

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 1

PARSONS, REGINALD, DEAD INDIAN LODGE (1937)

Hyatt Prairie Road (Howard Prairie Lake)
Ashland vicinity, Jackson County, Oregon

COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Named after a plateau region in Oregon's southern Cascade Range, the Dead Indian Lodge hunting camp constructed for Jackson County orchardist Reginald Parsons in 1937 consists of eight developed features in a setting of forest-backed meadow on the west shore of Howard Prairie Lake. The lake, a Bureau of Reclamation project of the 1950s, is located in high country on the east slope of the divide between the Rogue River and Upper Klamath drainage basins. Dead Indian Creek, a tributary to the Rogue, rises on the west slope of the divide. On the east side, the nominated area of 4.12 acres is a fraction of a tract more than a quarter section in size that is traversed by Hyatt Prairie Road. The north-south road forms the west boundary of the nominated area.

With regard to the title of the nomination, it is considered appropriate to use the title Dead Indian Lodge because the camp has been known by that title from the time of its construction in 1937. While it is acknowledged that the present trend is to eliminate place names that could be construed as derogatory to other cultures, and therefore offensive, the names Dead Indian Creek and Dead Indian Mountain remain in use as traditional toponyms stemming from the early days of Euro-American settlement in Jackson County. Under the entry for Dead Indian Creek, Lewis A. McArthur, editor of *Oregon Geographic Names* (Portland, Oregon: Western Imprints, The Press of the Oregon Historical Society, 1982), presents the following explanation of how the name Dead Indian came to be applied in the 1850s.

This creek and Dead Indian Mountain are in Jackson County, and the Dead Indian Road extends from near Ashland past these two geographic features to Upper Klamath Lake in Klamath County. It is said that about 1854 some settlers from Rogue River Valley found two dead Rogue River Indians in some deserted wigwams near the creek, and supposed that Klamath Indians had killed them in a fight. They named the stream for their discovery. For many years the road did not extend over the Cascade Range, but in 1870 Captain O. C. Applegate and a band of Klamath Indians opened the road all the way to Pelican Bay on Upper Klamath Lake.

In 1993, the Jackson County government renamed the road extended by Captain Applegate Dead Indian Memorial Road to preclude any interpretation that the name denigrates American Indians.

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The hunting camp complex includes the cold spring which attracted development of the campsite and the seven detached accessory buildings and structures in descending order of scale: sleeping cabin, and associated woodshed, garage, main woodshed, tool house, pump house and cellar, and outhouse. The focal feature of the camp is the one and a half-story building in the Modern Rustic style constructed of unpainted peeled logs with saddle-notched corner joints, extended crowns, or log ends, and cementitious mortar chinking. It was designed by Robert J. Keeney, an associate of long-time leading Rogue Valley architect Frank C. Clark. While the cold spring and a split-rail fence tracing part of the eastern boundary of the nominated area are important elements of the complex, they are not numbered in the tally of contributing developed features.

The lodge rises from a mortared stone foundation measuring approximately 30 x 37 feet in plan as a cross-gabled rectangular volume with steeply pitched roof. It is oriented to the north, facing onto the head of a driveway entering the property from Hyatt Prairie Road on the west. A single-bay gabled and screened porch is centered on the front elevation. The building is organized internally as a variation of the double-pen plan type in which the foresection contains a living and dining hall with exposed queen post truss roof framing system of peeled log beams, corbels and purlins supporting cedar plank sheathing. The focal point of the common living space is a massive stone fireplace centered on the south wall. Its novel rustic mantelpiece is a Pacific yew log. The rear end-gabled section of the lodge encloses the kitchen, a bedroom and bath. A sleeping loft over the back rooms is accessible by ladder. Interior partitions are finished with vertical pine tongue and groove mill stock. The ground plan is completed by a small gabled back porch offset to the southwest corner as access to the kitchen from the garage and woodshed. In 1988, the roof was recovered entirely with standing seam galvanized sheet metal with brown enamel finish to replace the original deteriorated asbestos shingles. (Ribbed galvanized sheet metal was used occasionally on Adirondack Rustic buildings to cover minor features such as shed corners.) Window openings in the log walls have a horizontal module typically, and they are fitted with multi-light sliding casements. There are large triangular-arched multi-light fixed casement windows in either side gable of the lodge hall. All windows have exterior Z-braced wood shutters.

Furnishings original to the lodge include a decorative folding steel fireplace screen, pine community dining table, wicker and canvas folding chairs, oil hanging lamps, woven wool rugs, and a variety of mounted animal trophies. Electrical service and plumbing were introduced after the historic period, in the 1960s.

