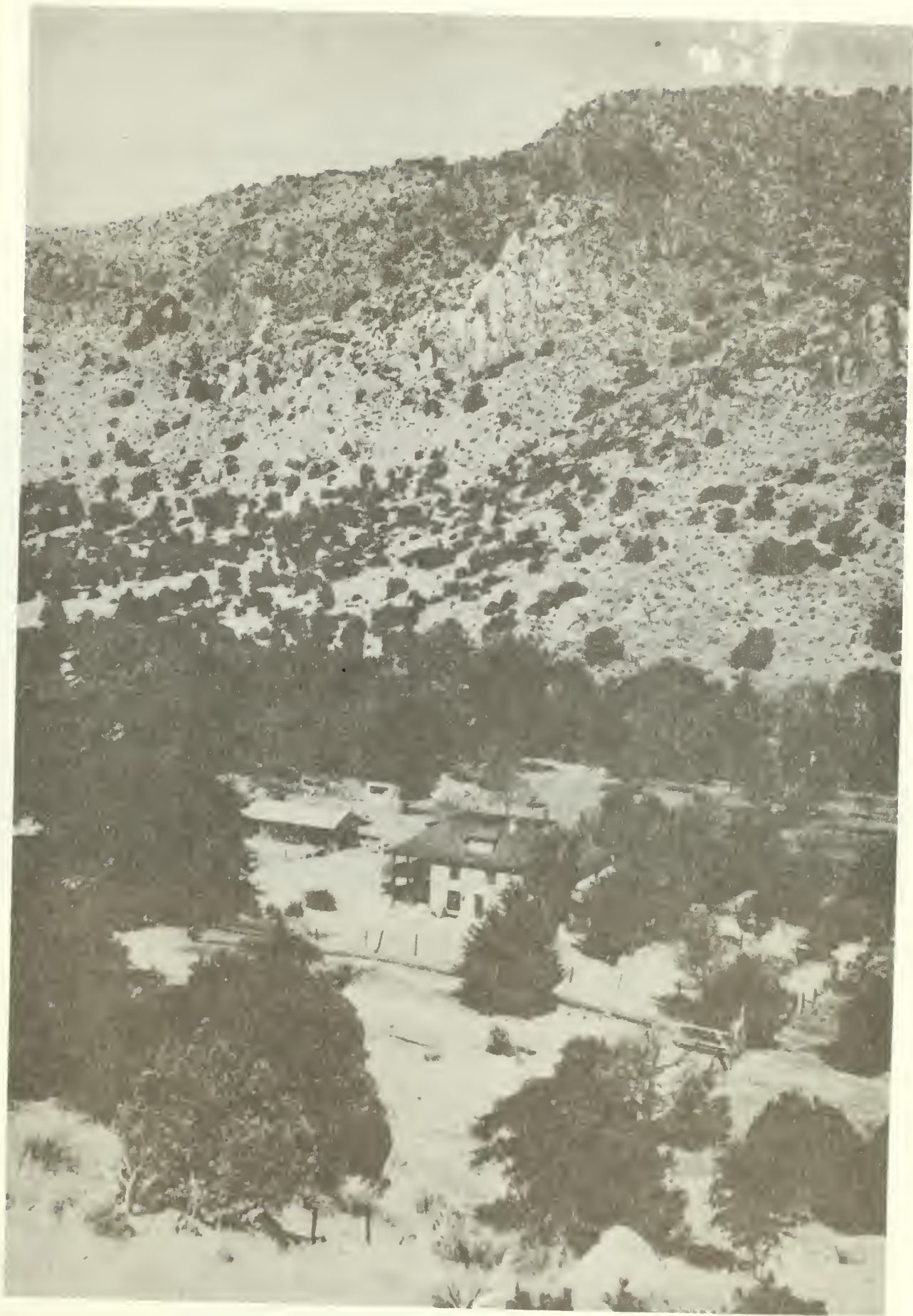


ILLUSTRATION NO. 37

Reservoir/Tank, ca. 1920s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

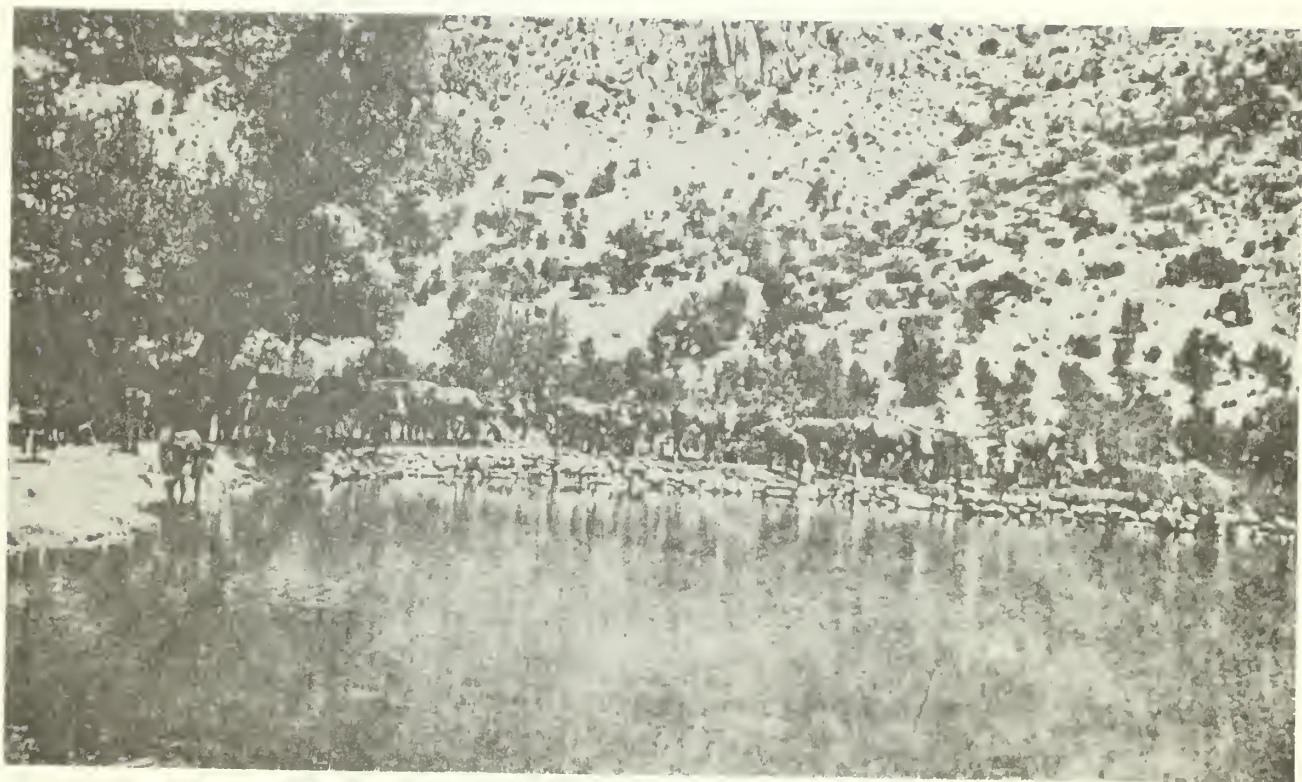


ILLUSTRATION NO. 29

Shed (before its relocation to make way for garage), ca. 1920s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 39

Circular Corral (nonextant), ca. 1920s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION No. 31

Bunkhouse (Original section, formerly third addition to Stafford Cabin, shown at its existing location, that is, near lower left hand corner), ca. 1927  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



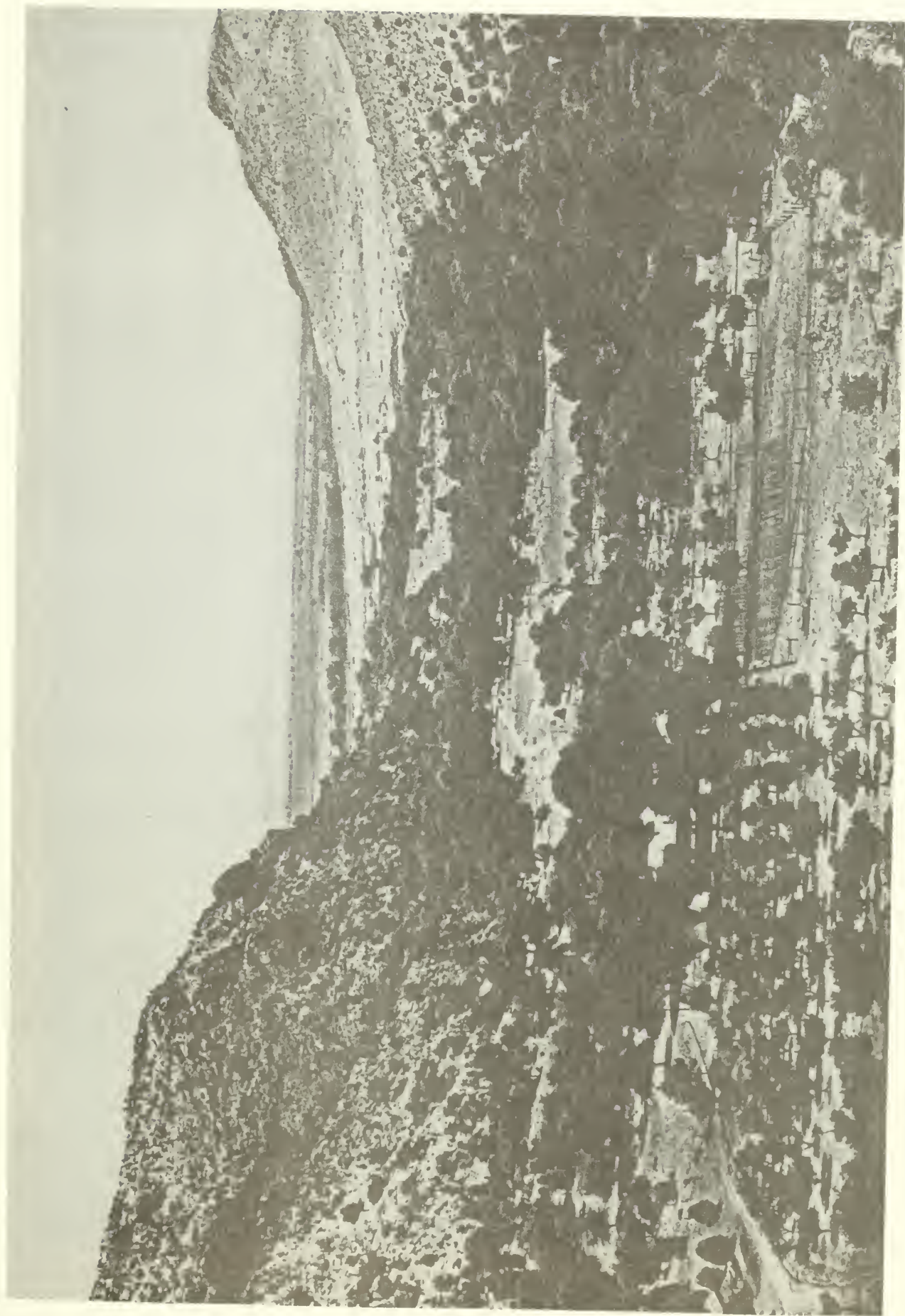




ILLUSTRATION NO. 41

Bridge over Newton's Wash, 1983

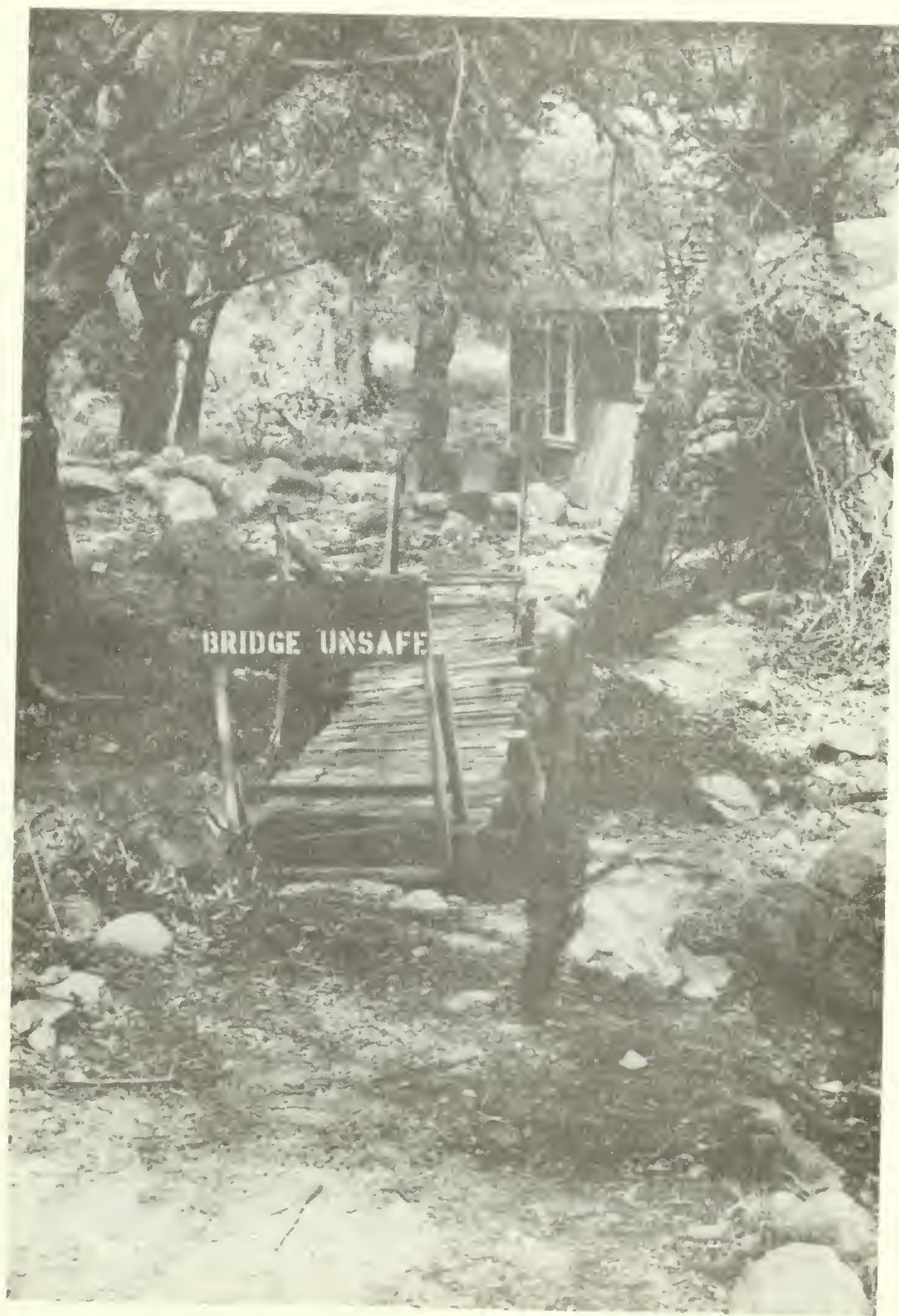


ILLUSTRATION NO. 33

Swimming Pool, ca. 1930s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

ILLUSTRATION NO. 34

Swimming Pool, ca. 1930s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 43

Water Tanks, 1983

ILLUSTRATION NO. 44

Well (outside of Main House), ca. 1930s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 36

