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U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
and
National Recreation and
Park Association

Summer 1983

Design

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Designing for a Region



Design

A publication of the Park Practice Program

The Park Practice Program is a cooperative effort of the National Park Service and the National Recreation and Park Association.

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The Park Practice Program includes: *Trends*, a quarterly publication on topics of general interest in park and recreation management programming; *Grist* a quarterly publication on practical solutions to everyday problems in park and recreation operations; and *Design*, a quarterly compendium of plans for park and recreation structures which demonstrate quality design and intelligent use of materials.

Membership in the Park Practice Program includes a subscription to all three publications and selected back issues in vinyl binders with indices and all publications for the calendar year.

The initial Park Practice Program membership fee is \$105; annual renewal is \$45. A separate subscription to *Design* is \$70 initially, and \$18 on renewal. Subscription applications and fees, and membership inquiries should be sent *only* to: National Recreation and Park Association, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

The information presented in any of the publications of the Park Practice Program does not reflect an endorsement by the agencies sponsoring the program or the editors.

Articles, suggestions, ideas and comments are invited and should be sent to the Park Practice Program, Division of Cooperative Activities, National Park Service, USDI, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Dear Readers:

This issue of DESIGN is devoted to a series of designs of new buildings located in the National Park Service's North Atlantic Region. Although the buildings have widely differing functions, they have certain common characteristics. They have been carefully designed to:

1) blend rather than contrast with their surroundings and to seek the appropriate, rather than the strong, design statement;

2) function properly in the climate of the region - a climate that can be both hot and extremely cold, with plenty of high winds, rain and snow;

3) use, as far as possible, traditional materials so that they can be easily built by local contractors or park personnel (this also encourages participation by local groups such as technical training colleges that may want to donate some labor as part of their on-going programs as in the case of the Overlook Shelter);

4) be sturdy, vandal-resistant, yet relatively economical to build;

5) require as little routine maintenance as possible. In the prototype structures some of the standard details such as railings, etc., were deliberately varied as experiments so that the versions that proved most successful in terms of appearance, cost and durability could be used as standards in future designs. Note that the use of flat roofs has

been categorically avoided, previous experience having clearly shown them to be ill-suited to the rigors of the New England climate.

George Stephen, Regional Architect for the NPS's North Atlantic Region produced these designs. He was born in Scotland and practiced architecture in Britain for a number of years before emigrating to this country. He has received awards and citations for his work on both sides of the Atlantic and is the author of a number of publications on preservation including "Remodeling Old Houses Without Destroying Their Character" (Knopf 1972).

The NPS's North Atlantic Region is committed to promoting the highest standard of architectural design within budget limitations and believes that good design need not cost more than the mediocre. By using traditional materials and motifs — such as the bell-cant eaves — in fresh ways, George Stephen has set a new standard within the Region for the design of smaller structures. Because of certain family resemblances between them they could also be said to form the nucleus of a new regional style for park buildings.

Drawings and details are available from: George Stephen, Regional Architect, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 15 State Street, Boston, MA 02109.

This chart indicates the proper place to insert new design sheets in your DESIGN binder.

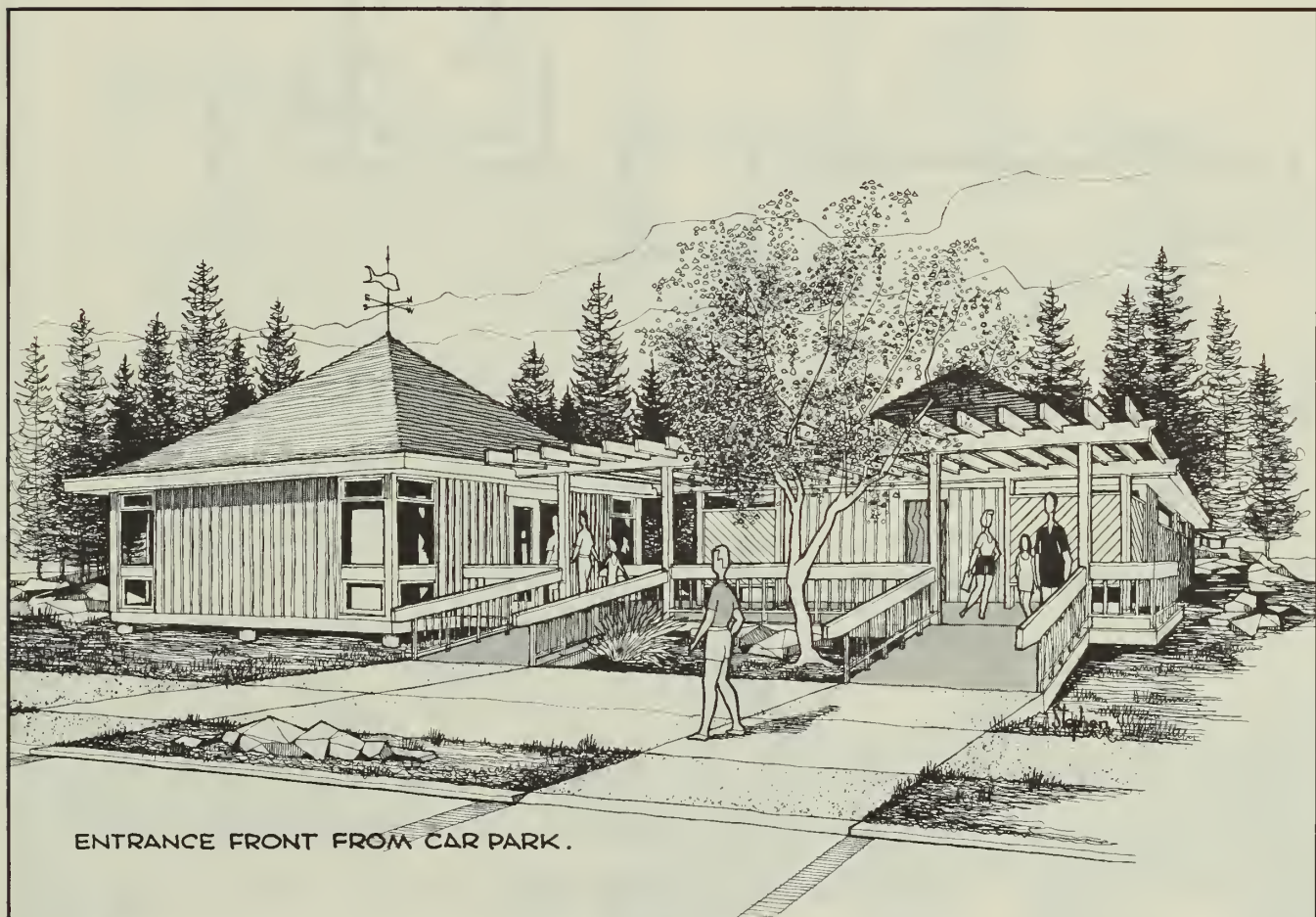
Behind Index No.	Insert New Sheet Index No.	Backed by Index No.
I-6932	I-6933	I-6934
R-4938	R-4939	R-4940
R-4949	R-4950	R-4951
B-3819	B-3820	B-3821
B-3821	B-3822	B-3823
A-1904	A-1905	A-1906

Modular Visitor Infor- mation Center

This well-proportioned and carefully detailed building was designed to provide fast information service to visitors on entering Mount Desert Island, Maine, on which Acadia National Park is situated. It was conceived as a joint venture between the Park and the Chambers of Commerce of the Island who raised part of the construction funds. Because of budget restrictions, the building was designed in a

modular form so that it could be readily added to at a later date. For this reason all the furniture in the Information Unit, including the storage, can be totally removed for possible future use in a new module.