Accessory buildings are of frame and peeled log construction and have steep shingle-clad gable roofs to repel snow load. Typically, the exteriors have horizontal tongue and groove siding and vertical siding in gable ends. Most of the buildings were built at the same time as the lodge,

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though the largest two may have been constructed at an earlier camp used by Parsons and imported to the new building site. In general, the outbuildings are oriented in conformance with the longitudinal axis of the lodge, running south to north. Set back from the southeast corner of the lodge are an end-gabled sleeping cabin and an ancillary wood shed at a right angle to it. The sleeping cabin is heated by a woodstove at present. Making up a separate group of buildings along the driveway on the west side of the lodge are the garage and a large open pole shed for wood, a tool house, and an excavated pumphouse and cellar of mortared stone. An outhouse stands behind this accessory group, offset to the southeast. The tool shed, which is clad with horizontal drop siding evidently post dates initial development, but, having been constructed in the early 1940s, it is counted a contributing feature along with the others.

The hunting camp meets National Register Criterion A in the area of outdoor recreation as it relates to hunting and fishing in the upper Klamath basin and Criterion C as a rare, complete private hunting camp ensemble of the rustic type remaining from the period before the Second World War in the Dead Indian country. The only other local log building of its date and type was built by the same architect on the adjoining tax lot for the resident managers of Reginald Parsons's Hillcrest Orchard. The latter is no so well preserved.

Finally, the camp is considered significant under Criterion B for its association with Reginald H. Parsons (1873-1955), Seattle financier and founder of the Hillcrest Orchard of southern Oregon. Parsons was born on Long Island, New York, the scion of a distinguished family with New England roots and forebears who were involved in horticulture and landscape planning. He was raised in Colorado and trained in mining engineering in the 1890s but branched into a career in brokerage and investment banking. Shortly after the turn of the century, he moved with his wife, the former Maude Bemis, to Seattle, which was to be his permanent base thereafter. It was in 1908 that he entered the orchard industry which he would do so much to advance in southern Oregon.

Parsons had led an adventurous early life encompassing a railroad reconnaissance expedition and periods of education and business in California. He was a man of the outdoors who, according to family tradition, relished his wilderness retreat but preferred not to hunt deer. The hunting activities were pursued chiefly by his guests. His first trips to Dead Indian country began after his Seattle corporation purchased the Medford-area orchard tract and the Montcrest Ranch in northern California. His first development of a mountain camp retreat was a small rustic cabin of 1926 on a modest acre about a quarter of a mile from the site of the future lodge. Parsons long had sought to acquire property at a favorite spring near what is now the shore of manmade Howard Prairie Lake. He realized his objective in the Depression, in 1937, when he bought 200

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acres from private holders for \$1,000. Parsons took an active interest in development of his retreat and was eager to achieve a unified appearance for it. He continued trips to the lodge until declining health prevented travel in the early post War era. He died in Seattle in 1955 at the age of 81.

This application provides the context for evaluating the camp's place in outdoor recreation in the upper Klamath basin east of Ashland, which was the setting of hunting expeditions since the late settlement period of the 1860s. Wagon roads and the automobile roads which followed in the 20th century improved access to resorts such as Dead Indian Soda Springs and private lakeside fishing cabins on inholdings of the Rogue River National Forest.

The application makes a good case for the powerful association of Reginald H. Parsons with his ~~ideal~~ mountain retreat as well as his southern Oregon orchard development, the nucleus of which was listed in the National Register in 1983. His was a wide-ranging career in business, finance, orchards, livestock raising, and philanthropy. His holdings extended from the northern California border, where his Mountcrest Ranch was located, to his home and business center in the state of Washington.

The application supports the significance of the hunting lodge as a well preserved example of a type of Modern Rustic architecture promoted by the National Park Service for federally assisted developments on public lands as the New Deal administration sought to employ workers in the intensive hand craft required to build recreational and administrative facilities that harmonized with the natural setting. In their appropriation of Arts and Crafts ideals, the Modern rustic buildings are distinguishable from the working homestead cabins and early hostels of log construction. The documentation shows that design of the lodge began soon after the land sale in March of 1937. Douglas fir logs were felled on the property, and rock was hauled to the building site. Construction initially was supervised first by William Lindsay, owner of a nearby mill, who was succeeded by Ashland builder Loren "Red" Bushnell. The mason was a man named Warner. The rest of the work force was made up of skilled carpenters and employees of Hillcrest Orchard. The lodge was enclosed by November, six or seven months after construction had started. The document presents welcome information on Robert Keeney, the University of Oregon-trained 1931 graduate in architecture who joined Frank Clark in partnership in 1936 following several years of association and after his professional license was secured. Clark, the senior principal, had been the designer of Reginald Parsons' Hillcrest Orchard complex outlying Medford. Details presented here bring Keeney out from under the shadow of his prominent associate.

The nominated property is owned and maintained by the family-controlled Hillcrest Corporation headquartered in Seattle.