Windmill (enlargement of Illustration No. 35), ca. 1920s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

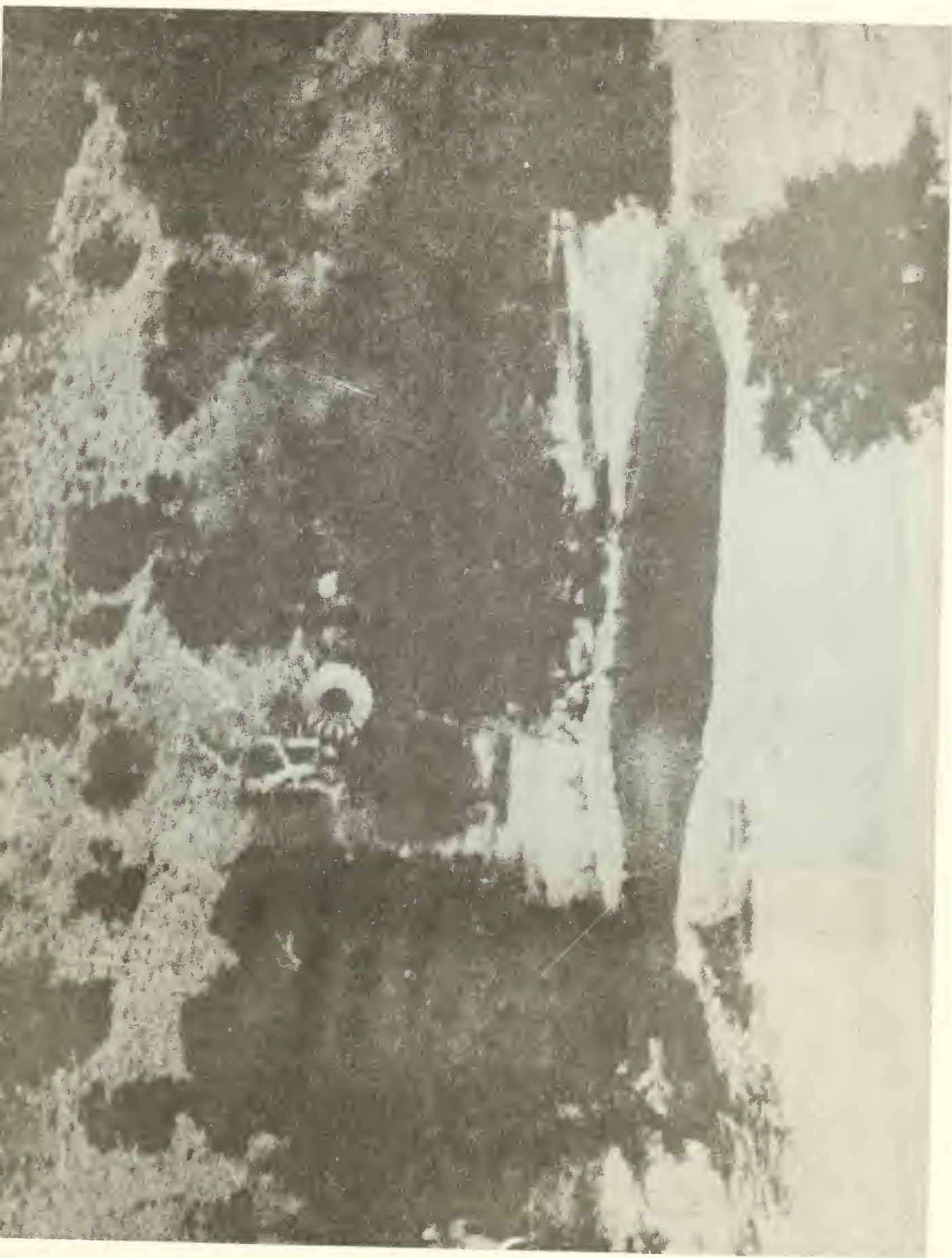


ILLUSTRATION NO. 37

Reservoir/Tank, ca. 1920s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



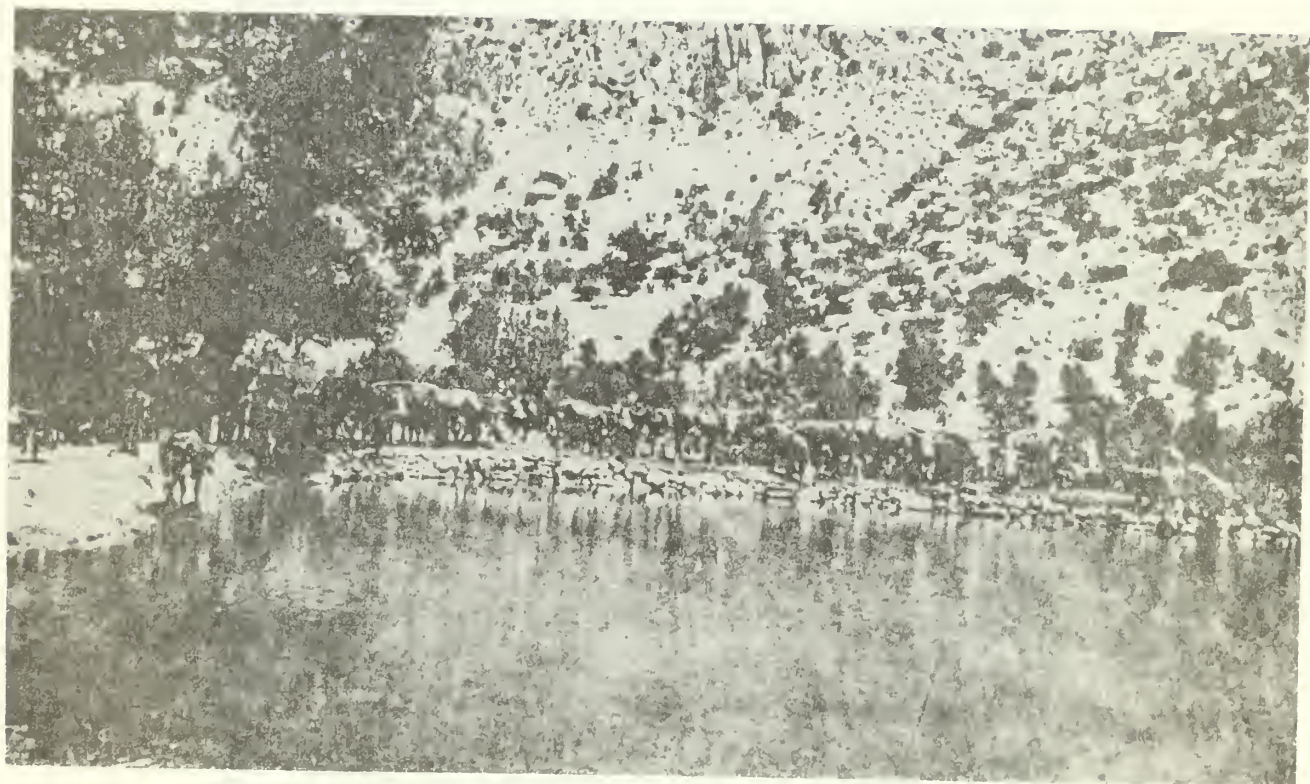




ILLUSTRATION NO. 38

Reservoir/Tank, ca. 1930s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION NO. 39

Circular Corral (nonextant), ca. 1920s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)

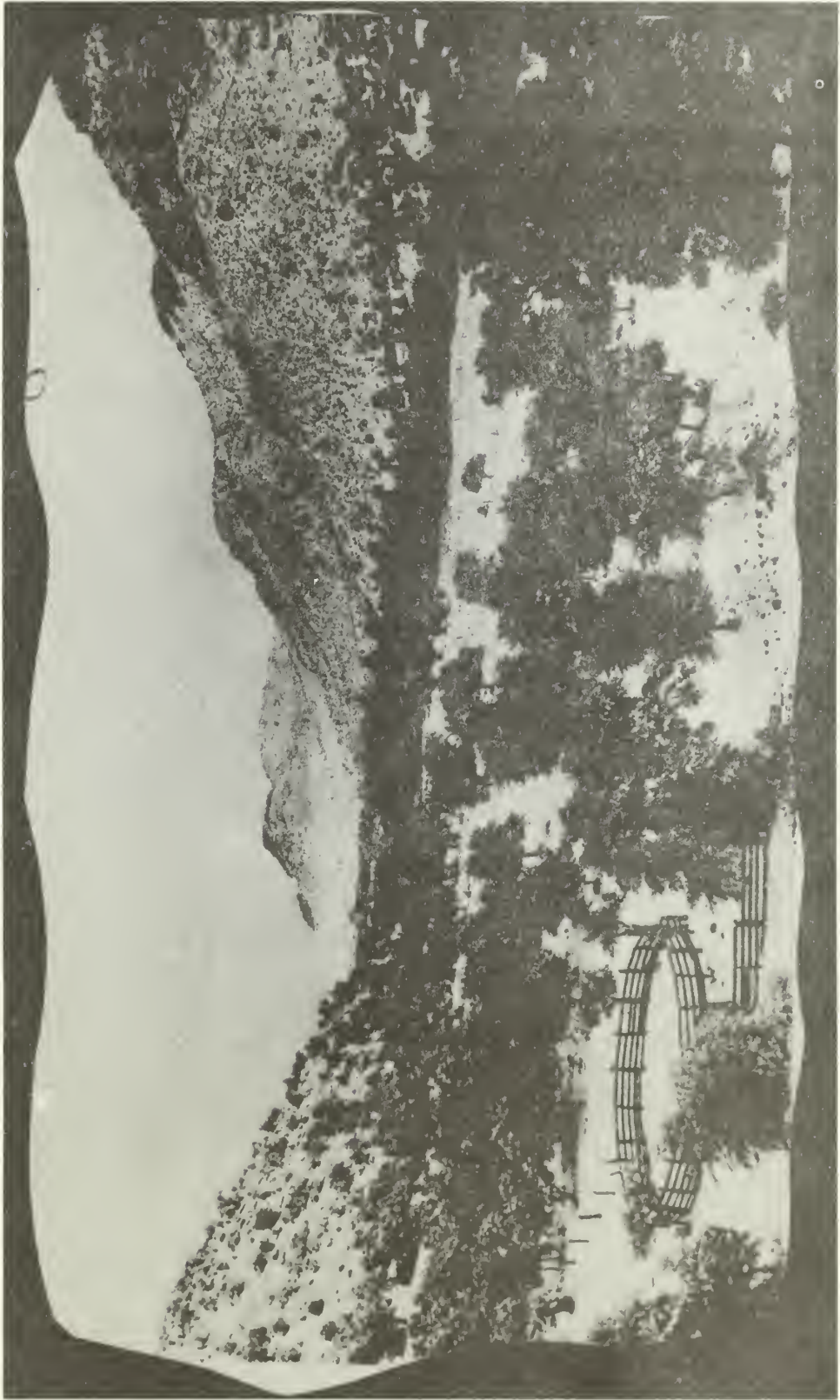


ILLUSTRATION NO. 40

Gate, low stone wall, and other barriers, ca. 1930s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 41

Bridge over Newton's Wash, 1983





ILLUSTRATION NO.- 42

Roads (main dirt road through canyon), ca. 1920s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 43

Water Tanks, 1983

ILLUSTRATION NO. 44

Well (outside of Main House), ca. 1930s  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION NO. 45

Well (in Stafford's orchard), 1983

ILLUSTRATION NO. 46

Erickson Cemetery, 1983

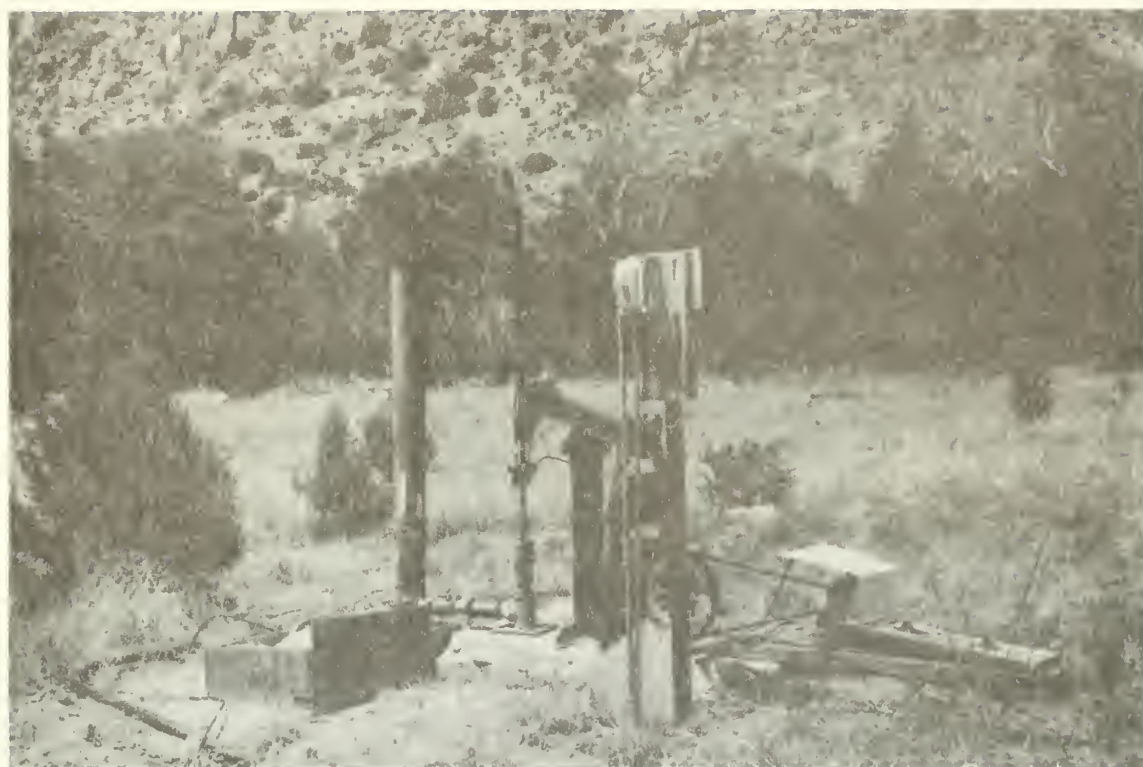


ILLUSTRATION NO. 47

Prue's burial site, ca. 1933  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 48

Stafford's Orchard (to the east of Main House)  
and other landscape, ca. 1918  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)



ILLUSTRATION NO. 49

Martha Riggs House (right of center) nonextant, ca. 1950  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





ILLUSTRATION NO. 50

Chicken House, ca. 1915  
(Erickson-Riggs Collection)





### III. ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA SECTION

Division of Internal Archeological Studies  
Western Archeological and Conservation Center  
National Park Service  
Tucson, Arizona  
1983





## A. Introduction

From May 31 to July 1, 1983, an archeological survey (CHIR 83A) was conducted by the Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) in the Faraway Ranch area of lower Bonita Canyon in Chiricahua National Monument. The survey crew was comprised of three archeologists: Field Supervisor Mark Baumler, Rick Ahlstrom, and Lisa Eppley. Don Morris, WACC, served as project director.