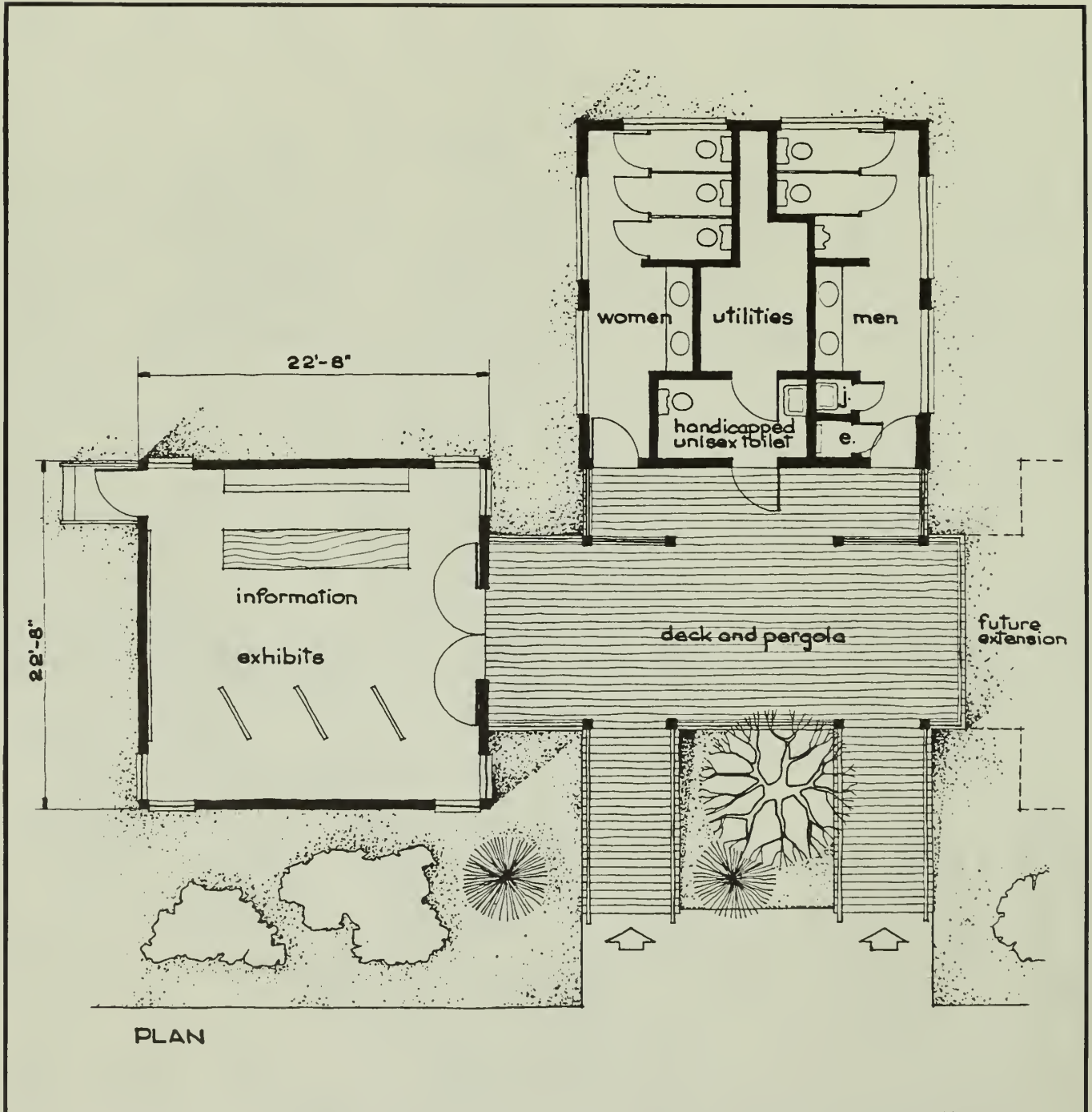
Finishes are: white cedar boards and battens, trim and railings, red cedar shingle roofs and deck planking. A maritime weathervane adds the finishing touch.



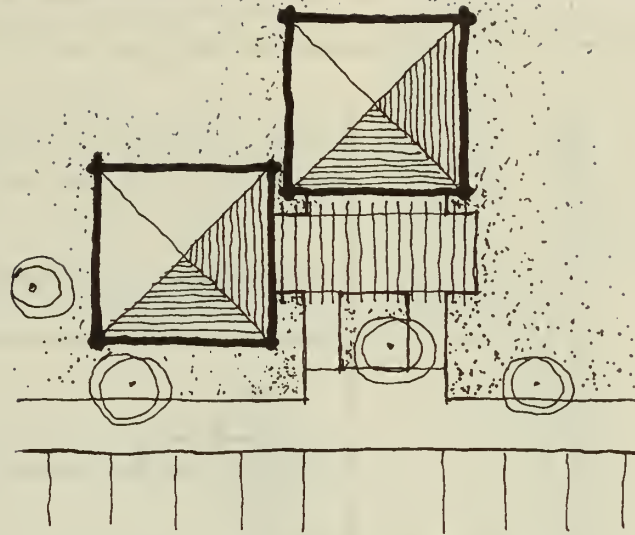
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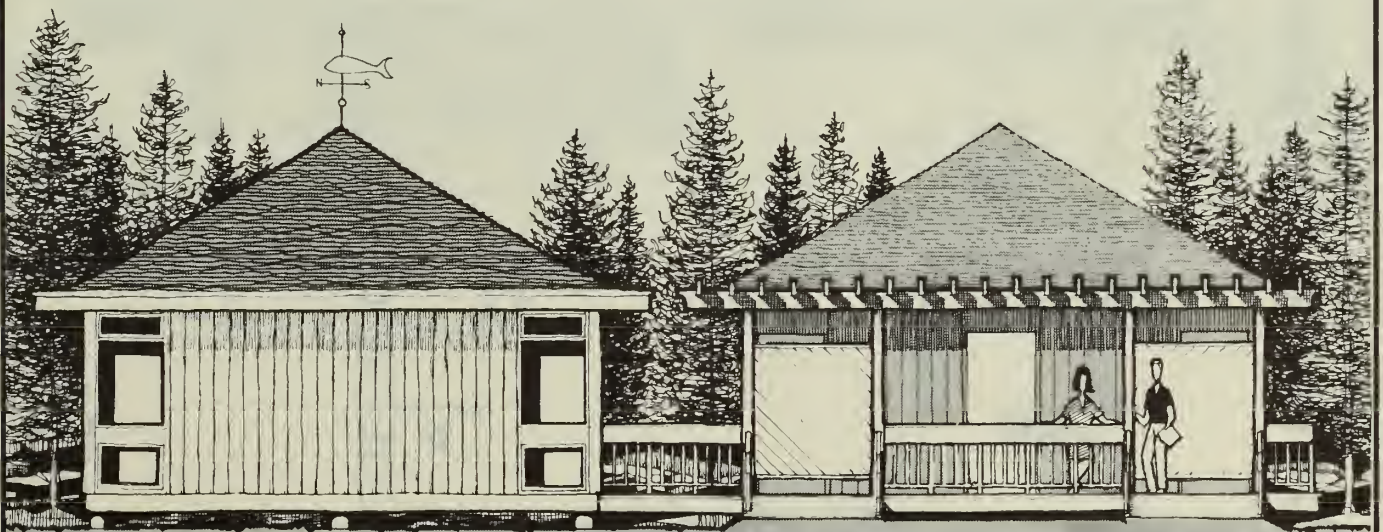
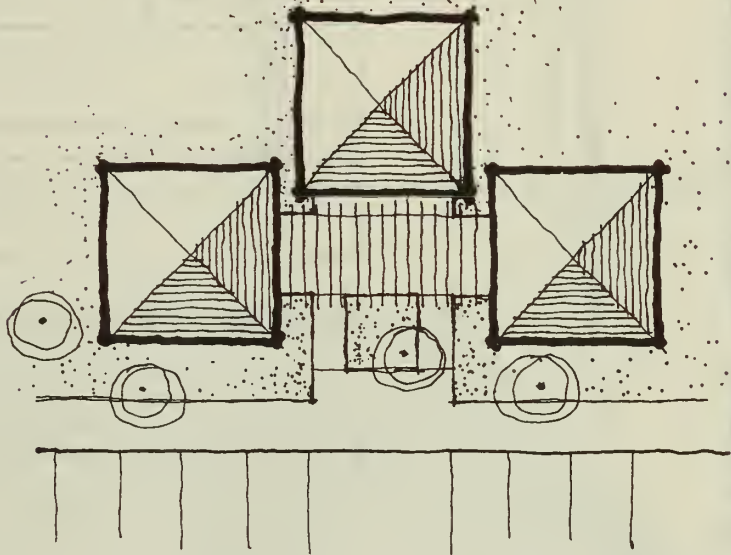
Visitor Info. Center		Contributed by George Stephen Regional Architect NPS, NARO
Index	I-6933	
	Summer 1983	
	Control F-1639-I	