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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is

entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Ethan H. Beall 6-13-97

Beall
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
(Check only one box)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>7</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<u>8</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Camp
Domestic Secondary Structures

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Camp
Domestic Secondary Structures

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7. Description

Architectural Classification	Materials
<u>Modern Rustic</u>	foundation <u>stone (uncoursed rubble)</u>
	walls <u>log</u>
	<u>tongue-and-groove</u>
	roof <u>steel (ribbed); asbestos</u>
	other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Dead Indian Lodge, its six outbuildings, and one structure (the pump house/cellar) are shaded by a mixed forest of white and Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, and aspen on a gently sloping hillside at the edge of an open grassy meadow, where a spring has historically supplied water for the lodge occupants. A split-rail fence runs along a portion of the eastern boundary of the property. The nominated property is situated a few hundred yards west of Howard Prairie Lake in southern Oregon's Cascade Range, about twenty-one miles east of the Rogue River Valley community of Ashland. The lodge, the main feature in this building ensemble, is a one- and one-half-story unpainted peeled log structure designed by Robert J. Keeney, then working for prolific Rogue Valley architect Frank C. Clark, and constructed in 1937 in the Modern Rustic style. Steeply pitched intersecting gable roofs cap the rectangular volume of the building, measuring 30 x 37 1/2 feet. Screened porches project from the front (north) and rear (south) walls. Two large multi-pane fixed casement gothic windows in the gable ends and several multi-pane sliding casement windows on the ground floor, flood light into the lodge's interior spaces. An expansive 14-foot-wide fireplace of uncoursed stone and concrete, whose chimney rises up through the 24-foot-high ceiling at the ridgeline, dominates the main living/dining area that extends across the front half of the lodge. The lodge rests on uncoursed stone and concrete mortar piers and foundation walls,

Five outbuildings, including the sleeping cabin, sleeping cabin woodshed, outhouse, garage, and open peeled-pole woodshed, were presumably built in 1937. Evidence suggests that the sleeping cabin and garage were constructed about a mile away, near a local sawmill, and moved to the lodge site. Only the tool house was built slightly later in the early 1940s. All outbuildings are of either wood-frame or peeled-log construction with gable roofs and stone pier and wall foundations. The only structure, a small stone and concrete excavated pump house/cellar, also dates from 1937. (Please see accompanying site plan map of the property.) The Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge, outbuildings, single structure, and setting have experienced only minor alterations over the years and, thus, have retained their integrity of location (since 1937), design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. The main lodge is in excellent condition; ancillary buildings are all in good or excellent condition. The seven buildings, one structure, the spring partially contained by a stone and concrete retaining wall, and the split-rail fence contribute to the significance of the nominated property.

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Description (continued)

Setting and landscape features. The Dead Indian Lodge building ensemble occupies a small 4.12-acre parcel in the northern portion of an approximately 166-acre tax lot owned by Hillcrest Corporation. The land slopes gently upward to the south (behind the lodge). The lodge and seven accessory buildings stand at an elevation of about 4,580 feet on the northern edge of an aging stand of Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and white fir. Other tree species found in the area include sugar pine, incense cedar, and Pacific yew. A 30-foot flag pole stands about 50 feet in front (north) of the lodge. To the north of the lodge, small groves of aspen grow near the edge of an open grassy meadow and around a sizeable spring, contained on one side by an arching stone and concrete wall, and rivulet flowing to the east. Howard Prairie Lake, created by the Bureau of Reclamation in the late 1950s, lies several hundred yards to the east.

Lodge exterior. The Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge, designed and built in 1937, is constructed of unpainted peeled round logs (probably Douglas fir felled on the property) and original concrete chinking. It contains a rectangular volume measuring approximately 30 feet wide and 37 1/2 feet deep (interior dimensions). The lodge's right-angle flush-cut log ends extend about one foot beyond the saddled-notched corner joints. Two screened porches of vertical log construction, measuring 10 1/2 x 13 feet and 8 x 6 1/2 feet, project from the main (north) facade over the central doorway and the south wall over the off-center rear entry. A steeply pitched cross-gable roof over the main volume and porches is clad with ribbed steel panels over original cedar shingles. Log purlins and rafters are exposed under the overhanging eaves at the gable ends and sides of the lodge. A broad rough-cut uncoursed stone and concrete mortar central chimney projects from the roof where the two gable ridges meet. The entire structure rests on uncoursed rough-cut stone and concrete mortar piers and foundation walls. Both front and rear porches and steps are of similar stone and concrete construction. Two large multi-pane fixed casement Gothic windows are positioned in the upper walls of the east and west gable ends. Nine-by-nine and six-by-six sliding casement windows at the ground level flood light into the lodge's interior spaces. Wood storm shutters and doors of vertical board secured by Z-pattern ledges and braces are opened against the wall when the lodge

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Description (continued)

is occupied.¹

Lodge interior. The interior of the lodge contains five rooms: a "great hall" living/dining area extending across the front (north) half of the building, a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen in the rear (south) half of the ground floor, and a sleeping loft above, all accessed from an interior hallway running east and west behind the living/ dining room wall. (Please see accompanying lodge floor plan.) The interior walls throughout most of the lodge are round horizontal peeled logs with concrete chinking. Interior wall partitions dividing the bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen and, as well as the cabinetry in the kitchen, are finished with vertical tongue and groove pine boards. Heavy vertical plank doors with black butt hinges and door handles open into the hallway from all four rooms. Flooring throughout much of the lodge is narrow tongue and groove boards.