In conjunction with the Historic American Building Survey and related historical document research, this archeological survey was initiated to provide a foundation for the interpretation and management of cultural resources in the Faraway Ranch Historic District. Specifically, the survey sought to define the extent and nature of archeological resources in the area, inasmuch as this could be determined from surface indications. Archeological resources are understood to include both prehistoric and historic, the latter encompassing the period from the initial occupation of the canyon by Anglos in the late 19th century to the National Park Service acquisition of the area in 1978. Archeological resources are further defined to include all loci external to buildings and exclusive of the 24 "primary structures" identified in the National Register of Historic Places nomination form (Chappell 1979).

Examples of identified archeological resources range from modern rock-ringed "campers' hearths" to prehistoric sherd and lithic scatters (about A.D. 700-1400). They include remains that can be associated with the military camp at Bonita Canyon in 1885-1886, the turn-of-the-century Stafford and Erickson homesteads, as well as the operation of the Faraway Ranch throughout the 20th century.

This section provides summary data on the results of the survey. A forthcoming, complete survey report will document both the prehistoric and the historic remains in more detail.

## B. Environmental Setting

Bonita Canyon is located on the west slope of the Chiricahua Mountains in Cochise County, Arizona. Originating in Bonita Park at an

altitude of 6,300 feet, the upper reaches of this rhyolitic box canyon are narrow and steep-sided. In contrast, the floor of lower Bonita Canyon, beginning downstream at the monument campground, is relatively broad (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles across), with a well-developed floodplain (Fig. 1 at the end of this section). This part of the canyon is oriented due east/west for a distance of two miles. The altitude of the lower Bonita Canyon floor varies from 5,400 feet, in the east, to 5,160 feet at the mouth of the canyon where it opens into the north/south trending Sulphur Spring Valley. The walls of the canyon rise rather steeply on the north and more gradually on the south to heights between 5,700 and 5,900 feet. For most of its course, Bonita Creek lies near the northern edge of the valley, becoming more centrally located east of the Stafford Cabin.

The natural vegetation of the lower Bonita Canyon floodplain is difficult to reconstruct owing to the history of use of the area, including a long period of cultivation and grazing around the Stafford cabin and Faraway Ranch. An extant, riverine forest gallery of oaks, sycamores, and cypresses was probably more extensive at one time, but always interrupted by patches of open grassland meadow. The lower north-facing slopes of the canyon support an open scrub oak, juniper, and manzanita chaparral/forest. The southerly exposed slopes are less vegetated and contain a community of desert yuccas, century plants, and cacti, in addition to manzanita and isolated junipers.

A variety of animal life is native to the area, including white-tailed deer, coatis, rabbits, skunks, and a host of reptiles, small rodents, and birds.

### C. Cultural Setting

Little is known about the prehistoric groups that inhabited lower Bonita Canyon. Archeological investigations in the Sulphur Spring Valley west of Chiricahua National Monument have documented an early prehistoric occupation in the area dating back to about 8000 B.C. Small bands of these Archaic period nomadic hunters and gatherers roamed across the valley and into the canyons for thousands of years, with only minor changes until the advent of pottery-bearing cultures sometime after

A.D. 1. These ceramic-based cultures continued to hunt and gather but also were agriculturalists who lived in semipermanent pit-house villages. They are generally linked with other ceramic cultures to the north and east as the "San Simon Branch" of the Mogollon, but also show influence from groups to the south and west. Populations grew, and by about A.D. 1200, a number of medium- to large-sized puebloan villages dotted the valley. Around A.D. 1450, these villages, and the area in general, were abandoned as part of a larger demise of puebloan culture.

When southeast Arizona was opened to American homesteaders after the Gadsden Purchase from Mexico in 1853, they encountered stiff resistance from the Chiricahua Apaches, who had, by this time, made the area their homeland and stronghold. Military troops were dispatched to subdue the Apaches, and several forts were established. Included among these was Fort Bowie in Apache Pass, founded in 1862. As part of the final campaign against the Chiricahua Apaches in 1885, an ancillary military tent camp was set up in lower Bonita Canyon and maintained until Geronimo's surrender in 1886. Prior to the survey, the only known remains of this camp were the engraved stones of a field stone monument built by the soldiers as a memorial to assassinated President Garfield. This monument was later dismantled and the stones incorporated into a fireplace at Faraway Ranch.

Some years before the establishment of the military camp at Bonita Canyon, the valley had been homesteaded by J. Hughes Stafford and his child bride, Pauline. They had several children and supported themselves through the proceeds of a fruit orchard and vegetable garden. Shortly after the Apache war, Neil Erickson, an ex-cavalry sergeant, his wife, Emma, and daughter, Lillian, also settled in Bonita Canyon, west of the Stafford homestead, in the area of the former military camp.

The Erickson homestead and family grew throughout the turn of the century. When Erickson, who was a forest ranger, began to accept posts away from the homestead after 1917, the management of the family property was left to his eldest daughter, Lillian. She bought out the property of the Stafford family in 1918, making the entire lower Bonita

Canyon the property of the Ericksons. In 1923, Lillian married Ed Riggs, and together they expanded the old Erickson homestead into a prosperous cattle and guest ranch, dubbed the "Faraway Ranch." They were instrumental in the establishment of the Chiricahua National Monument in 1924.

The Faraway Ranch operated successfully against a background of changes for over 50 years, until the mid-1970s, when Lillian retired to a rest home in Willcox, where she died in April 1977. After the death of Lillian Erickson Riggs, her property and belongings were purchased by the National Park Service, with the understanding that they would be preserved and maintained for the inherent historic significance. A major portion of the property was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as the Faraway Ranch Historic District in 1979, and officially placed on the Register on August 27, 1980 (Chappell 1979).

#### D. Survey Method

The area surveyed includes most of lower Bonita Canyon, below 5,400 feet elevation, between the Stafford cabin and the new monument western boundary fence (see Fig. 1). This area (approximately 300 acres) encompasses all of the land included in the Faraway Ranch Historic District, except for the parcel between 5,400 and 5,600 feet on the northern boundary of the district. This parcel is excessively steep (more than 30° grade) and rocky and is considered to have low archeological potential, in addition to being inaccessible for controlled survey. Roughly half of the surveyed area is outside of the district boundary, to the west and south. This area contains several highly significant historic and prehistoric archeological resources that can be related to those within the district and should be reconsidered for inclusion (see below).

The survey was conducted in linear transects, with the spacing between surveyors from 10 to 15 m, as terrain permitted. All identified 19th and 20th century remains/loci were numbered consecutively as either features (F#) or isolated artifacts (IA#) within "site" CHIR 83A-1. Prehistoric sites were numbered consecutively, beginning with CHIR 83A-2, while prehistoric isolated artifacts were given individual IA



numbers (CHIR 83A-1A#). Recording consisted of a written description (emphasis on quantity, size, condition, and date, if possible), a location plot on aerial photographs and 7½ minute USGS map, and, in most cases, photographs (black-and-white prints and color slides). Some large feature areas and all foundations were mapped with compass and tape. The exact locations of collected artifacts were plotted prior to removal.

Within the Faraway Ranch and Stafford cabin areas, historic photographs were used to aid in the location and identification of structures no longer apparent. This approach enabled us to locate, with minimal subsurface testing, the foundation of the original Garfield monument (1886), despite the absence of clear surface indications. It is expected that these photographs will continue to be of assistance in future archeological research, particularly subsurface investigations.

#### E. Prehistoric Archeological Resources

Fifteen prehistoric sites and 29 prehistoric isolated artifacts were recorded in the survey area. These are described in tables 1 and 2 (all figures and tables are located at the end of this section). Figures 2 and 3 give the locations of the prehistoric loci.

Most of the recorded prehistoric isolated artifacts are single igneous flakes or small clusters of flakes and cores that probably represent tool making or tool maintenance stations occupied only briefly. They cannot be dated to any particular time period. A few sherds are associated with 1A-9, 22, and 26, but these are also nondiagnostic. 1A-8 is a medium-sized, obsidian, corner-notched projectile point that was collected. There are no obsidian outcrops within Bonita Canyon; this material must have been imported or brought in from elsewhere, probably in the form of finished bifaces. Four of the six bifacially retouched pieces observed during the survey were made of obsidian, yet no obsidian flakes or cores were found.

The remainder of the isolated artifacts recorded are ground stone objects. Two of these are boulder mortars (1A-5 and 1A-23) in situ, while the other three (1A-19, 20, and 29) have been moved in the recent



past to the Faraway Ranch area. IA-19 is a boulder mortar sitting on the front porch of the ranch house. IA-20 is a basin metate included with natural boulders as part of the path stones leading to Neil Erickson's office. IA-29 is a trough metate that has been incorporated into the stone wall surrounding the ranch house yard.

The prehistoric sites discovered in lower Bonita Canyon are mostly small, dispersed surface sherd and lithic scatters. Typically, they are located along the lower slopes on both sides of the canyon floor; only three sites were located on the floor itself. Inventories of these sites (see Table 2) generally totaled less than 200 (and often less than 100) artifacts, although an intensive surface collection might reveal more. Exceptions to this pattern are CHIR 83A-3, 8, and 13.

CHIR 83A-3 is a large linear artifact scatter located along the slope and top of the terrace bench north of Bonita Creek near the mouth of the canyon. An inventoried sample of 448 pieces of chipped stone probably represents less than 25 percent of all the flaked materials at the site. In addition to chipped stone, a total of six manos, four metates, and one bedrock mortar and pestle were also observed on the site. Only 12 sherds were discovered. This association of large quantities of ground and chipped stone at CHIR 83A-3 may indicate that this is an Archaic site with a small, and more recent, ceramic component.

CHIR 83A-8 is also located on the bench above and north of Bonita Creek. It is a small site in area but contains a relatively larger number and variety of artifacts than most of the other sites. Forty-two cores and tested cobbles were counted on the site, in addition to four hammerstones, suggesting that flint-knapping was a major activity.

CHIR 83A-13 is unlike any of the other sites. It is a lithic quarry situated along the north-facing slope of the saddle between two rocky outcrops south of the Stafford orchard. A drainage has exposed deposits of fine- to medium-grained igneous rock that has been worked intensively. Numerous cores, primary flakes, and secondary flakes were observed. Similar raw material makes up more than 90 percent of the

chipped stone at all the sites in the area. It is likely that this quarry and igneous cobbles in the Bonita Creek bed were the major sources of lithic raw material in prehistoric times.

The very limited quantity of decorated sherds observed on the sites makes precise dating difficult, if not impossible. Brownware and redware ceramics first appear in this area sometime after A.D. 200, but continue to be manufactured throughout the occupation of the area by pottery making cultures. Decorated ceramics do not become popular until around A.D. 700 or 800. In general terms, the decorated ceramics from the lower Bonita Canyon sites fall into two time blocks. The earlier period is characterized by red-on-brown pottery types (CHIR 83A-6, 7, 8, 9, and 10) and probably dates between A.D. 700 and A.D. 1100. A single Mimbres Black-on-white sherd found at CHIR 83A-3 would also fit into this time period. The second time block is characterized by polychrome types (CHIR 83A-9 and 15) that become popular in the area between A.D. 1200 and A.D. 1450. A late incised ware sherd from CHIR 83A-10 probably belongs to this time period.

No archeological loci attributable to Chiricahua Apache use of lower Bonita Canyon were encountered in the survey. It is probable that the presence of the Apache was either too ephemeral to be recorded in the archeological record or was restricted to elevations and terrain outside the survey area.

#### F. Historic and 20th Century Archeological Resources

A total of 101 historic and 20th century features and 67 isolated artifacts were recorded within the survey area. These loci are described in summary fashion in tables 3 and 4. Their location is given in figures 4, 5, and 6.

The isolated historic and 20th century artifacts recorded by the survey consist of farm/ranch equipment, glass bottles, tin cans, cartridge cases, and other items of variable age and significance. Features include rock alignments, stone foundations, borrow pits, trash dumps and scatters, ash pits, hearths, glass and metal scatters, work areas, and rock piles.

Within the Faraway Ranch area proper, 34 isolated artifacts and 33 features were identified and recorded (Fig. 6, Inset A). Particularly noteworthy from a structural standpoint, is F53, a single-course, roughly square (9 feet by 7½ feet) alignment of small rhyolite boulders, probably representing the outline of a former building foundation. Also, likely remains of an outbuilding are burned boards with nails at F62. Historic photographs appear to show probable privies near F98 and F60. While there are no definitive surface indications of these, subsurface testing might reveal their location.

The immediate Stafford cabin area contains 10 recorded isolated artifacts and 12 features (Fig. 6, Inset B). Surface indications, coupled with historic photographs, indicate that F76, F82, and F84 may represent the location of former outbuildings. Within F84, a .45-70 Government center-fire cartridge case, with a March 1878 headstamp, was collected. Feature 81, a large rock alignment with at least one corner, is interpreted as a foundation of a former animal enclosure fence. Feature 80 is a possible grave site, although this is not certain.

Also of particular interest are a series of features located to the south and west of Faraway Ranch. These features (F25, F28, F31, F90, F95, and possibly components of F91 and F92) are thought to reflect, in whole or in part, the presence of the 1885-1886 military camp at Bonita Canyon. Feature 25 (actually a "feature area") is perhaps the most significant of these, in that it encompasses an area containing not only late 19th century bottle glass and hole-in-top can fragments, but also the remains of several stone constructions. Included are a rock wall, two rock alignments, a hearth, a possible forge or oven platform, and the remnant foundation of the Garfield monument.