PHASE 1
(2 modules)



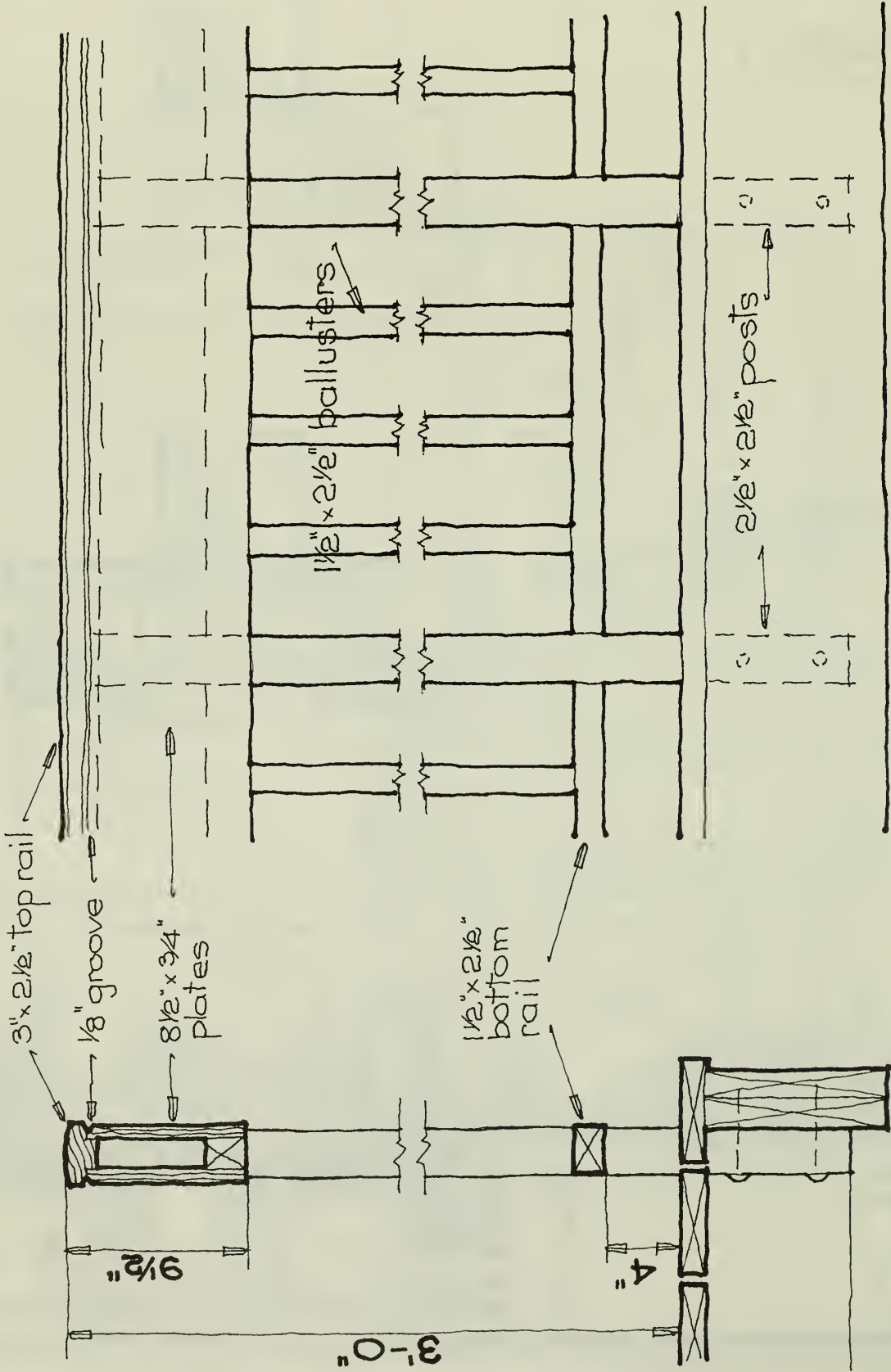
PHASE 2
(3 modules)