The expansive living/dining room, measuring 30 x 20 feet, features a ceiling that reveals long cedar shingles over log purlins and a peeled-log queen post truss configuration under the lodge roof. The floor-to-ceiling height at the gable ridge is about 24 feet. A massive stone and concrete mortar hearth and fireplace, about 14 feet across at the base, and chimney rise up in the center of the room's interior south wall. A large Pacific yew log, cut in the vicinity of the lodge by the building's head carpenter, serves as the rustic fireplace mantelshelf. A hinged tripaneled decorative steel screen with several ranch animals silhouetted at the base (once located at the Parsons Mountcrest Ranch property near Hilt in northern California), stands on the hearth across the fireplace opening.

Many of the room's furnishings are original to the lodge and add substantially to its authentic rustic character. The 8-foot-long dining table, built for the lodge soon after its completion, is constructed of two wide Ponderosa pine boards supported by horizontal cross members and table legs of Pacific yew. Rustic wicker fan chairs and a woven lath cushioned sofa, as well as several wood and folding

¹ Frank C. Clark and Robert J. Keeney, architects, "Hunting Lodge for Mr. Reginald Parsons" (building plans), 1937, Parsons Collection, Hillcrest Orchard, Medford, Oregon [hereafter cited as Parsons Collection].

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Description (continued)

canvas chairs and small wood tables, are arranged in front of the fireplace and along the room's walls. Two original oil lamps hang from ceiling beams. Several woven wool rugs and striped curtains at the windows are original to the lodge. Two of the seven animal trophy heads (of an elk and wolf) that adorn the walls, along with cougar heads and skins and a wolf skin, were hunted in the Pacific Northwest or Canada and date from the lodge's construction period. (The heads of a buffalo, Dall sheep, a stag deer from Scotland, and two other stag deer are later additions and are not native to the area.)

The rooms occupying the rear half of the lodge, accessed from the interior hallway, have several notable design features that date from the lodge's construction. The kitchen sink sets in the middle of the original unpainted wood counter, 2 feet wide and extending nearly 12 1/2 feet along the side (west) wall, made from a single 1-inch-thick pine plank. Original unpainted pine cabinets extend the length of the wall above and below the counter. The bathroom features a galvanized iron shower stall with a large sprinkler head. In the hall, a peeled limb ladder fixed to the wall ascends to the sleeping loft. Rustic peeled limb posts and rails rise from the edge of the loft.

Sleeping Cabin. The rectangular 14 x 20-foot sleeping cabin that rests on a stone post and pier foundation about 100 feet southeast of the lodge is of wood-frame construction and sheathed with horizontal tongue and groove siding. A steeply pitched east-west-sloping gable roof, clad with original rigid asbestos shingles over cedar shingles, caps the cabin; a shed roof sheathed with asbestos shingles and supported by square posts extends over a 4-foot-deep porch projecting from the main north facade. Overhanging eaves reveal exposed 2 x 4-foot rafters. A continuous band of four large six-light casement windows along the cabin's east and west side walls, open inward and allow for ample cross ventilation. (Wood shutters opening outward cover these windows when the cabin is unoccupied.) The front door has eight fixed panes in the upper portion and a three-light transom above, covered by a storm door when the cabin is unoccupied. The interior of the cabin features tongue and groove flooring and 5-inch-wide vertical tongue and groove wainscoting below the windows. The cabin is furnished with two bunk beds, a small table, chairs and benches, a dresser, and a wood stove.

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Sleeping Cabin Woodshed. Less than 10 feet east of the sleeping cabin stands a 9 x 10-foot woodshed of vertical peeled log construction with horizontal board siding below the eaves and tongue and groove sheathing in the gable ends. The steeply pitched gable roof, with a north-south ridgeline, is sheathed with wide boards overlain with asbestos shingles. The building rests on a stone foundation.

Outhouse. The 3 x 4-foot outhouse, situated on the sloping hillside behind (southwest of) the lodge, is of wood-frame construction with horizontal tongue-and-groove sheathing and vertical corner boards. Its steeply pitched gable roof and small gable roof vent monitor retain their original asbestos shingles over tongue and groove boards. Diamond-shaped vents are in each gable end. The vertical tongue and groove board door, with plain board molding, has a peeled limb door handle. The outhouse has been moved only a few feet from its original location. It sits on a stone pier foundation.

Garage. The garage, whose overall dimensions are 10 1/2 x 21 feet, is a wood-frame building sheathed with 5-inch-wide horizontal tongue-and-groove siding and corner boards. Vertical boards covering siding seams on the east and west side walls denote the addition of a 3-foot extension on the front north end (to accommodate a longer automobile) and an 8-foot extension on the rear of the building. Both additions were probably made shortly after the garage was constructed and moved to the site in 1937. The three-sided south extension, built as a woodshed, has a projecting roof above peeled log tie beams, supported by log knee braces. The entire building is capped with a continuous unbroken steeply pitched gable roof clad with asbestos shingles. Rafters are exposed under overhanging eaves. The building rests on a stone and concrete mortar foundation wall. Wood tripartite double-wide garage doors open at the north end of the building.