In addition to F25, a single-course, stone wall foundation, with associated late 19th century artifacts, was recorded at F91, but this may relate to the early Erickson homestead. Feature 90 is a well constructed lookout post, situated at the top of the rocky outcrop south of the Faraway Ranch house. While not datable on its own, its location and construction is entirely consistent with the military camp.

The reason for attributing the above features to the 1885-1886 military camp at Bonita Canyon is based both on the age and on the type of the associated artifacts. Collected artifacts include an early style (1854-1884) general service, military coat button (F25), a .56-52 Spencer rimfire cartridge case (F25), a military trouser buckle (F25), a complete brown glass beer bottle manufactured by Wisconsin Glass Co., Milwaukee, 1881-1885 (F28), an embossed tin beer bottle cap (F28), and a brass tent rope slip, size No. 1 (F92). This assemblage, in conjunction with other observed glass, metal, and hole-in-top tin can fragments, can be compared most closely to the Fort Bowie military material culture collection (Herskovitz 1978). The absence of household domestic items (for example, ceramics, tools, other glassware, etc.) is noteworthy.

Finally, special attention should be brought to the Faraway Ranch trash dumps recorded in the survey area. While two major trash dumps occur (F20 and F89), many smaller trash dumps, piles, burns, pits, and scatters were also noted (see Table 2). On the surface, most of these appear to date to the mid- or late 20th century. Nonetheless, earlier trash is likely to be buried beneath at least some of these recorded features, and a small amount of early 20th century material was noted in F20. The absence of late 19th century trash dumps that can be attributed to the early Stafford or Erickson homesteads may be partly due to the common practice of disposal in privy holes, now buried.

A wealth of potential information regarding 20th century ranch life at Faraway is available in the form of these dumps. Preliminary observations suggest that inter- and intradump variation exists, both chronologically and functionally.

#### G. Recommendations

The CHIR 83A archeological survey succeeded in identifying and recording a total of 212 archeological loci in the lower Bonita Canyon. While of variable size and significance, many of these loci will require careful management planning.

Recommendations for the treatment of archeological resources in the lower Bonita Canyon are as follows:

1. Development of an Archeological Resource Management Plan for Lower Bonita Canyon. A concerted effort is needed to develop a resource management program specifically designed for archeological resources in the lower Bonita Canyon. As this area does, and will continue to, experience the most intensive use in the monument and also contains a unique set of archeological resources, it warrants special and specific attention. All concerned parties, including archeologists, historians, and the Chiricahua National Monument staff should be involved in the management plan for these resources. It can be developed as a separate document or as a major part of a revised version of the existing Cultural Resource Management Plan (NPS 1974).

The development of this framework for interpreting and managing both the prehistoric and historic/20th century archeological resources in lower Bonita Canyon, should precede any further collection and/or excavation of these remains. The course of future archeological research in the area can only be determined within the guidelines of such a management plan. In this regard, the remaining recommendations are subject to revision upon determination of the principle objectives and procedures outlined in an Archeological Resource Management Plan for lower Bonita Canyon.

2. Continued Archeological Survey in Lower Bonita Canyon. It is recommended that the archeological survey of lower Bonita Canyon be completed to include all territory between the monument entrance (mouth of Bonita Canyon) and the monument headquarters/campground area (beginning of lower Bonita Canyon) below 5,400 feet or 5,600 feet as terrain permits. The CHIR 83A survey covered approximately the western half of this area, creating an arbitrary eastern survey boundary. It is doubtful that either prehistoric or historic/20th century occupants of the lower Bonita Canyon observed such an artificial boundary. Historic documents, in fact, suggest otherwise. The Silver Spur Meadow area, for example, is known to have been intimately tied to activities of both the Stafford and Erickson/Riggs homesteads.



Complete survey of the canyon's naturally bounded area will facilitate better understanding of all periods of occupation, in addition to providing more complete data for management purposes.

3. Nomination of Prehistoric Archeological Resources to the National Register of Historic Places. The prehistoric archeological sites of lower Bonita Canyon constitute a valuable cultural resource. Prehistoric archeological research in this part of southeast Arizona has lagged behind other regions, and, consequently, little is known about the area. The research that has been done is restricted to a few sites in the major valley systems bordering the Chiricahua Mountains, particularly the Sulphur Spring Valley and San Simon Valley. Side canyons, such as Bonita Canyon, are virtually unexplored.

Prehistoric sites recorded in the present survey are small, but probably typical of use of such areas. Several different periods of occupation are represented in addition to several kinds of sites. This chronological range and functional variability impart a significance to the sites which exceeds the value of the individual site. The sites, therefore, should be nominated (along with other sites potentially located in the eastern half of lower Bonita Canyon) as a district. This nomination could be included as part of the current Faraway Ranch Historic District or overlap this district as a separate prehistoric district.

4. Expansion of the Faraway Ranch Historic District Boundaries. Of immediate concern is the inclusion of identified components of the 1885-1886 military camp at Bonita Canyon into the area of the Faraway Ranch Historic District. At present, the existing southern boundary of the district excludes major loci of this camp, including features 25, 28, and 95. It is recommended that the southern boundary be extended upslope on Erickson Ridge to an elevation of 5,400 feet or 5,600 feet to correspond with the northern boundary, and to provide a more natural enclosure for the archeological resources.

The current arbitrary western boundary of the Faraway Ranch Historic District also excludes major archeological loci in the Faraway

Meadow area and the mouth of Bonita Canyon. In particular, the western boundary appears to exclude a major portion of F20, an early to late 20th century large trash dump attributable to Faraway Ranch activities. Several other trash scatters and dumps along Bonita Creek are also excluded. Several prehistoric sites are also located outside of the present western boundary, including the largest and possibly the earliest known site in the canyon, CHIR 83A-3.

Ultimately, the determination of the appropriate boundaries for the Faraway Ranch Historic District will rely upon the manner in which prehistoric resources are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (see Recommendation 3). Continued survey in the remainder of lower Bonita Canyon will also affect the determination of a meaningful eastern boundary.

5. In Situ Preservation of Archeological Resources. The most satisfactory manner in which to comply with National Park Service policy and preservation laws for the management of archeological resources is protection by means of avoidance of impact. In situ preservation, therefore, is the priority recommendation for management of the identified archeological resources. In many cases, much information can be gleaned from the archeological record through nondestructive recording procedures and archival research. These techniques are consistent with a policy of in situ preservation and are recommended if more data are required from the archeological resources in the lower Bonita Canyon.

6. Mitigation of Direct Adverse Impacts to Archeological Resources. Although avoidance of impact is the best policy, it is anticipated that some development will take place in areas containing archeological resources. It is also expected that interpretive themes may lead to the desire to investigate archeological resources in a "destructive" manner, such as subsurface testing and excavation. In either case, a plan for mitigation of adverse impacts will be required.

A mitigation plan should be framed within the guidelines of the overall Archeological Management Plan for the lower Bonita Canyon (see

Recommendation 1). The particular procedures necessitated will also depend, in part, upon the nature of the adverse impact and the specific archeological resources affected. Some resources, such as the modern hearths identified near the mouth of Bonita Canyon, will, undoubtedly, require little or no mitigation of impact because they have already been adequately recorded. Other resources, such as some isolated artifacts, can be collected, with appropriate documentation and curation, if it is necessary in order to avert unavoidable impacts. However, many of the historic/20th century features, and all of the prehistoric sites, will require a much more extensive mitigation plan, frequently involving subsurface investigations, inventorying, and subsequent data analysis.

The determination of the appropriate procedures for dealing with adverse impacts to archeological resources should be made during the development planning stages. Mitigation plans may be subject to comment and/or approval by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

7. Mitigation of Indirect Adverse Impacts to Archeological Resources. More subtle and difficult to document are indirect adverse impacts that will undoubtedly occur as development and visitor use intensify in the Faraway Ranch area. Many of the archeological resources are highly visible and subject to destruction or loss. Other resources are very fragile and will suffer significantly by increased activity in surrounding areas.

An example of indirect impact is the disappearance of an anvil that is known to have been associated with the work area identified as F37 in the Faraway Ranch. Similar disturbances and disappearances at this and other stockpile/work area features can be expected if this area is opened to self-guided tours.

A more dramatic possibility is the destruction through unauthorized collection of the limited remains of the 1885-1886 military camp. Late 19th century material culture in the Southwest is particularly coveted by amateur collectors and, therefore, inherently endangered by proximity to

development areas. It is recommended that major feature areas of the military camp be excavated, analyzed, and curated for their interpretive value and protection. Otherwise, steps will have to be taken to ensure that these resources are fully protected in situ from indirect, as well as direct, adverse impacts.

Careful consideration of indirect adverse impacts to all archeological loci will be needed in the planning of development projects and visitor use patterns.

8. Stabilization of Historic/20th Century Archeological Resources. A number of historic and 20th century isolated artifacts and features are rapidly deteriorating through the rusting of metal parts and rotting of wood. While these natural processes cannot be avoided in most cases (that is, in trash dumps), an assessment of the need to reconstruct, stabilize, and/or maintain other archeological resources is required. Examples range from a dilapidated farm wagon (IA-22) and rusting disc harrow (IA-20) to stockpiles of pipes and equipment/hardware (for example, F36).

In general, "cleanup" activities are not recommended. However, a systematic program addressing stabilization is recommended within the overall framework of an Archeological Resource Management Plan for Lower Bonita Canyon.

9. Monitoring of Ground Disturbance Projects. Although no surface indications of archeological resources were visible in some areas, all future subsurface excavating should be monitored by a professional archeologist. This is particularly true in areas around the Faraway Ranch and Stafford cabin. Repeated use of these areas has obscured the surface record and, undoubtedly, led to the formation of buried deposits.

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## FIGURES

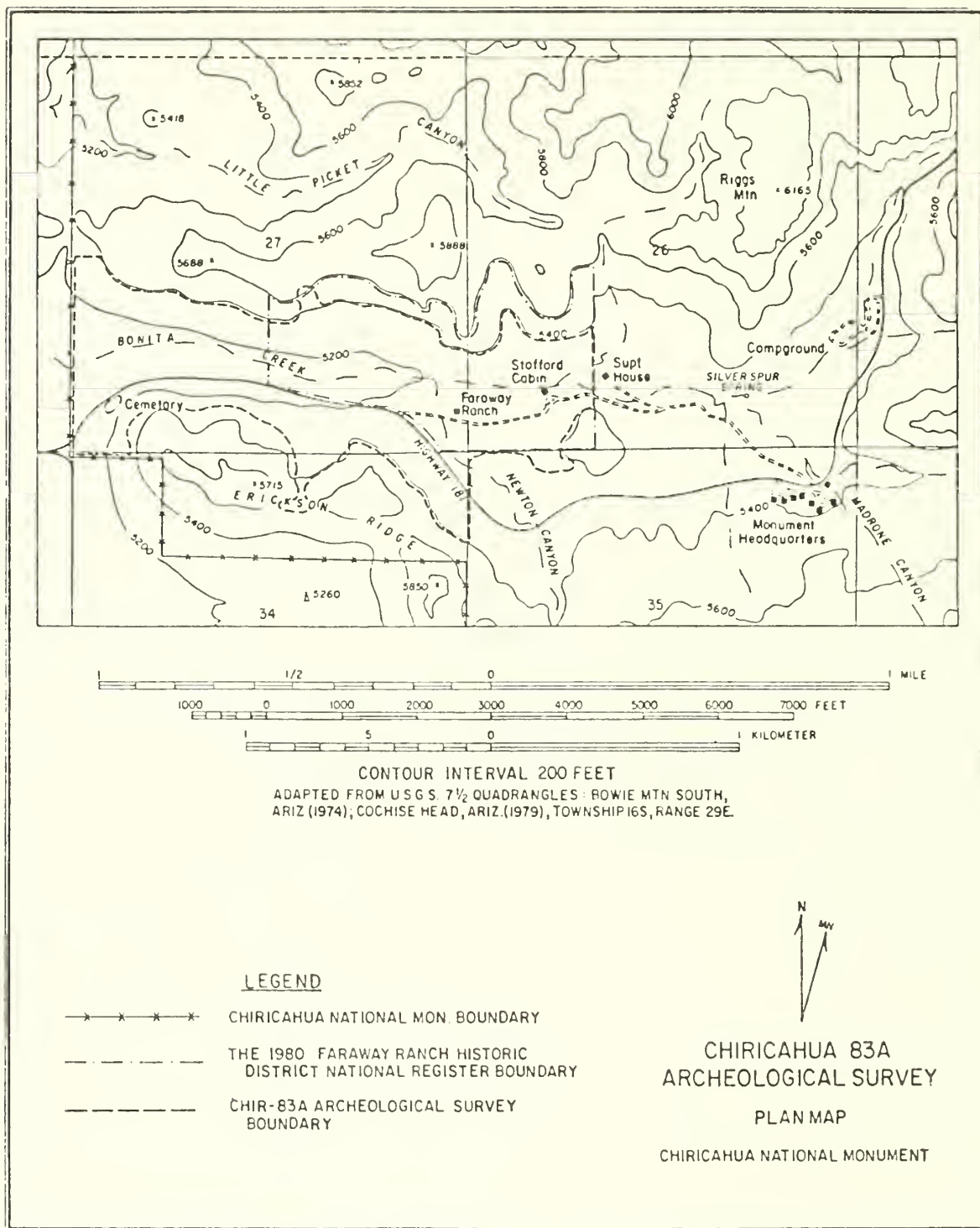


Figure 1. Map of Study Area.