entrance front elevation

Stephen

DETAILS OF DECK EDGE AND HANDRAIL



elevation

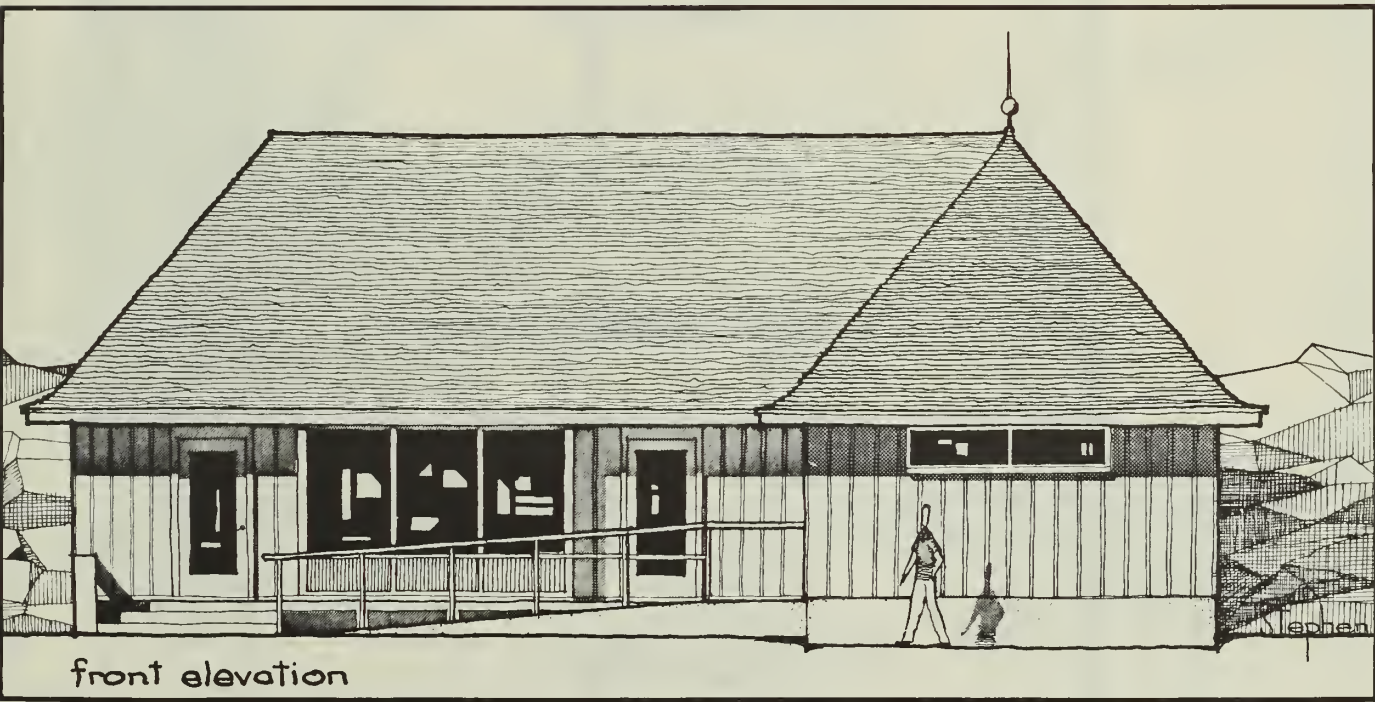
section

Concession/ Public Facility Building

The key to the design of this building sited among the low scrub pines and "puckerbrush" near the summit of Mount Cadillac, Bar Harbor, Maine, was minimum visual impact. The new building, although slightly larger in floor area than the older deteriorated building it replaced, settles down comfortably in its site and seems to intrude visually even less than the former one.

Featured in this design are a

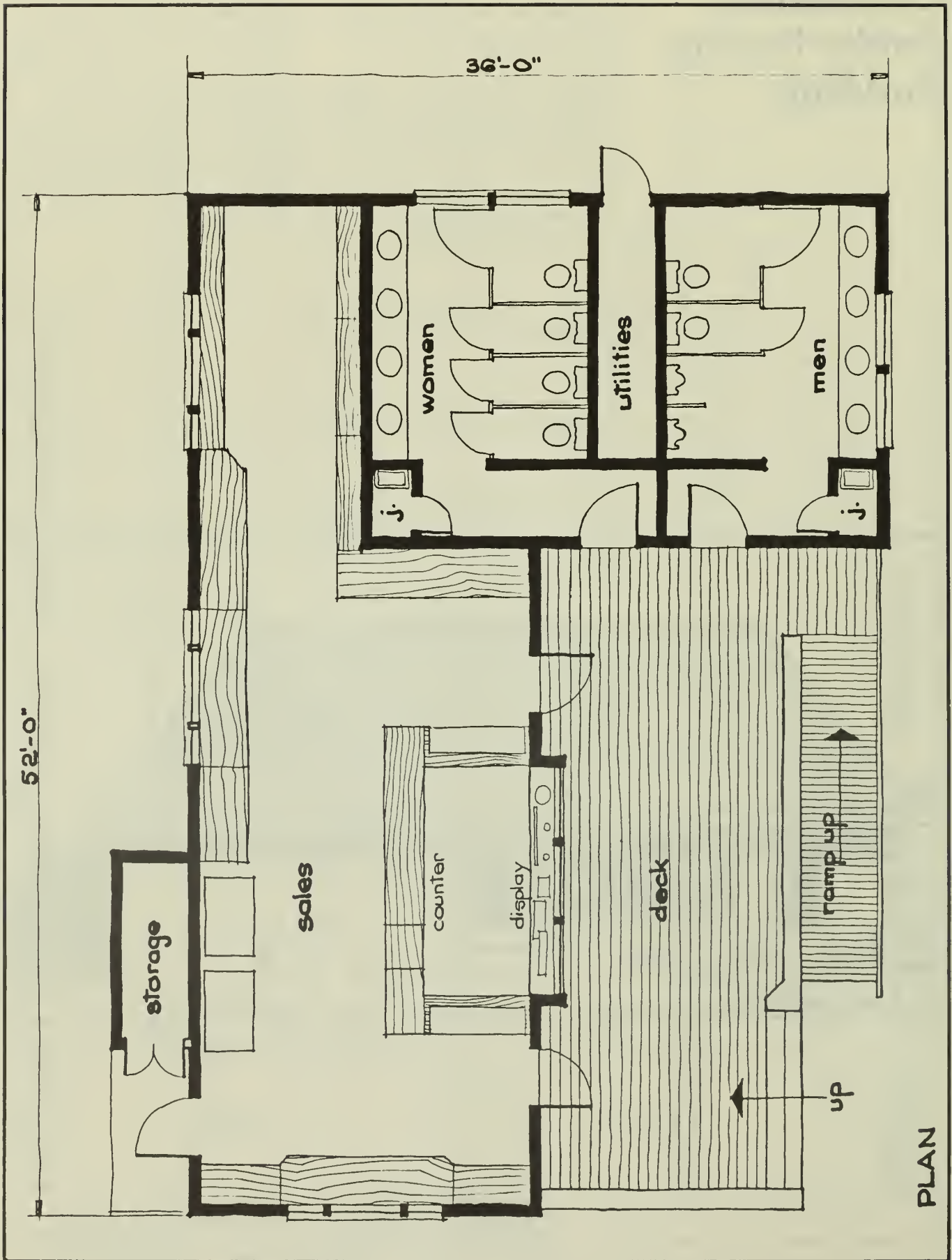
redwood deck with built-in benches which also act as safety rails, a ramp for handicapped access, an attractive display window for the concession wing and a steeply-pitched roof with a handsome "bell-cant" at the eaves. The steep pitch gives extra protection against the unusually high winds and driving rain often experienced at the mountain summit.



front elevation

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Concession		Contributed by George Stephen Regional Architect NPS, NARO
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Overlook Shelter

This rugged structure, although designed to harmonize with the northern seacoast of Maine, would still not be out of place in a more urban environment. It overlooks St. Croix Island on the Canadian border and houses plaques in French and English which tell the history of the island.

The design and construction of the shelter was the result of successful collaboration between the NPS and the private sector. The design was produced by NPS Regional Architect George Stephen in collaboration with the

Planning Section of the Regional Office; the roof was built by students from the Washington County Vocational Technical Institute, Calais, Maine; some of the lumber was donated by a nationally-known lumber company; all of the handsome granite stones were donated by a local quarry owner and were laid by an expert local mason working for the NPS.

An interesting detail is the $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood coverplates around the 6 x 6 columns; these can be removed periodically - complete with accrued graffiti - and replaced.