Woodshed (behind Garage). The woodshed for the lodge, located a few feet behind (south of) the garage, measures 10 x 12 feet. A steeply pitched gable roof, supported by peeled log purlins and rafters, is sheathed with asbestos shingles over tongue-and-groove boards. Vertical tongue-and-groove boards fill both gable ends. Vertical peeled logs support the roof members on all but the south end. The log sills rest on a stone and wood block pier foundation.

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Tool House. The 8 x 10-foot tool house, erected in the early 1940s, is a wood-frame building sheathed with horizontal channel-drop siding. Flat stone and concrete mortar steps lead to the wood storm and entry doors on the north wall. Single small multi-pane casement windows with plain board surrounds, protected by wood channel drop storm shutters, are positioned on the side and rear walls. A steeply pitched gable roof with exposed rafters and asbestos shingles caps the building. The tool house sits on a stone and concrete mortar foundation.

Pump House/Cellar. This 8 x 10-foot structure is partially below ground, excavated to a depth of about 3 feet, and lined with concrete. The walls and arched roof are of uncoursed rock and concrete. The pump house/cellar is entered through sloping bulkhead door covering a 5-foot-wide stairwell that projects about 5 feet from the north wall of the structure.

Developmental History. The Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge ensemble has received only minor alterations since the buildings were constructed and moved (in the case of the sleeping cabin and garage) in 1937 and in the early 1940s. All six outbuildings and single structure retain their original design features, materials, and location (since 1937), except for the outhouse, which has been moved only a few feet from its 1930s site. The main lodge has experienced only minor evolutionary changes and these have not compromised this rustic-style building ensemble's integrity of location, design, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

Minimal changes in or near the lodge are limited to the introduction of electricity, the updating of plumbing fixtures, and the protection of the property against fire, vandalism, and damage from weather. In 1962-1963 electricity from nearby Hyatt Prairie Road wires replaced the gasoline-powered generator in the tool house used to pump water. In the mid-1960s, the lodge was wired for the first time. Soon afterwards an electric stove and refrigerator replaced the wood stove and ice box in the kitchen. An alarm system was installed in the building in the late 1960s. Around 1993, the overhead electrical wires from the road were put underground.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance 1937-1946

Significant Dates 1937

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Reginald Hascall Parsons

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Robert J. Keeney

Frank C. Clark

Charles Lindsay (builder)

Loren Bushnell (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge and its six accessory buildings and single structure, built primarily in 1937, qualify for National Register listing under criteria A, B, and C. The nominated 4.12-acre parcel of forest and meadow land on the Dead Indian Plateau in the southern Cascades is associated with outdoor recreational development (hunting and fishing) in southern Oregon's upper Klamath drainage basin. This building ensemble is one of the few remaining unaltered examples of a privately owned rustic summer home in Jackson County's upper Klamath Basin and is the only such complex listed in

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Minor changes to the central fireplace and chimney occurred when hot water coils at the back of the fireplace were removed in the mid-1960s, a mesh fire curtain was installed across the front of the fireplace in the 1970s, and a screen was placed over the upper chimney openings in the late 1970s. The lodge received a new roof in 1988 when the original rigid asbestos shingles, badly damaged in places by the weight of winter snows, were replaced by high-ribbed 26-gauge galvanized steel panels with a baked dark brown enamel finish. In 1995 a peeled pole handrail, fashioned by Judson Parsons, was added to the stone steps leading to the front porch of the lodge.

In October 1996, the owners made two minor changes to the sleeping cabin. They replaced the floor boards on the front porch of the sleeping cabin, including several rotting boards on the porch's unprotected ends, with treated tongue-and-groove boards nearly identical to the original flooring. They also placed a flared galvanized steel cap over the existing concrete covering atop the chimney of the main lodge to prevent water from seeping down the chimney and causing damage to the interior. In the future they intend to reconstruct the existing chimney on the rear wall of the sleeping cabin in order to reduce the fire danger to the building and the property's aging timber stand.²

Significance (continued)

the "Jackson County Cultural and Historical Resource Survey. Moreover, the lodge and its outbuildings were constructed for Reginald Parsons, a noted Seattle financier and philanthropist, southern Oregon orchardist (Hillcrest Orchard in Medford), and northern California rancher (Mountcrest Ranch in Hilt) from 1908 through the 1940s. The Dead Indian Lodge ensemble represents the only privately owned complex built for and used by Reginald Parsons as a summer retreat in the Pacific Northwest. Finally, the Dead Indian Lodge and related cultural features are notable intact examples of the Modern Rustic style of architecture in southern Oregon's Klamath basin associated with the body of work designed by Robert J. Keeney, then a new

² Judson Parsons, interview by Gail Evans, August 10, 1996; phone interview by Gail Evans, August 28, 1996.