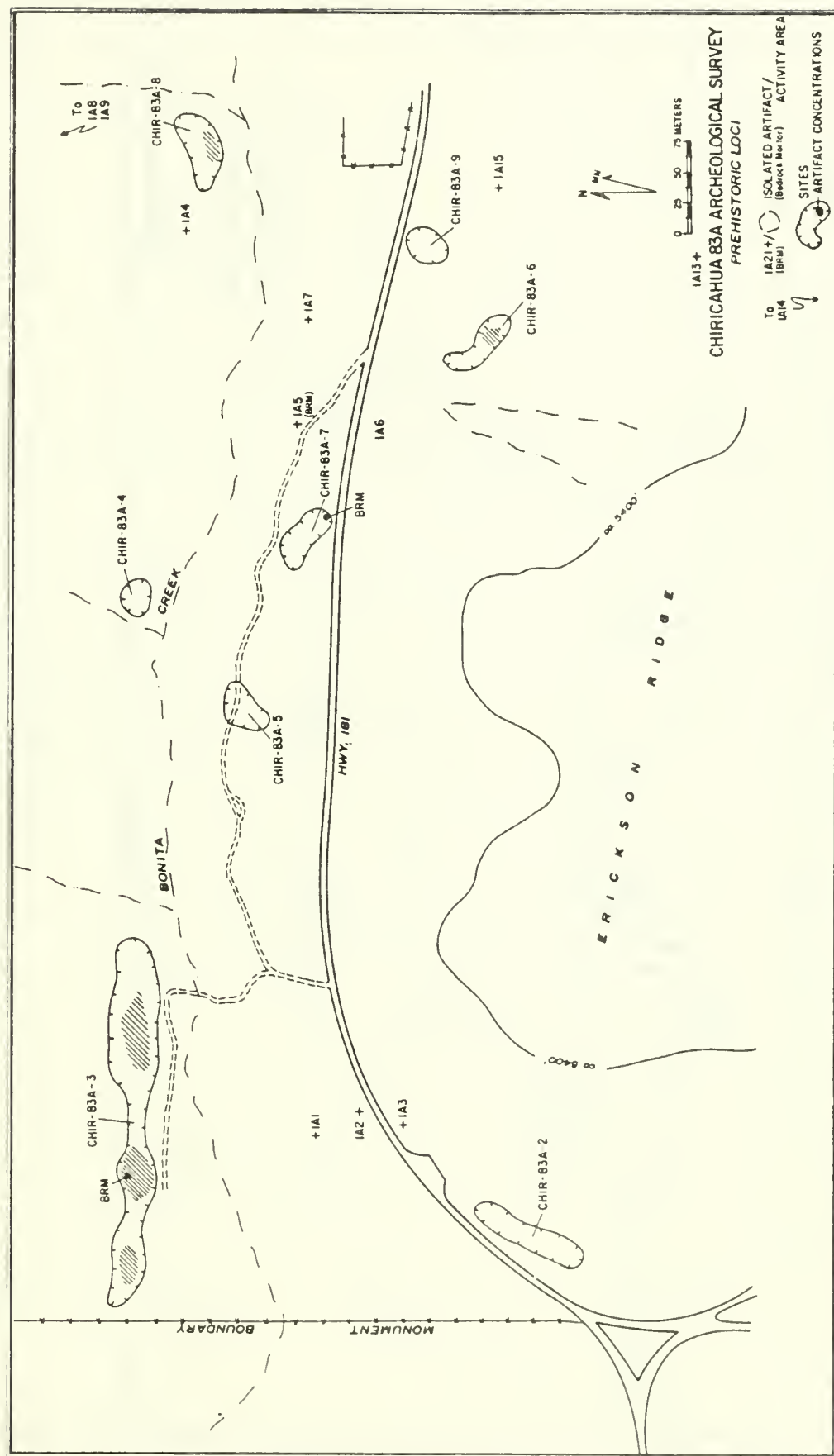
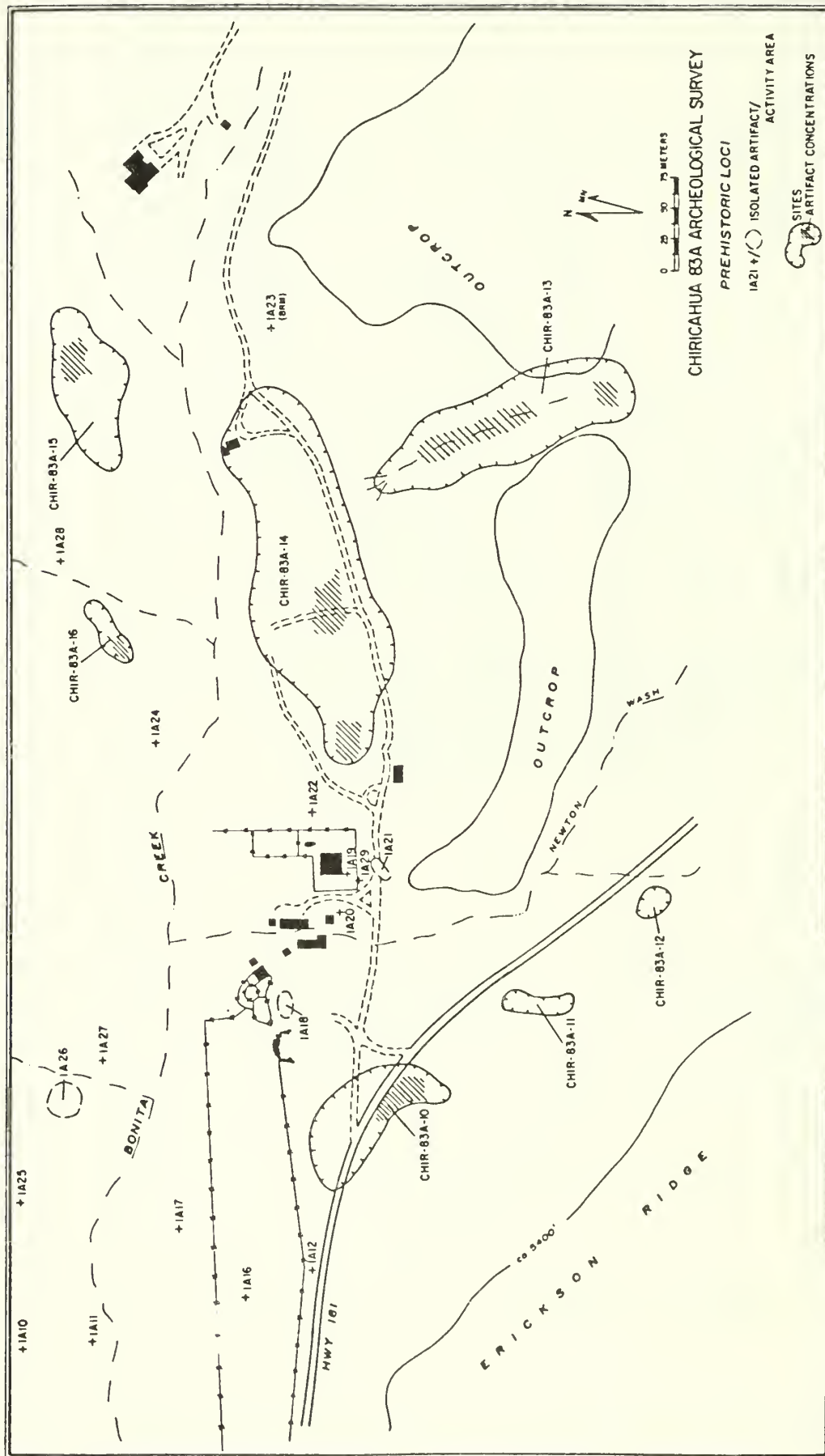


Figure 2. West Half of Survey Area: Prehistoric Loci.





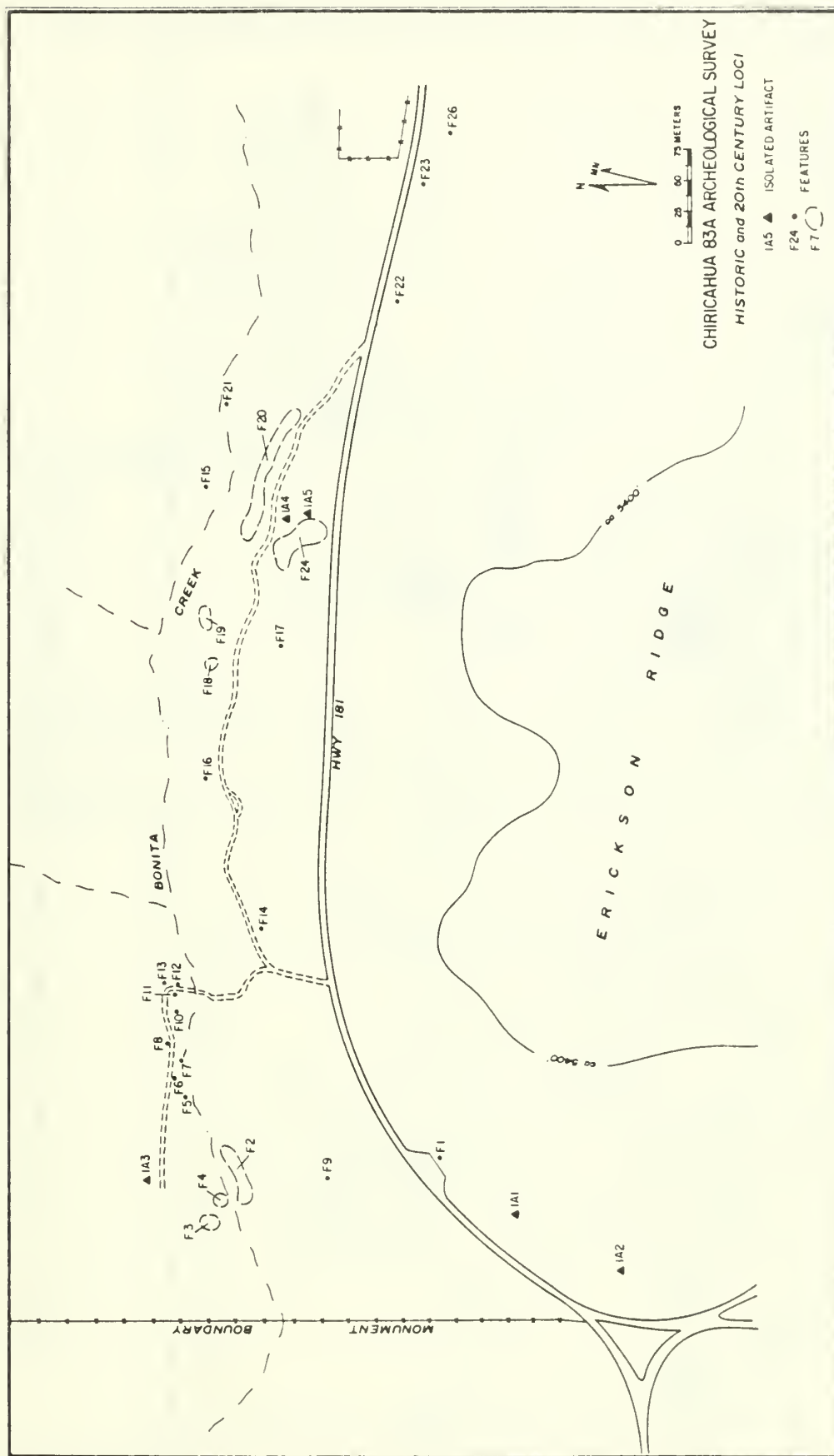


Figure 4. West Half of Survey Area: Historic and 20th Century Loci.