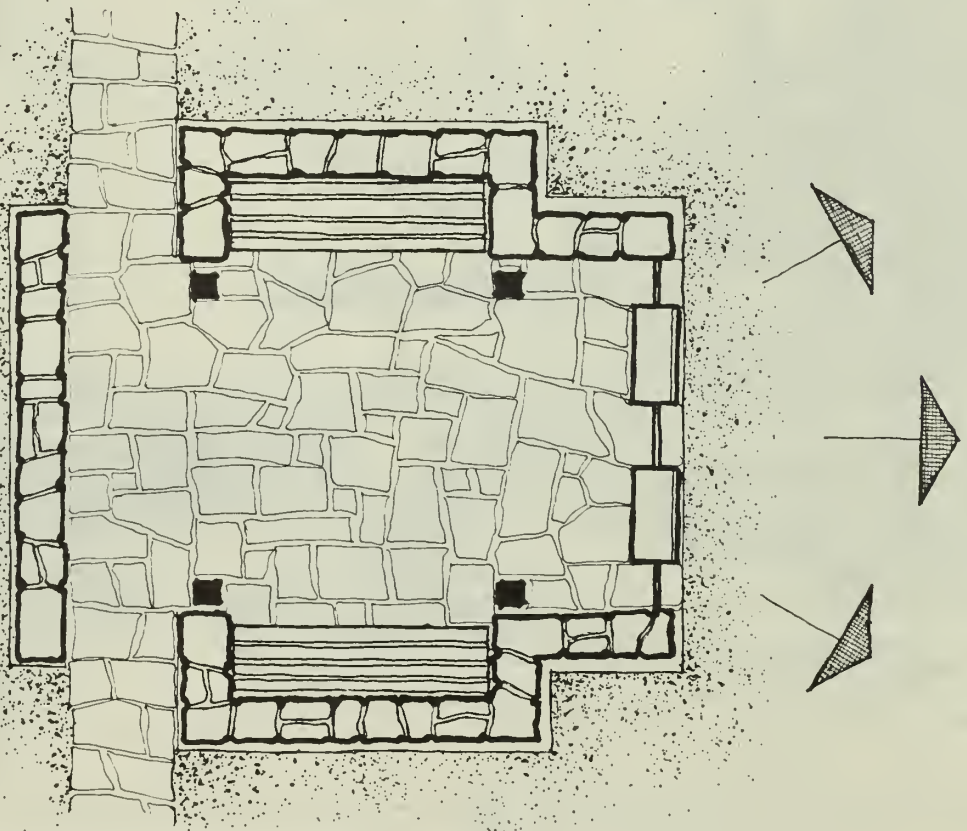
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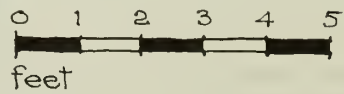
Overlook Shelter		Contributed by George Stephen Regional Architect NPS, NARO
Index	R-4950	
	Summer 1983	
	Control F-1641-R	



side elevation



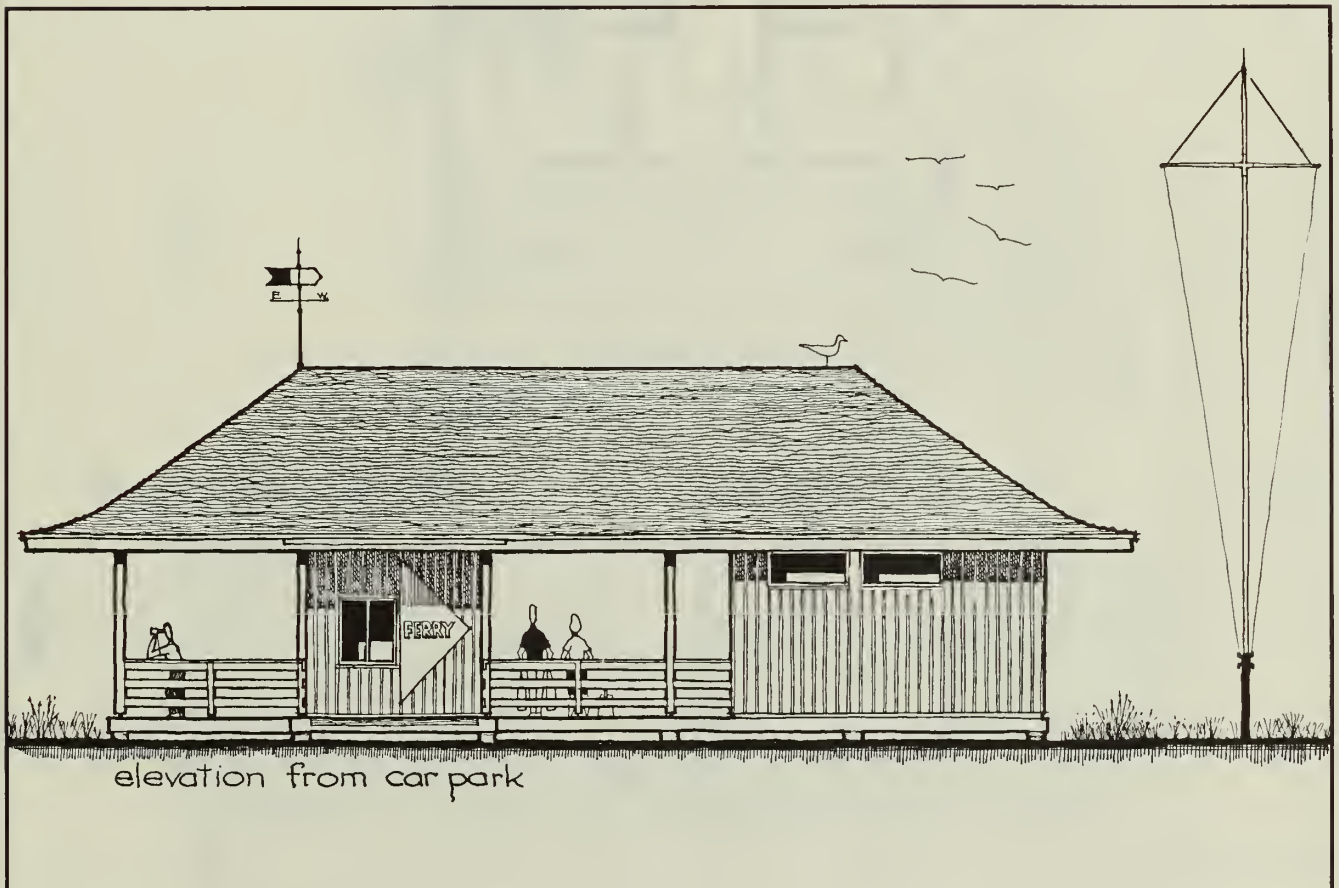
plan



Ferry Terminal Building

This deceptively simple-looking building provides facilities for ticket sales, docking, crowd control, luggage handling and toilet accommodation for the ferry service from Patchogue to Fire Island National Seashore. The main structure consists of prefabricated trusses with integrated column legs. These units can be built on the ground,