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Significance (continued)

associate working with prolific southern Oregon and northern California architect Frank C. Clark. Keeney and Clark are known to have designed only one other rustic log building, the similar but smaller and somewhat altered log house constructed nearby in 1937 for Reginald Parsons's Hillcrest Orchard resident managers, Maisie and Timothy Daily. Parsons's lodge is included in Oregon's "Inventory of Historic Properties" for its association with prominent owner Reginald Parsons and noted architect Frank Clark.³

Recreational Development of the Dead Indian Country

The Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge ensemble possesses historical significance for its association with the recreational development of Oregon's southern Cascade Range and, specifically, the Dead Indian Plateau in Jackson County. The lodge complex is one of the few extant seasonal retreats in this area built exclusively for private use before World War II. Its present high degree of physical integrity visually conveys its contribution to the outdoor recreational history of the Dead Indian country.

The recreational use of the Dead Indian country, encompassing an area in the upper Klamath Basin east of Ashland, Oregon, roughly contained by Fish Lake on the north, Lake of the Woods on the northeast, and the Greensprings Highway (Hwy 66) on the south, dates back to the mid-1800s. As early as 1864, two Ashland residents organized an elk hunting expedition to the Dead Indian country. In the late 1860s, not long after Ashland area residents developed a primitive wagon trail to the head of Dead Indian Creek, small parties from the Rogue River Valley (Jacksonville area) made excursions into the country "to try their adventures amid the beautiful . . . almost classic glades and marshes of Dead Indian." By 1870, after this wagon road had been improved and extended over the mountains to Pelican Bay on Upper Klamath Lake, a local Jacksonville newspaper

³ L. Scott Clay/Kay Atwood, "Parsons, Reginald Cabin: Jackson County Cultural and Historical Resource Survey (Medford, Oreg.: Jackson County Planning Department, 1979/1991); L. Scott Clay, "Parsons (Reginald H.) Summer Cabin: State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties" (Salem, Oreg.: State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon State Parks Department, April 11, 1979).

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reported that the Dead Indian country was becoming "the favorite summer resort for the people of the valley, who not only enjoy the pure and bracing mountain air but are also delighted by the presence of the most romantic and remarkable scenery." In the 1870s and 1880s, Dead Indian Soda Springs became a popular destination for several area residents, who spent a few days or weeks there each summer. Judge John Breckenridge Waldo, recently retired chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, led a hunting and sightseeing party down the spine of the Cascades (roughly following the present Pacific Crest Trail) into the Dead Indian country in the summer of 1888.⁴ Two years later, Judge Orange Jacobs, writing for the Pacific Magazine, promoted the Dead Indian country as the "paradise of sportsmen," where elk, bear, and black-tailed deer were "everywhere-- in prairies, glade and wood," where pheasants, mountain quail and blue grouse were abundant, and where trout flourished in streams and lakes. "What more could the sportsman desire," Jacobs queried.⁵

Development of the Dead Indian country for recreational use accelerated after the turn of the century as improved roads into the area and the increasing use of automobiles afforded better access from the Rogue River Valley. The Dead Indian Road (recently renamed "Dead Indian Memorial Road"), which then provided the most feasible route from the valley to Crater Lake and Upper Klamath Lake, stimulated recreational use of the area. In 1909 S. L. Burton reported:

Of late years this region has taken on considerable prominence as a play ground for the people of this portion of [the] Rogue River valley. The magnificent scenery, teeming trout streams, its cold and pure springs, and the abundance of game makes it an ideal place for a summer outing, while not least among the attractions are the immense huckleberry patches, which appeal alike to the

⁴ Jeffrey M. LaLande, Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest: A Cultural Resource Overview (Medford, Oreg.: Rogue River National Forest, U.S. Forest Service), 133-34, quoted passages are from p. 130 and 131, respectively.

⁵ Judge Orange Jacobs, "Dead Indian Country," Pacific Magazine 2: 3 (May 1890), 73.

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summer camper and the black and brown bears.⁶

Five years later, F. D. Wagner noted other attractions in the area: scenic glimpses of "Mt. Pitt or McLoughlin, in all its capped glory," and "virgin forests of stately pines and firs through much of which the sun never penetrates."⁷ Remembering her childhood in the Dead Indian country in the mid-1910s, Agnes Jones recalled that several Ashland businessmen would bring their families to camp on the south side of Dead Indian Memorial Road, about four miles east of the Lindsay homestead, in an area that Reginald Parsons began exploring on recreational outings in the early 1910s.⁸ After a failed attempt to purchase land for his own private retreat in 1919, he succeeded in acquiring about an acre of land south of Dead Indian Memorial Road (now on the west shore of Howard Prairie Lake) in the mid-1920s, where he had a small log hunting cabin built.