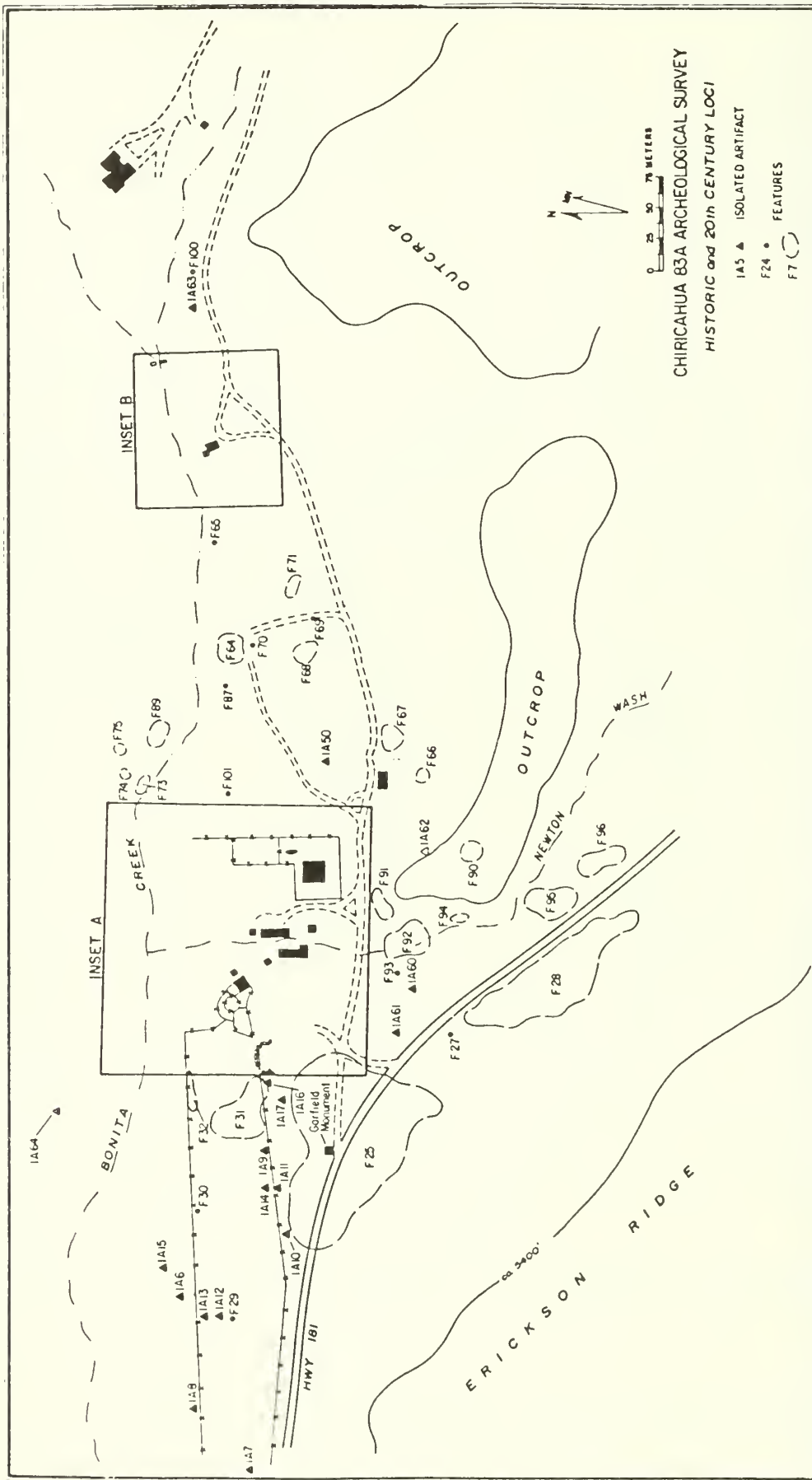
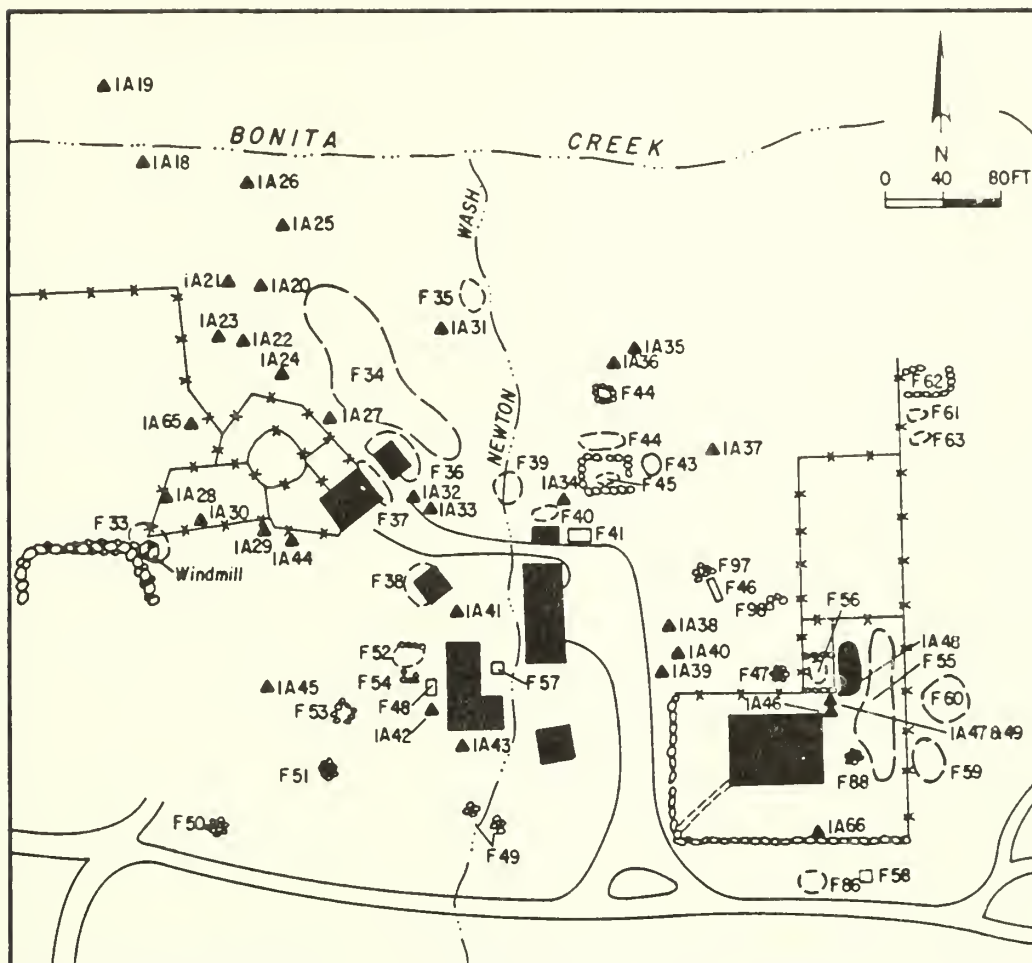
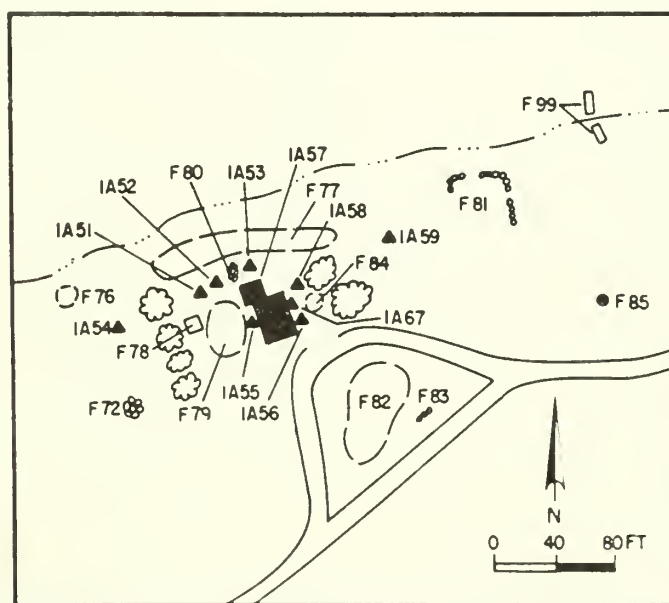


Figure 5. East Half of Survey Area: Historic and 20th Century Loci.



INSET A



INSET B

Figure 6. Inset A: Faraway Ranch Area.  
Inset B: Stafford Cabin Area.



## TABLES



Table 1  
PREHISTORIC LOCI: ISOLATED ARTIFACTS/ACTIVITY AREAS

CHIR 83A:IA\_\_

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
1 Mouth of Bonita Canyon, floodplain	Small rock ring	65 cm diameter; no charcoal present but probably historic/modern hearth
2 Mouth of Bonita Canyon, floodplain	Igneous secondary flake	
3 Mouth of Bonita Canyon, floodplain	2 igneous primary flakes	1 w/intermittent retouch
4 Slope N of Bonita Creek above Faraway west pasture	4 igneous secondary flakes; 2 igneous cores	
5 Faraway Meadow	Small boulder with shallow mortar hole	Located at east end of large trash dump (CHIR 83A-1:F20)
6 Faraway Meadow	Very light lithic scatter (n=10)	Crosscut by Hwy. 181; heavily disturbed
7 Between Faraway Meadow and west pasture	5 unretouched flakes	
8 Ridge slope north of Faraway west pasture	1 obsidian corner-notched projectile point; 1 igneous secondary flake	Projectile point collected. Probably Late Archaic.
9 Ridge slope north of Faraway west pasture	2 brownware sherds; 2 igneous primary flakes; 1 igneous retouched flake	20-50 m below small cave
10 Ridge slope north of Faraway west pasture	Unifacial cobble chopper	
11 Floodplain north of Bonita Creek opposite Faraway west pasture	2 igneous secondary flakes	
12 Faraway west pasture	2 igneous secondary flakes	In Hwy. 181 roadbed

Table 1 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
13	Ridge slope south of Faraway west pasture	2 igneous cores	
14	Saddle between two peaks of Erickson ridge	1 chert retouched flake	
15	Faraway west pasture, south slope	1 igneous secondary flake	
16	Faraway west pasture	2 igneous secondary flakes; 1 igneous primary flake	
17	Faraway west pasture	1 igneous core tool	
18	Faraway Ranch area	5 igneous flakes; 2 igneous cores; 1 quartz flake	Heavily disturbed area
19	Faraway Ranch area	Boulder mortar	Not in situ; on front porch
20	Faraway Ranch area	Basin metate	Not in situ; part of path border stones
21	Faraway Ranch area	1 chert core; 4 igneous secondary flakes; 1 igneous shatter; 1 igneous retouched flake	Heavily disturbed area cut by Faraway dirt road
22	Stafford orchard	1 black-on-red sherd; 2 brownware sherds	Possibly part of site CHIR 83A-14
23	West of Stafford orchard	Large boulder w/2 mortar cups	In situ
24	North side of Bonita Creek opposite orchard	3 primary and 3 secondary igneous flakes	Heavily disturbed area
25	Ridge slope north of Faraway west pasture	1 igneous core tool	
26	Ridge slope north of Faraway west pasture	Very light lithic scatter (n=10); 1 brownware sherd	Overlaps locus CHIR 83A-1:F64

Table 1 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENT
27	Ridge slope north of Faraway Ranch area	1 igneous secondary flake	
28	Ridge slope north of Stafford orchard	2 igneous cores	
29	Faraway Ranch area	Trough metate	Not in situ; built into wall around ranch house

Table 2  
PREHISTORIC LOCI: SITE INVENTORIES

CHIR 83A-

LOCATION	CHIPPED STONE			GROUND STONE			CERAMICS			COMMENTS	
	COR	DEB	RET	M	MT	BRM	P	BrW	RdW		DECORATED
2 Mouth of Bonita Canyon, south slope	5	87	10					5	2		
3 Mouth of Bonita Canyon, north slope	48	367	33	6	4	1	1	10	1	1 Mimbres B/W	Collected: 1 obsidian projectile point base; 1 Mimbres B/W sherd
4 North slope above Faraway Meadow	2	39	3					11			
5 Faraway Meadow flood-plain		16						3			
6 South slope above Faraway Meadow	4	41	3					3		1 unidentified R/W; 1 Encinas R/Br	Collected: 1 obsidian drill base; 1 Encinas R/Br sherd
7 Faraway Meadow, flood-plain	1	15				1		2		1 Encinas R/Br	Collected: 1 Encinas R/Br sherd

Table 2 (continued)

LOCATION	CHIPPED STONE			GROUND STONE			CERAMICS			COMMENTS	
	COR	DEB	RET	M	MT	BRM	P	BrW	RdW		DECORATED
8 North slope west of Faraway west pasture	46	225	12	1	1			37		1 unidentified R/Br; 1 obliterated corrugated	Also 1 polishing pebble
9 South slope west of Faraway west pasture	7	108	4		1			15		2 unidentified R/Br; 3 Gila polychrome	Possible structure foundation
10 South slope above Faraway west pasture	5	56	1					32	1	1 unidentified R/Br; 1 incised BrW	Collected: 1 incised BrW sherd
11 South slope south of Faraway Ranch and Hwy. 181	2	41	2					6			
12 South slope south of Faraway Ranch and Hwy. 181	4	31	2	1				3			Collected: 1 obsidian biface fragment
13 Along drainage between rocky outcrops south of Stafford orchard	x	x	?								Lithic quarry. No inventory.
14 Stafford orchard	13	121	11	2				31			
15 North slope between Stafford cabin and Superintendent's house	x	x	x					x	x	1 Ramos polychrome	No quantitative inventory. Collected: 1 Ramos polychrome



Table 2 (continued)

LOCATION	CHIPPED STONE				GROUND STONE				CERAMICS				COMMENTS
	COR	DEB	RET	M	MT	BRM	P	BrW	RdW	DECORATED			
1b South slope above Staf-ford orchard	x	x	x					x					No quantitative inventory

KEY:

x = present

CHIPPED STONE: COR = Core or Tested Cobble  
 DEB = Debitage (Primary Flakes, Secondary Flakes, Shatter)  
 RET = Retouched Piece

GROUND STONE: M = Mano  
 MT = Metate  
 BRM = Boulder or Bedrock Mortar  
 P = Pestle

CERAMICS: BrW = Brownware  
 RdW = Redware  
 Rd/W = Red-on-white  
 R/Br = Red-on-brown  
 B/W = Black-on-white

Table 3  
Historic and 20th Century Loci: Isolated Artifacts

CHIR 83A-1:IA

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
1	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, south slope	Broken clear glass bottle: 10 fragments; probably liquor	Manufacturer: Owens Illinois Glass Co. 1929-1954
2	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, south slope	Galvanized metal water trough, in situ; 15'6" x 1'3"	Possibly part of Ethel Erickson's ranch
3	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, north slope	Broken dark blue glass cup: ca. 25 fragments	Hand-blown Mexican glass; part of Faraway Ranch glassware set
4	Faraway Meadow	Small, unknown desiccated rubber(?) object	Collected for analysis
5	Faraway Meadow	.45-55 caliber cartridge case, center fire, internally primed	Dated headstamp: 1878. Collected
6	Faraway West Pasture	Rusted and crushed hole-in-top tin can	Height 4-11/16"; diameter 4-5/16"; probably 1880-1910
7	Faraway West Pasture	Glass telephone wire insulator, aquamarine	Embossed: "PATENTED MAY 2, 1893/HEMINGRAY No. 9"
8	Faraway West Pasture	Soldered seam tin can; poss. hole-in-top	Probably 1880-1910
9	Faraway West Pasture	Hole-in-top tin can	Probably 1880-1910; may be associated with F25
10	Faraway West Pasture	Bent metal pipe w/"O" ring at one end	Length = 21'6"; diameter = 1"
11	Faraway West Pasture	Glass telephone wire insulator fragments, aquamarine	Embossed: "---TED" "--1903"

Table 3 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
12	Faraway West Pasture	Animal steel spring leg trap	Victor Brand, Oneida Community (Limited), Size No. 1(?)
13	Faraway West Pasture	Horseshoe	Height 5-3/4"; maximum width 5 1/4"
14	Faraway West Pasture	Horseshoe	Height 5 1/4"; maximum width 4-5/8"
15	Faraway West Pasture	Olive green glass bottle base fragment, embossed "BR--"	Probable manufacturer: H. Heye, Bremen and Hamburg; ca. 1880-1936
16	Faraway West Pasture	Metal tool, probably posthole auger	
17	Faraway West Pasture	Rifle cartridge case, center fire	Headstamp: Winchester Repeating Arms Co.; unknown caliber
18	Faraway Ranch Area	2 3"-diameter metal pipes, semiburied	Wire nails hammered into pipe; possibly used in fencing
19	Faraway Ranch Area	Small 7-can scatter	Includes 3 pre-1932 condensed milk cans
20	Faraway Ranch Area	Riding disc harrow/plow	Double lever, 12 16" discs
21	Faraway Ranch Area	Concrete slab reinforced w/pipe and rebar	3'7" x 3'9" x 5"; probably not in situ
22	Faraway Ranch Area	Flatbed farm wagon	Collapsed and decayed
23	Faraway Ranch Area	Unknown lapped sheet metal nailed on wood frame construction	Possibly part of former structure, not in situ
24	Faraway Ranch Area	Small pipe stock pile	3 1/2"-diameter pipes, variable length, laid on sawed timber rests

Table 3 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
25	Faraway Ranch Area	Stove top	Probably wood/coal burning
26	Faraway Ranch Area	Galvanized metal water heater	Height 4'; diameter 1'
27	Faraway Ranch Area	Small 3-can scatter	Includes homemade feedbucket
28	Faraway Ranch Area	Metal pipe set in round, 9" thick, concrete pedestal	11' tall; flat cross-bar at top w/2 drill holes
29	Faraway Ranch Area	Galvanized metal animal trough 5' long, 8" wide, 5" deep.	Not in situ. Embossed "BROWER"
30	Faraway Ranch Area	Metal pipe	2 sections joined by collar. Total length = 26'3"
31	Faraway Ranch Area	Round point shovel blade and pump(?) handle	
32	Faraway Ranch Area	5 cut-out tire walls and sections of 1-½" diameter rubber hoses	Rubber stockpile?
33	Faraway Ranch Area	Heavy wood frame construction consisting of 9' timbers joined by metal and wooden rungs	Possibly framing for building or a drag sled
34	Faraway Ranch Area	Bottle bin	Contains fragments of glass dating back to ca. 1920 or earlier
35	Faraway Ranch Area	Arched, wooden slats	Possible wagon cover frame?
36	Faraway Ranch Area	Small glass scatter	Includes fragments of embossed purple glass (pre-1917)