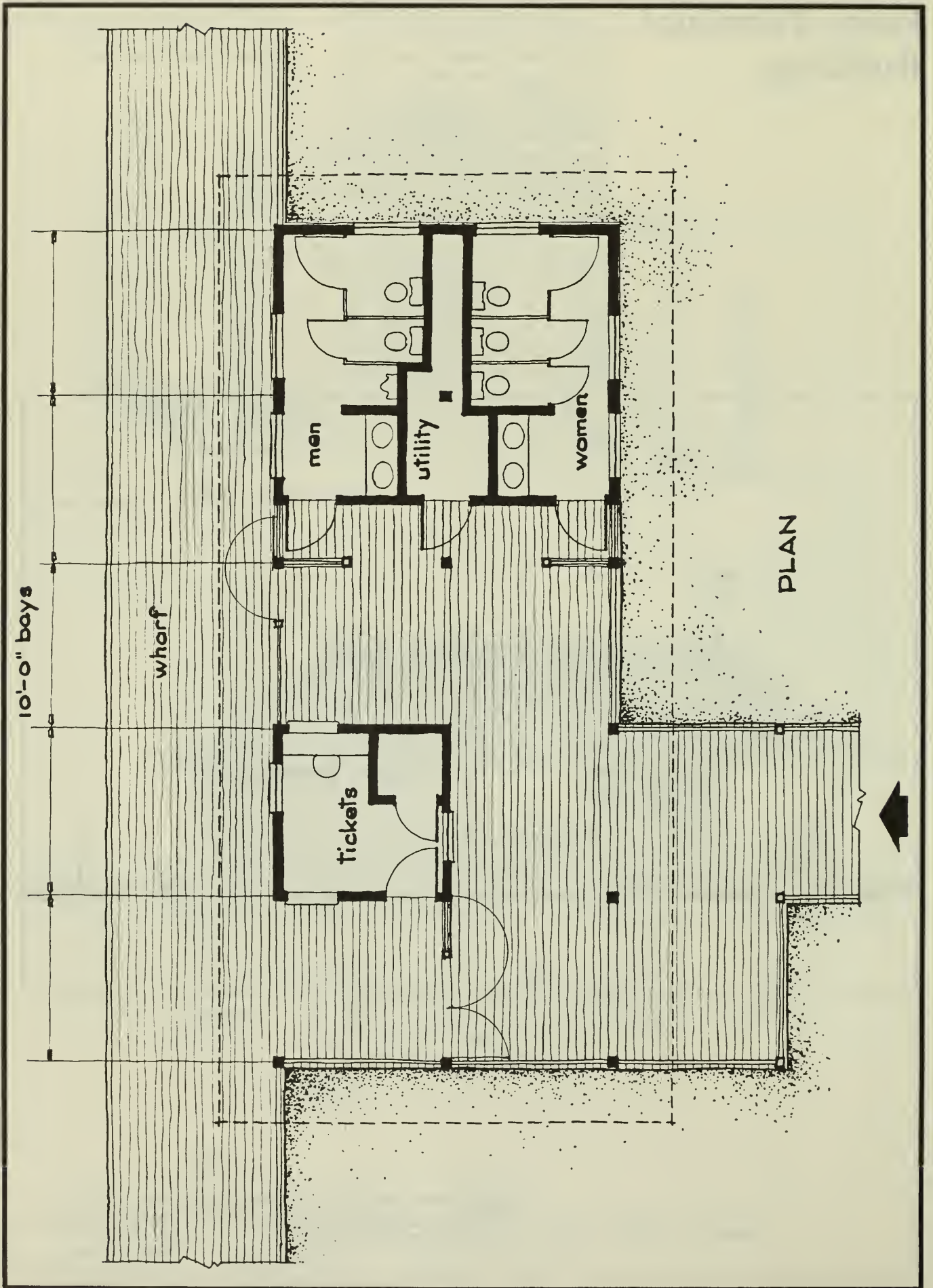
raised into place by ropes and attached to a pre-built deck by special metal connectors.



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Ferry Terminal Building		Contributed by George Stephen Regional Architect NPS, NARO	
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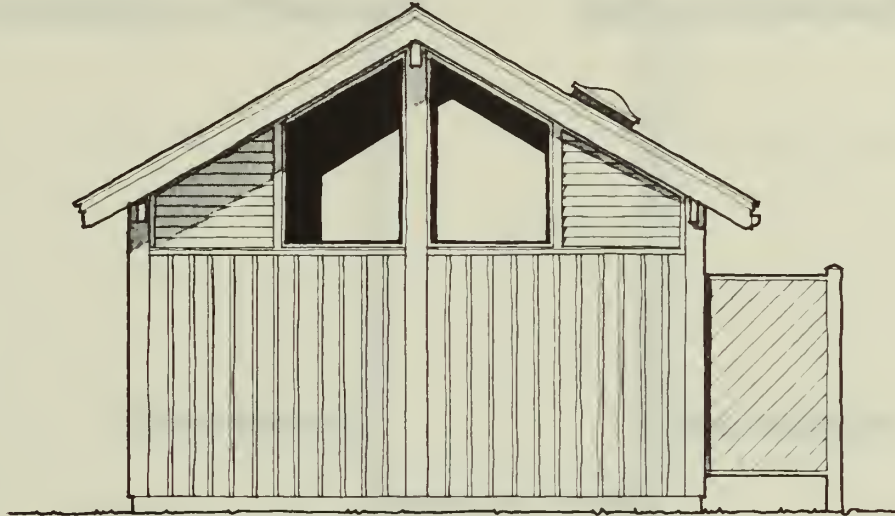


Standard Comfort Station

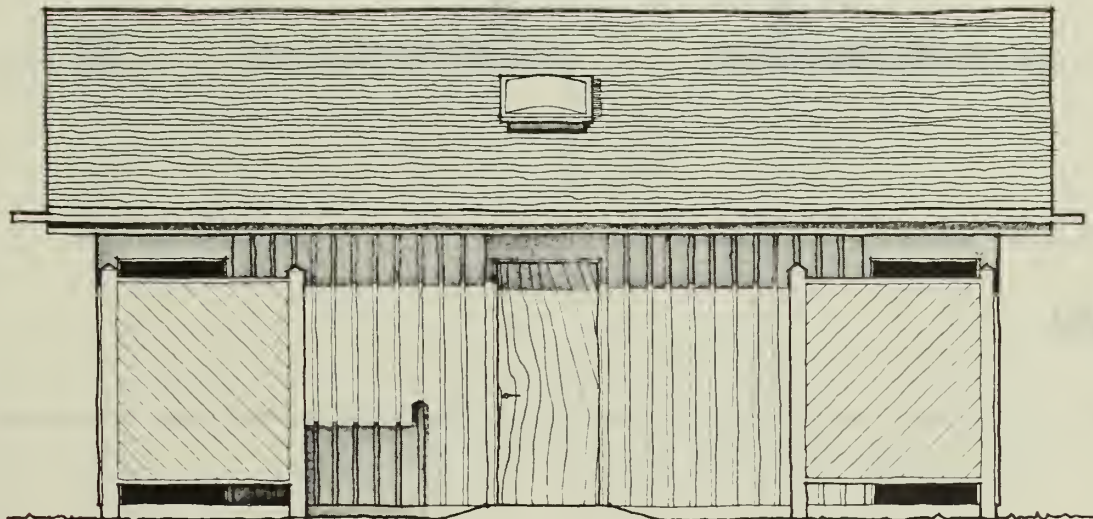
This building is intended to create as little visual impact as possible, be relatively vandal-resistant and require minimum structural maintenance.

Special features of the design include fixed glazing and ventilation to minimize maintenance, a generous utility space with full access to plumbing, and a separate toilet room for use of

the handicapped, some of whom are often accompanied by attendants of the opposite sex.