The 1920s and 1930s witnessed an even greater increase in recreational use of the Dead Indian country as outdoor pursuits became affordable to more and more Americans and as the Forest Service encouraged outdoor recreation on its nearby public land, especially during the Great Depression when some of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal relief programs fostered the development of recreational facilities on public lands. The popular Dead Indian Soda Springs, which attracted an increasing number of campers after road access improved, was developed as a public resort in the 1910s and 1920s. In 1933 an Emergency Relief Administration work crew built trails, a picnic area, and rustic outdoor community kitchen at the resort. Around the same time, the Civilian Conservation Corps developed campgrounds at nearby Gypsy Springs, a popular berry-picking camp. Summer resorts at

⁶ S. L. Burton, "The Dead Indian," (special edition of unidentified Ashland newspaper), vertical file, "Dead Indian," Southern Oregon Historical Society.

⁷ F. D. Wagner, "Pelican Bay via Dead Indian Route," Ashland Daily Tidings, December 31, 1914.

⁸ Agnes Jones, interview by Jeffrey M. LaLande, in Recollections: People and the Forest, Oral History Interviews, Volume III: From the 'Upper Rogue' to the 'Dead Indian Plateau' (Medford, Oreg.: Rogue River National Forest, U.S. Forest Service, 1990), 12.

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popular angling retreats on Fish Lake and Lake of the Woods, developed in the 1930s on inholdings in the Rogue River National Forest and accessed by Dead Indian Memorial Road, attracted even more outdoor enthusiasts to the plateau country.⁹ In 1937 Reginald Parsons, after visiting the Dead Indian country for nearly thirty years on recreational outings, was able to acquire 200 acres of forest and meadow land on which to build a private "hunting lodge." Sixty years after its construction, Parsons Dead Indian Lodge complex is one of the very few remaining well-developed and unaltered examples of a private family retreat in the Dead Indian area.

Reginald H. Parsons

The Dead Indian Lodge ensemble possesses significance because of its association with Reginald Hascall Parsons, known throughout the Pacific Northwest during the first half of the twentieth century for his acumen as a successful investor with extensive landholdings in Washington, Oregon, and northern California, and for his many civic and philanthropic activities. Parsons's early twentieth-century development of Hillcrest Orchard in Medford, Oregon, contributed, in part, to the nomination of fifteen orchard buildings (dating from around 1900 to 1926) to the National Register in 1983. There are no other National Register properties associated with his life and substantial contributions to Oregon and Washington business, agricultural, and cultural history. The Dead Indian lodge complex represents Parsons's long-standing enthusiasm for nature and outdoor adventures in southern Oregon's Cascade Range. The architect-designed rustic lodge and accessory buildings, completed when Parsons was in his mid-sixties, are the only known structures built for Parsons as a recreational retreat.¹⁰

Reginald Parsons was born on October 3, 1873 in Flushing, Long Island, New York, to a family of notable ancestors, including William Bradford, a Pilgrim survivor of the Mayflower and leading founder of Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620, John Winthrop, governor of the

⁹ LaLande, Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest, 143, 145-46.

¹⁰ Parsons, interview by Evans, August 28, 1996.

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Puritan Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1630s, and a family of prosperous Massachusetts whalers. Reginald's grandfather, Samuel Parsons, became a horticulturist of international repute from the 1850s to the 1870s and founder of Parsons Sons and Company in New York State. George Howland Parsons, Reginald's father, worked with his father and brother for eight years before moving to Colorado to become the general manager of the Colorado Springs Company, which founded that city and was responsible for much of its planning and landscaping. He later became president of the Colorado Forestry Association and was an early advocate of government forest conservation in the United States.¹¹

In 1880 Reginald moved with his parents, George and Lorraine Fiske Hascall Parsons, to Colorado Springs where he attended public school. At age twelve, young Reginald Parsons attended a private school in the East, the Friends School (later known as the Moses Brown School), in Providence, Rhode Island. Three years later, he returned to Colorado where he later entered the Colorado College in Colorado Springs. He interrupted his education for three years to work on a reconnaissance team for the Rio Grande Western Railway in Utah and Nevada in 1891-1892, as a station agent for a small railroad in New Mexico, and as a mining stock broker. After returning to Colorado College for one year, he entered the University of California at Berkeley in 1894, where he majored in mining engineering. His parents' ill health persuaded him to return to Colorado Springs in 1896. Following George Parsons's death in 1898, Reginald joined the Colorado Springs-based stock broker and investment banking firm of W. P. Bonbright and Company for two years, where he acted as a trader on the mining exchange floor. In 1900 Parsons became associated with the Bemis Brothers Bag Company, the largest importer of burlap and manufacturer of burlap and cotton bags in the United States, where he worked, first, in St. Louis and, then, in San Francisco as the

¹¹ Lancaster Pollard, History of Washington (New York: American Historical Society, Inc., 1937), 58-59; Seattle and Environs, 1852-1929 (Chicago: Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, 1924), 80; Kay Atwood and Gail E. H. Evans, "Hillcrest Orchard, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form" (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, Historic Conservation and Recreation Service, 1982); Warren Carlyle Bayliss, "History of Mountcrest Ranch . . .," Siskiyou Pioneer 4: 8 (1975), 79.