Table 3 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
37	Faraway Ranch Area	Tripod w/suspended "O" ring on link chain	Legs manufactured w/ 10' long narrow gauge railroad track embossed "THYSSEN 28"
38	Faraway Ranch Area	Pipe stock pile	10 pipes of variable lengths and diameters; 1 pipe set in cement
39	Faraway Ranch Area	Bathtub "planter"	Enameled metal oval (5' x 2') bathtub reused as flower planter
40	Faraway Ranch Area	Boulder with drill holes	Holes probably drilled by power drill
41	Faraway Ranch Area	Trash barrel	Reused oil drum
42	Faraway Ranch Area	Pipe stock pile	5 pipes of variable lengths and diameters
43	Faraway Ranch Area	Probable walking plow part.	Part of brace?
44	Faraway Ranch Area	Wooden gate or fencing section	ca. 6' x 4'; fallen to ground
45	Faraway Ranch Area	7" sledge	Minus handle; engraved: "--WERK"
46	Faraway Ranch Area	Hand-engraved block of rhyolite	"CCS FAULKNER"; probably part of original Garfield Monument (1886)
47	Faraway Ranch Area	Unidentified heavy cast metal round object w/"O" ring attached to top	Diameter = 18½"; lid shaped with 24 ½-inch holes around edge
48	Faraway Ranch Area	Name scratched on cement rim of pool	"CLAUDE NOLAND 5-24-47"



Table 3 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
49	Faraway Ranch Area	2 glass telephone wire insulators attached to tree, 8' and 10' high	1 aquamarine; 1 clear; both embossed "HEMINGRAY"
50	Stafford Orchard	Hole-in-top tin can w/wire handle	Reused as a small bucket for transporting tar asphalt into orchard
51	Stafford Cabin Area	.45-70 caliber cartridge case, center fire, externally primed	Dated headstamp: 1887. Collected.
52	Stafford Cabin Area	.44 caliber cartridge case, rimfire	.44 Henry flat; Collected. ca. 1860-1935 (popular in 19th century)
53	Stafford Cabin Area	.40-65 caliber cartridge case, center fire	Headstamp: Winchester Repeating Arms Co. WCF; collected. 1887-ca. 1935
54	Stafford Cabin Area	.38 caliber rifle cartridge case, center fire	Headstamp: Remington Union Metallic Cartridge Co. WCF
55	Stafford Cabin Area	Metal-framed, wheeled pushcart	2 tiers, U-shaped handle; overall height 37"; width 14½"; depth 17"
56	Stafford Cabin Area	Glass marble	Candy-stripe type of spiral marble, probably handmade; pre-1920. Collected
57	Stafford Cabin Area	2 wood timbers w/inset rollers	Timbers: 55" x 3½" x 3½"; unknown function: possibly a skid

Table 3 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
58	Stafford Cabin Area	Bottle finish	Brown glass beer bottle finish w/wire attachment scars; turn-of-the-century
59	Stafford Cabin Area	Metal barrel/oil drum recessed upright into ground, fully buried	Possibly adapted for use as a water sump/filter
60	N of Faraway Ranch	Strap buckle	Accommodates 7/8-inch strap, with sliding toothed crossbar.
61	N of Faraway Ranch	Hole-in-top can lid fragment	Associated with one piece of purple glass; about 1880-1910
62	N of Faraway Ranch	Metal surveyors' tripod	Leg length = 4'5 3/8"
63	Stafford Cabin Area	Wooden gate remains	
64	North slope above Faraway West Pasture	14 small (2 1/4" diameter) metal disks w/wire nails	Nails are hammered through center of disks into ground
65	Faraway Ranch Area	Broken wood trough	Plank board and wire nail construction ca. 10' long
66	Faraway Ranch Area	Galvanized metal rain gauge	ID# "USWB5176"
67	Stafford Cabin Area	Cast iron furnace or stove door plate	9-3/4" x 4-3/4" w/oval swivel viewing hole; not in situ

Table 4  
Historic and 20th Century Loci: Features

CHIR 83A-1:F

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
1	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, south slope	Erickson cemetery	Gravesites of Neil, Emma, and Ben Erickson, as well as Louis Prue
2	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, S floodplain	Glass and can scatter	Mid-Late 20th century
3	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Small trash dump	Mid-Late 20th century
4	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Glass and can scatter with decaying wood and metal construction	Mid-Late 20th century
5	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Small can scatter	20th century
6	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present
7	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Small trash dump	Late 20th century
8	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present; recent
9	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, S floodplain	Small rock pile	About 16' x 15' x 6' high
10	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present; recent
11	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present; recent
12	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present; recent
13	Mouth of Bonita Canyon, N floodplain	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present; recent
14	Faraway Meadow floodplain	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present; recent

Table 4 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
15	Faraway Meadow north slope	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present; recent
16	Faraway Meadow floodplain	Small trash scatter	Mid-Late 20th cen- tury
17	Faraway Meadow floodplain	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present but partially filled in
18	Faraway Meadow floodplain	Small trash scatter	Mid-Late 20th cen- tury
19	Faraway Meadow floodplain	Small trash scatter	Mid-Late 20th cen- tury
20	Faraway Meadow floodplain	Large trash dump	Early(?)-Late 20th century
21	Faraway Meadow floodplain	Hand-dug pit	Ca. 9' diameter; 14" deep
22	Faraway Meadow south slope	Borrow pit cut into slope	Ca. 25' x 25'
23	Faraway West Pasture south slope	Two rock-ringed hearths	Charcoal present; recent
24	Faraway West Pasture floodplain	Series of rock align- ments and clusters	Possibly structural
25	South slope above Faraway West Pasture	Predominantly hole-in- top can and glass scatter in association w/rock features and alignments, including Garfield Monument site	Late 19th century. Probable location of part of military camp at Bonita Can- yon.
26	Faraway West Pasture south slope	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present; recent
27	S slope S of Faraway Ranch and Hwy. 181	Rock cluster and rock alignment	
28	S slope S of Faraway Ranch and Hwy. 181	Predominantly glass scatter in associa- tion w/some metal & several rock features	Late 19th century; probably related to F25 (military camp at Bonita Canyon)

Table 4 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
29	Faraway West Pasture	Rock cluster	7' diameter
30	Faraway West Pasture	Large rock pile	60' x 10'
31	Faraway West Pasture	Glass and metal scatter	Late 19th century(?)
32	Faraway West Pasture	Linear rock pile	125' x 15'; fence line(?)
33	Faraway Ranch area	Windmill accessories and well fittings	
34	Faraway Ranch area	Industrial/farm equipment trash scatter	Early-Late 20th century
35	Faraway Ranch area	Small trash pile	Mid-Late 20th century
36	Faraway Ranch area	Work area and hardware/equipment stock pile	Surrounds tool shed; 20th century
37	Faraway Ranch area	Work bench area	Attached to NE end of barn
38	Faraway Ranch area	Work table area and stock pile of wood frames	Adjacent to storage shed; 20th century
39	Faraway Ranch area	Small trash dump	Mid-Late 20th century
40	Faraway Ranch area	Trash and equipment scatter	North of generator house; 20th century
41	Faraway Ranch area	Cement platform	11' x 7'6"
42	Faraway Ranch area	Stone-lined trash pit (reused?)	Late 20th century; ca 10' diameter
43	Faraway Ranch area	Ash and trash filled depression	Pit greater than 3' deep
44	Faraway Ranch area	Salvaged board and corrugated sheet metal stock pile	Some boards burned



Table 4 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
45	Faraway Ranch area	Hen house and animal troughs	Within stone-walled animal enclosure
46	Faraway Ranch area	Cement septic tank	
47	Faraway Ranch area	Rock cluster	Oblong 3' x 2'; possible grave site(?)
48	Faraway Ranch area	Cement septic tank	
49	Faraway Ranch area	Bridge abutments (rock)	On both sides of Newton Wash
50	Faraway Ranch area	Rock pile	7½' x 7'
51	Faraway Ranch area	Rock pile	Oblong 5'5" x 2'; possible grave site
52	Faraway Ranch area	Rock alignment and ash dump	In an old drainage channel
53	Faraway Ranch area	Stone foundation (single course)	Roughly square 9' x 7½'
54	Faraway Ranch area	Rock semi-circle	Possible hearth
55	Faraway Ranch area	Glass, ceramic, and metal scatter (disturbed)	Late 19th(?)-20th century
56	Faraway Ranch area	Salvaged board stock pile and hydraulic ram	
57	Faraway Ranch area	Stone B-BQ w/grill	
58	Faraway Ranch area	Concrete sump w/adjacent wood & asphalt platform	Part of Faraway Ranch's water intake system
59	Faraway Ranch area	Trash burning site	
60	Faraway Ranch area	Trash burning site	Heavy ash accumulation
61	Faraway Ranch area	Small trash mound	Late 20th century; in ashy matrix

Table 4 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
62	Faraway Ranch area	Fenced enclosure and burned structure	
63	Faraway Ranch area	Small trash scatter	Late 19th(?)-Late 20th century
64	Stafford Orchard	Partial foundation and burned remains of "Martha Stark cottage"	Burned in 1968. Debris removed by NPS.
65	Stafford Orchard	Pile of wood posts	Probably fence posts
66	Slope above NPS bunkhouse	Broken bottle glass scatter	Mid-Late 20th century
67	Stafford Orchard, E of NPS bunkhouse	Glass, ceramic, and metal surface scatter	20th century
68	Stafford Orchard	3 rock piles	Possibly related to field clearing
69	Stafford Orchard	Gravesite w/headstone	"R. Stafford"; Revelie Stafford, died about 1880?
70	Stafford Orchard	Small, ashy burned area w/2 cans	1 can contains asphalt or tar
71	Stafford Orchard	Two rock piles	One rock pile with 5 cans containing asphalt or tar
72	Stafford Orchard	Rock pile of large boulders	8' diameter
73	N side of Bonita Creek opposite Stafford Orchard	Large coal ash dump w/surface trash	20th century; coal accumulation measures 45' x 12' x 3' thick
74	N side of Bonita Ck opposite Stafford Orchard	Trash scatter w/coal ash	Mid-Late 20th century
75	N side of Bonita Ck opposite Stafford orchard	Small coal ash and trash scatter	20th century

Table 4 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
76	Stafford Cabin area	Depression and metal scatter	Poss. former structure location
77	Stafford Cabin area	Trash scatter or dump	Mid-Late 20th century
78	Stafford Cabin area	Buried concrete slab	Only partially exposed
79	Stafford Cabin area	Surface metal, glass, and ceramic scatter	Late 19th-20th century
80	Stafford Cabin area	Rock cluster	Oblong 6' x 3'; possible gravesite
81	Stafford Cabin area	Rock alignment/enclosure	Single course; fence line?
82	Stafford Cabin area	Metal, glass, and ceramic scatter	Late 19th-20th century; poss. former structure location
83	Stafford Cabin area	Rock alignment	
84	Stafford Cabin area	Rock-ringed hearth & scatter (mostly nails and metal)	Late 19th-20th century; poss. former structure location
85	Stafford Cabin area	Fence post bases	Probable gate
86	Faraway Ranch area	Glass, ceramic, and metal scatter	Late 19th-20th century; poss. not in situ
87	Stafford Orchard	Cinder block alignment	3 blocks in a row, partially buried
88	Faraway Ranch area	Adobe brick pile	Mostly melted
89	N side of Bonita Ck opp. Stafford Orchard	Large trash/coal ash dump	Mid-20th century; prob. joint CCC camp & Faraway Ranch dump
90	N of Faraway Ranch	Lookout post atop rocky outcrop	Prob. late 19th century; assoc. w/military camp at Bonita Canyon

Table 4 (continued)

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
91	N of Faraway Ranch area	Stone foundation	Roughly square 10' x 11'; poss. only 3-sided
92	N of Faraway Ranch area along Newton Wash	Rock alignments	Assoc. w/ some Late 19th-Early 20th century artifacts
93	N of Faraway Ranch area	Rock-ringed hearth	Charcoal present but hearth silted in
94	N of Faraway Ranch area along Newton Wash	Glass scatter	Some glass possibly turn-of-the-century
95	N of Faraway Ranch area along Newton Wash	Glass bottle and hole-in-top can scatter	Late 19th century; prob. part of military camp at Bonita Canyon
96	N of Faraway Ranch area along Newton Wash	Glass and crimp-seam can scatter	Early 20th century?
97	Faraway Ranch area	Small rock pile	Poss. set-in depression
98	Faraway Ranch area	Semi-circular rock boulder cluster	Thought to be in vicinity of turn-of-the-century privy
99	E of Stafford Cabin	Concrete dam across Bonita Creek	Reported to have been constructed by Ed Riggs for a swimming hole; ca. 1925-1950
100	E of Stafford Cabin	Well sump/spring box	ca. 1920s
101	Stafford Orchard	Concentration of burned wood boards	Unfinished lumber?

#### IV. HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY DRAWINGS

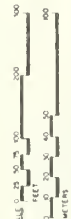




# FARAWAY RANCH

THE FARAWAY RANCH OCCUPIES 320 ACRES WITHIN CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA. OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE AMONG THE RANCH BUILDINGS ARE THE ECKSON-HIGGS RANCH HOUSE AND THE STAFFORD-ROGGS CABIN. THERE ARE EIGHT OTHER BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY THAT WERE PART OF THE RANCH OPERATION. THE RANCH WAS OPERATED BY JAMES ECKSON, A SELF-THOUGHT CARPENTER AND BUILDER. ERECTED THE RANCH HOUSE IN THREE MAJOR STAGES. THE RESULTING HOUSE WAS UNUSUAL IN ITS MIXTURE OF VERMICULAR ADOBES BRICK CONSTRUCTION AND WOOD FRAMING. TECHNOLOGIES AND DECORATIVE DETAILS IMPORTED FROM THE EASTERN UNITED STATES. ECKSON'S HOUSE WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA REGION. HIS SON, LAW AND DAUGHTER OF THE ECKSONS, TOOK THE NEARBY "WARRIAND OF PROCLAIMED CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT THE RANCH ALSO BECAME THE HEADQUARTERS AFTER 1917 FOR ONE OF THE LEADING GUEST RANCHES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA REGION. OPERATED BY FOR YEARS. IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS AND MOST VISITED RANCHES IN THE AREA. THE PROPERTY WAS THE LAST RANCH HOSTED COURTESY BY "TODDIE" INTO THE MONUMENT AND ON CATTLE ROUNDRIPS ON THE RANGE. JAY HUGH STAFFORD, ONE OF THE FIRST SETTLERS IN THE REGION, BUILT THE STAFFORD-ROGGS CABIN BEGAN IN 1880. STAFFORD ESTABLISHED A LARGE FRUIT ORCHARD WEST OF HIS CABIN AND BUILT LOG CANS IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA. THE FARAWAY RANCH PROPERTY WAS ACQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN 1972 AND 1978. RESTORATION OF THE RANCH BUILDINGS IS PLANNED FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF A HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT.