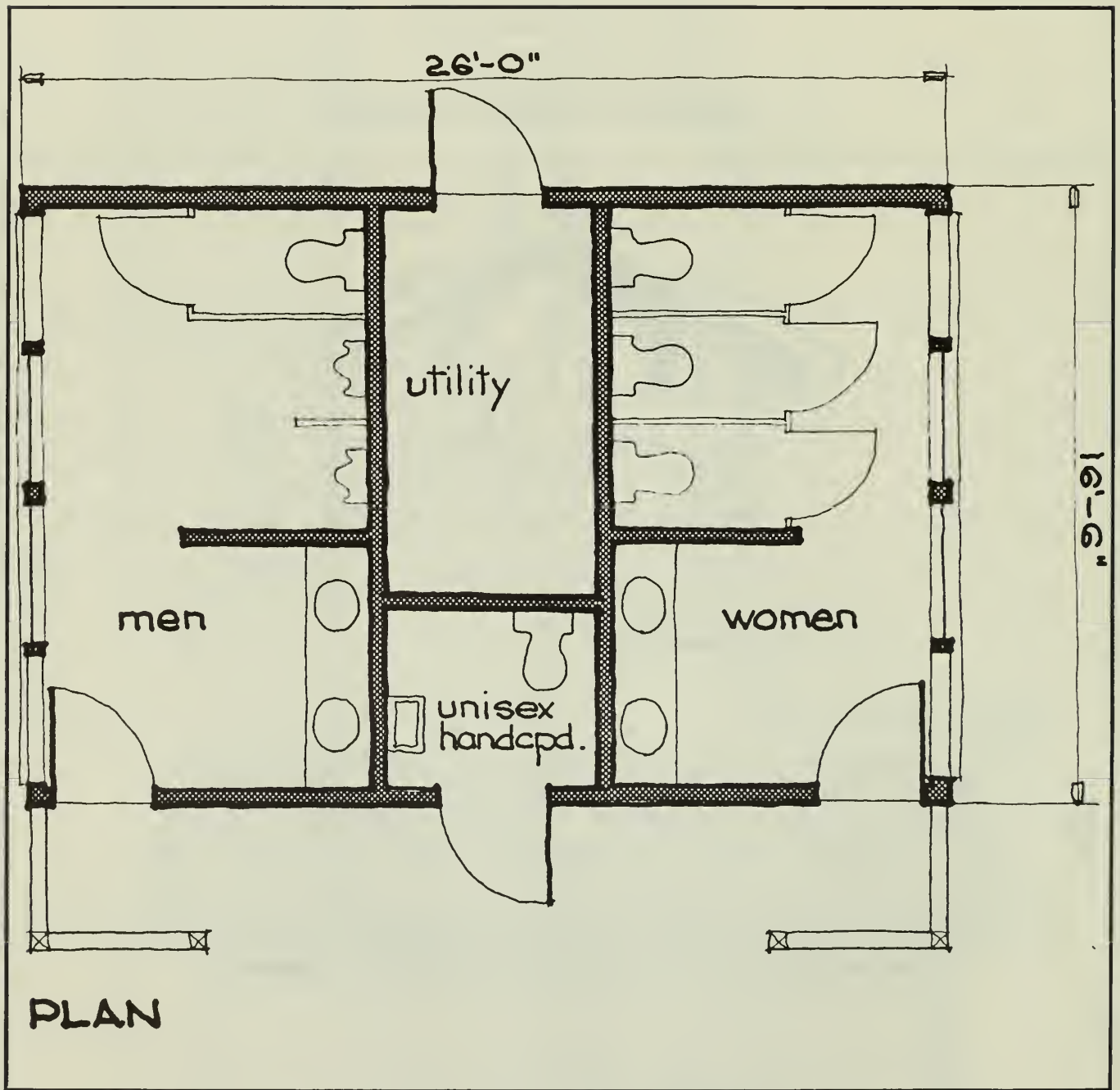
end elevation



front elevation

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Comfort Station		Contributed by George Stephen Regional Architect NPS, NARO
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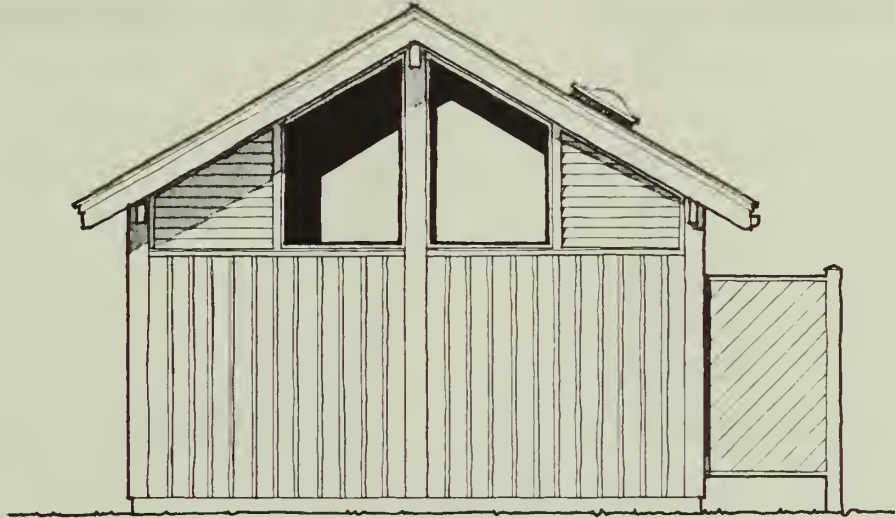


Standard Comfort Station

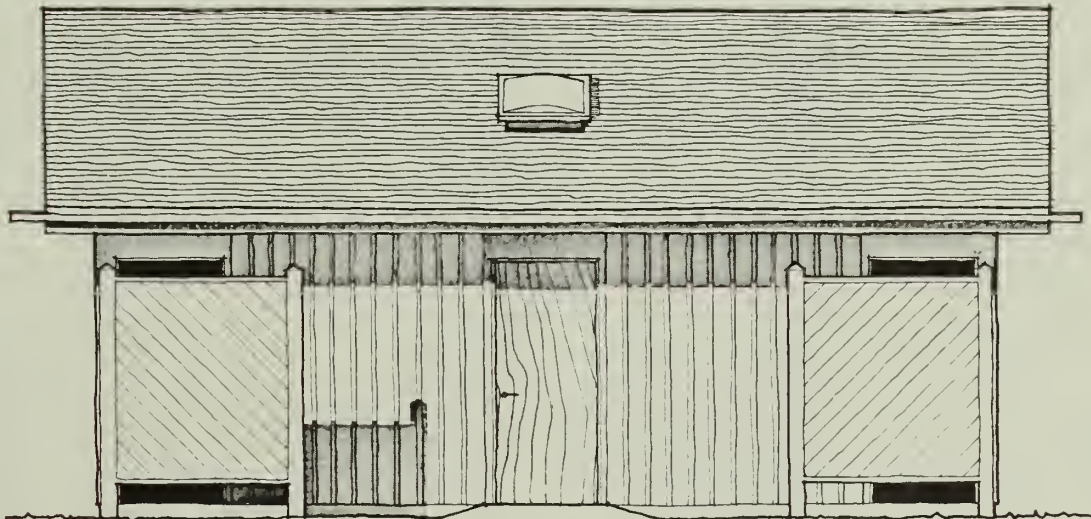
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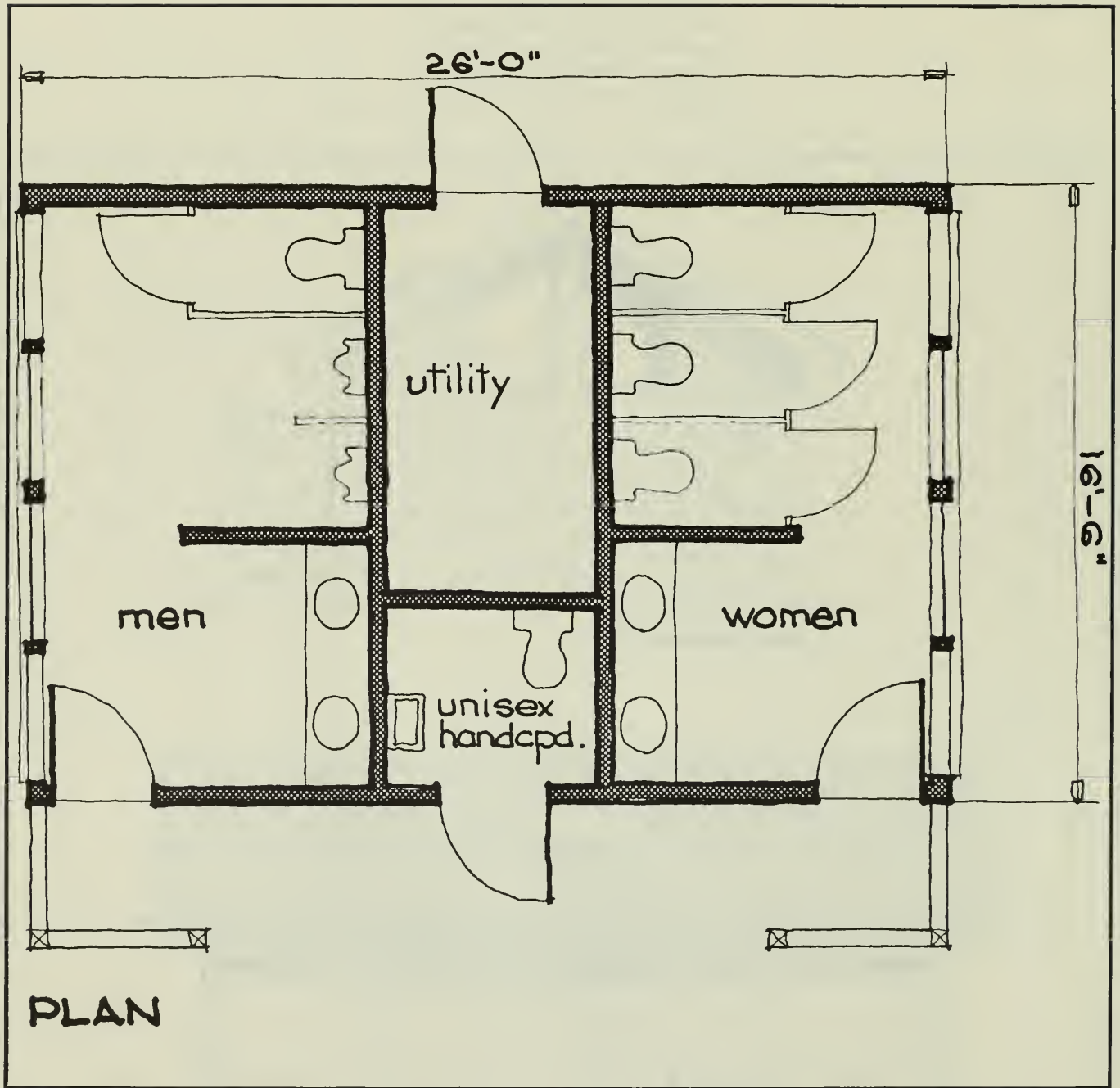
end elevation



front elevation

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Mini-Kiosk

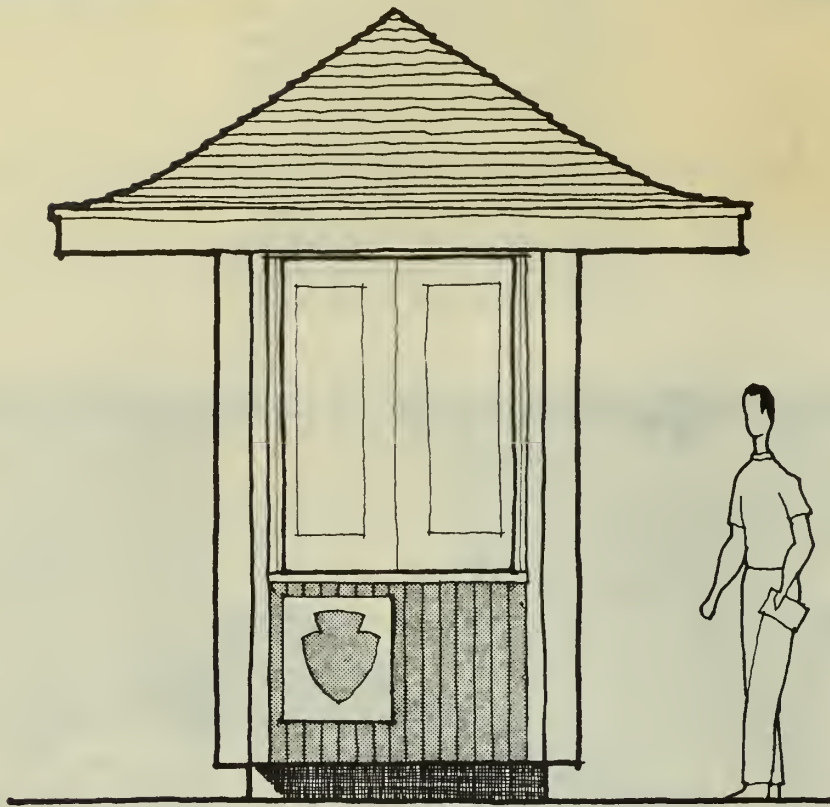
This is the latest and smallest - addition to a series of kiosk designs by NPS Regional Architect George Stephen which were originally intended for use in the NPS's North Atlantic Region, but have become nationally popular. Intended to accommodate one person, when closed it doubles as a Continental European-type kiosk displaying poster and notices of activities.



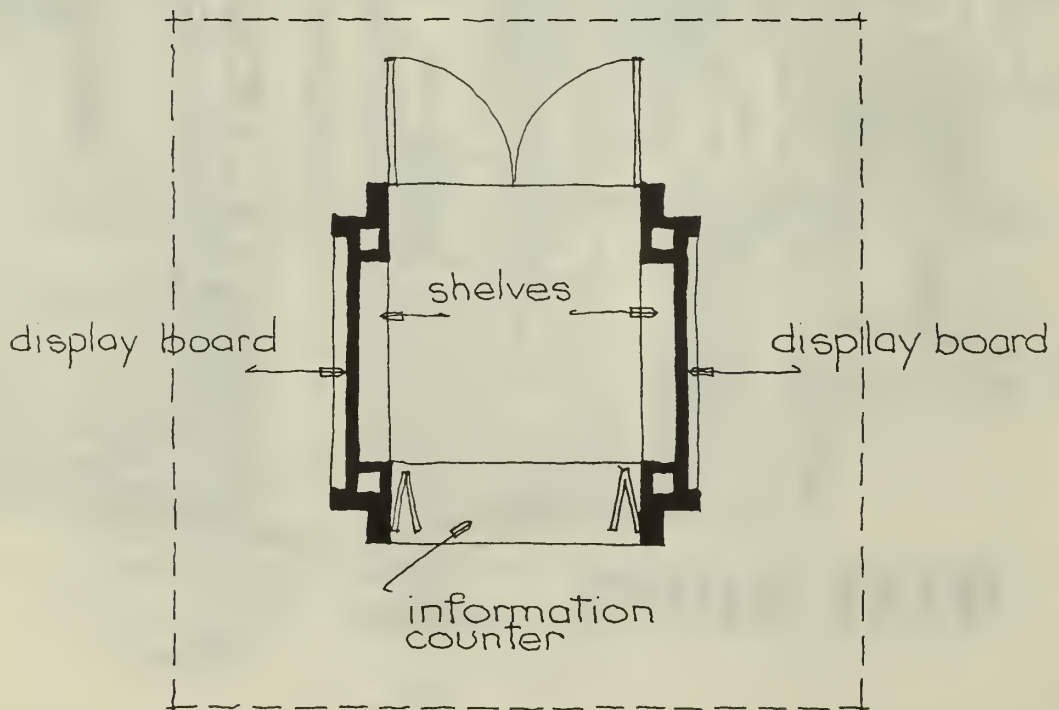
MINI KIOSK

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Kiosk	Contributed by George Stephen Regional Architect NPS, NARO
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elevation



plan