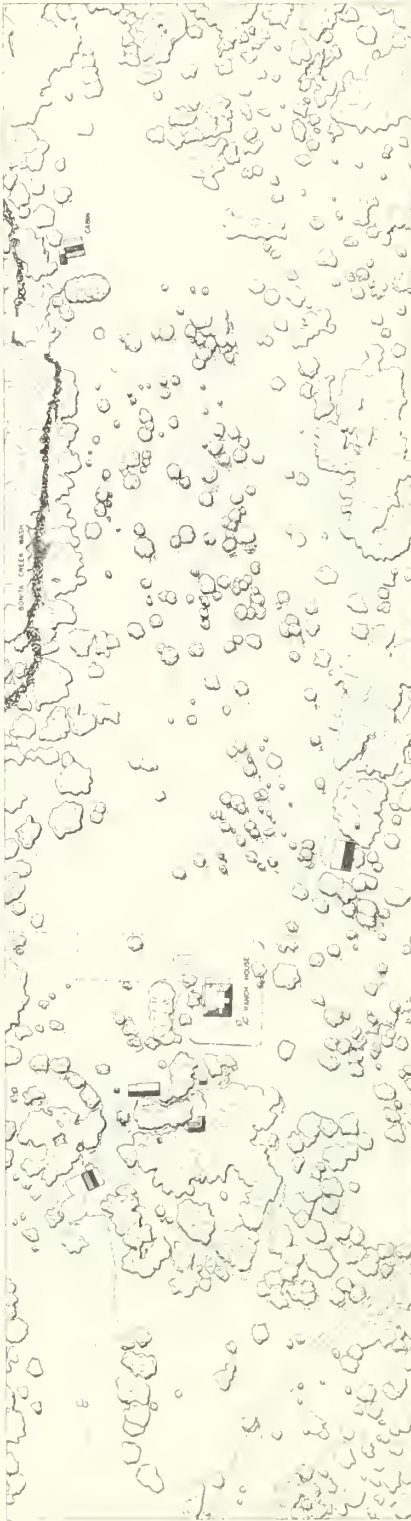
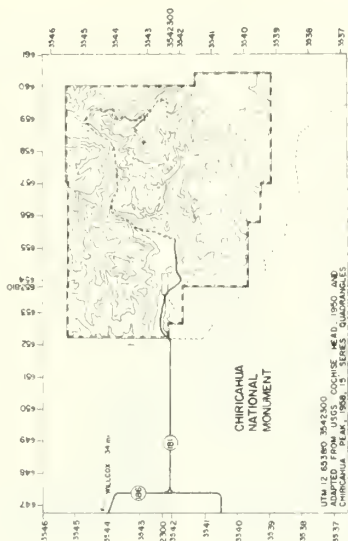
SITE PLAN



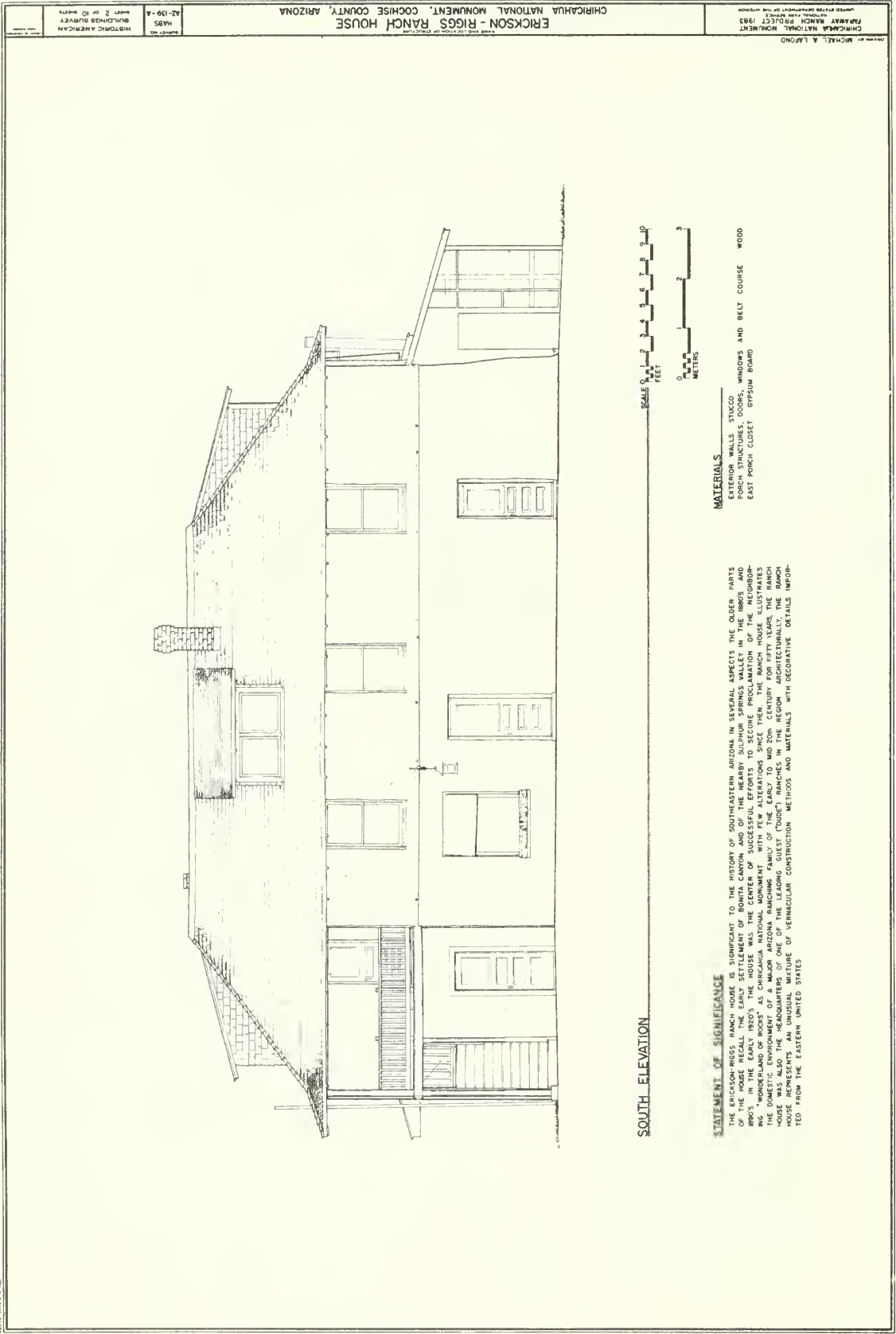
AREA PLAN



LOCATION PLAN

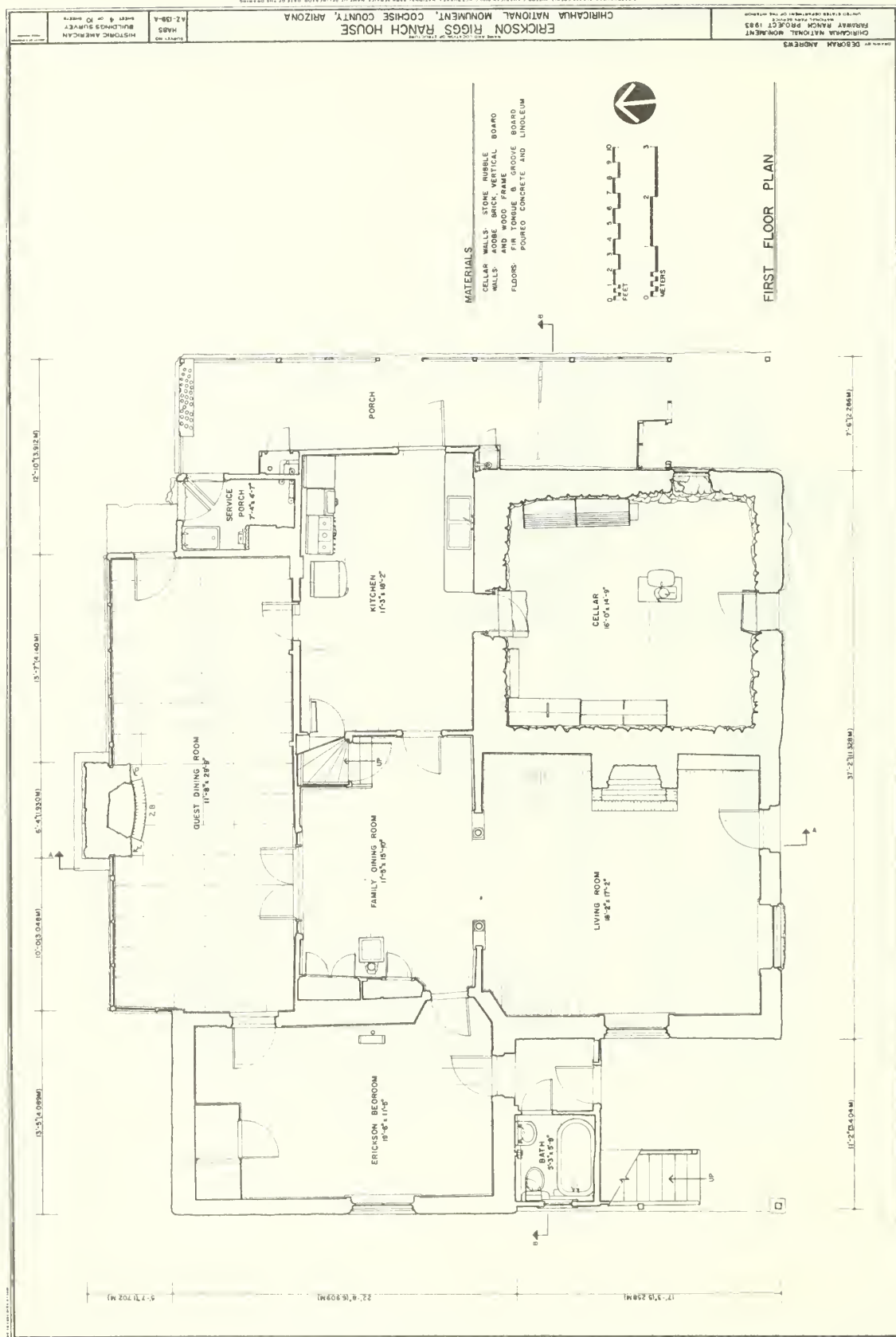


Drawing No. 1.  
Faraway Ranch



Drawing No. 2.  
 Erickson-Riggs Ranch House, South Elevation.

Drawing No. 3.  
Erickson-Riggs Ranch House, West Elevation.



Drawing No. 4.  
Erickson-Riggs Ranch House, First Floor Plan.



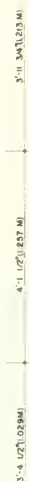
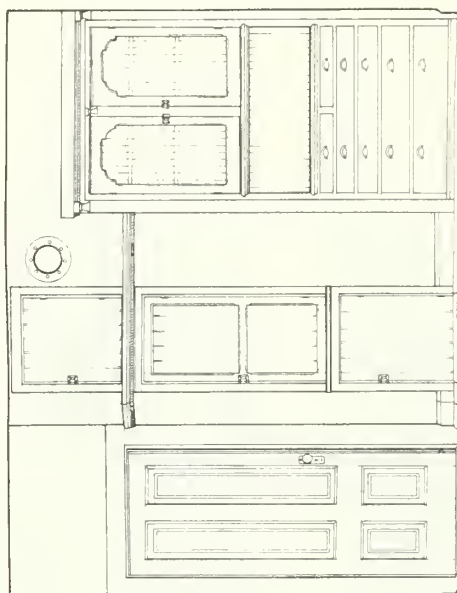
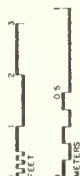
Drawing No. 5.  
Erickson-Riggs Ranch House, Second Floor Plan.

Drawing No. 6.  
Erickson-Riggs Ranch House, Section B-B.

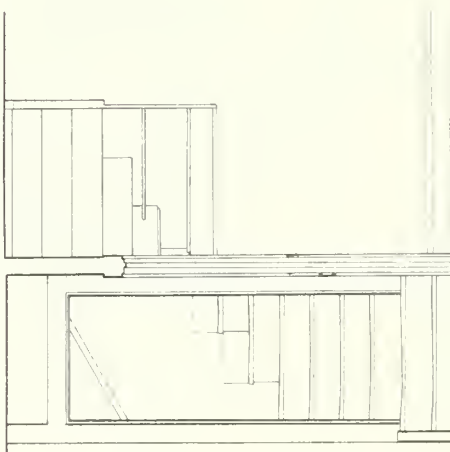
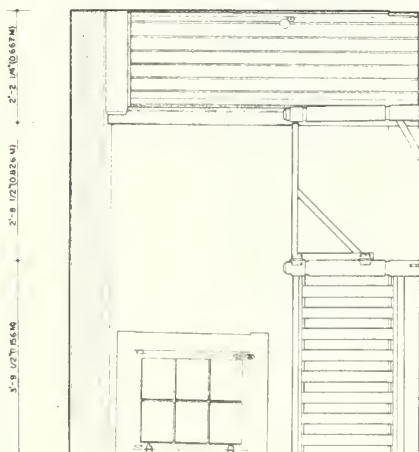
Drawing No. 7.  
Erickson-Riggs Ranch House, Section A-A.

STAIR TREADS, RISERS AND CASINGS, WINDOW AND DOOR CASINGS AND BALUSTRADE, PINE  
STAIR RAIL, WINDOW SASH, DOOR AND CEILING, FIR

HORIZONTAL WALL MOLDING AND CLOSET AND CABINET CASINGS- PINE  
CLOSET DOORS, DRAWERS AND REAR WALL OF SIDEBOARD- FIR  
CABINET DOORS- WALNUT



FAMILY	DINING	ROOM	ELEVATION	(WEST)
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## STAIRWAY SECTION

Drawing No. 8.  
Erickson-Riggs Ranch House: Stairway Section and Family Dining Room Elevation (West).

## INTERIOR MATERIALS

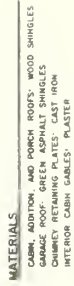
## EXTERIOR MATERIALS

## INTERIOR MATERIALS



Drawing No. 9.  
Stafford-Riggs Cabin, Floor Plan.





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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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