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cashier-bookkeeper for the company's western branch. Three years after his marriage to Maude Bemis on January 31, 1901, the couple moved to Seattle, where Reginald opened a Bemis branch office. He served as manager of this office until 1908 when he resigned to pursue a career as orchardist and rancher, businessman, and financier that spanned more than forty-five years.¹²

Reginald Parsons's own business endeavors began in 1908 when, as president of the newly formed investment corporation known as Hillcrest Orchard Company, he purchased, from Julian Perkins Stewart, the 200-acre Hillcrest Orchard in southern Oregon's Rogue River Valley. (Around 1917, Parsons became the sole owner of the orchard.¹³) Over the next several years, Parsons developed Hillcrest into one of the most productive and well-managed orchards in the nation. From 1908 to 1910, Parsons received the world's record for prices given to carloads of deciduous fruit sold in London, England. Concerned with the distribution of Rogue Valley fruit, he helped form the Northwestern Fruit Exchange, which represented the fruit-selling interests of private northwestern orchardists; later he served as its president. During the 1910s, he also spearheaded efforts to organize the Rogue River Fruit and Produce Association for the purpose of handling and selling valley fruit, and he organized the Pinnacle Packing Company for packing the fruit of Rogue Valley orchardists. Parsons's own success and efforts to aid valley orchardists in marketing and distributing fruit helped encourage the arrival of dozens of hopeful orchardists to the valley in the early twentieth century and establish the Rogue Valley's reputation for fine fruit production.¹⁴ In 1983 the Hillcrest Orchard complex of fifteen buildings dating from around 1900 to 1926 was nominated to the

¹² Pollard, History of Washington, 59; Seattle and Environs, 83; Atwood and Evans, "Hillcrest Orchard, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form."

¹³ Patricia Parish Kuhn, "Seasons of Hillcrest Orchard," Southern Oregon Heritage 1: 4 (Spring 1996), 7; Reginald Parsons to Mrs. James Daily, July 1, 1917, Parsons Collection.

¹⁴ Pollard, History of Washington, 59; Seattle and Environs, 83; "R. H. Parsons, Civic Leader, Dies at 81," Seattle Times, June 9, 1955.

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National Register of Historic Places for its contribution to the agricultural, economic, and architectural development of the Rogue Valley.¹⁵

The operation of Hillcrest Orchard was certainly not all that consumed Reginald Parsons energies and interests as a businessman and financier. In 1911 he founded Mountcrest Ranch on the northern California-southern Oregon border, where Hillcrest Orchard horses and mules were wintered (before machinery replaced work animals at the orchard after World War II) and purebred Hereford cattle, Southdown sheep, and Morgan horses were raised; Mountcrest's horses became an important source of breeding stock for the entire Pacific coast.¹⁶ Parsons also became immersed in several agricultural and business pursuits in Washington State during the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s. In 1914 he organized the Methow Valley Livestock Corporation, which invested heavily in agricultural land at the Chewuch Ranch on the eastern slopes of the Cascades in Okanogan County near Winthrop, as well as the Pleasant Hill dairy farm in Tolt, Washington. In 1920 he founded the Parsons Investment Company of Seattle, and in 1925 he organized Parsons, Hart and Company investment brokers. Parsons's widely recognized business and executive abilities earned him the position of president of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and, three years later, of American Committee member of the International Chamber of Commerce. He also served as the president of the International Chamber of Commerce. Beginning in the 1920s, he was appointed to the board of directors of the Northern Life Insurance Company, the Seattle Trust Company, the Washington Title Company, and the Pacific International Livestock Exposition, and was made vice-president of the National Discount Corporation. In 1922 he became one of two Seattle representatives to a group charged with developing the Columbia River

¹⁵ Atwood and Evans, "Hillcrest Orchard, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form."

¹⁶ Bayliss, "History of Mountcrest Ranch . . .," 79-80.

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basin for flood control and irrigation purposes.¹⁷

During this same period, Reginald Parsons also became widely known for his generous contributions of time and money to a number of Northwest and national cultural associations, social organizations, and athletic endeavors. In 1924 Parsons agreed to serve as a member of a Northwest committee organized to plan the upcoming Olympic Games. For many years, he was a staunch supporter of the Boy Scouts and served as the president of the Seattle Council of Boy Scouts and a national executive for the Boy Scouts of America. He also donated land on Washington's Hood Canal for a Boy Scout camp that became known as "Camp Parsons." Parsons helped found and served as the first president of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra and was the director of the Seattle Arboretum Association and president of the Japan Society. He also organized and served as president of the Seattle Community Fund. With his wife, Maude Bemis, he co-founded the Art Institute of Seattle. As a trustee, he gave generously of his time and money to the Seattle Lakeside School for Boys and Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. In 1934 Whitman College recognized Reginald Parsons's many philanthropic and financial contributions to the cultural and economic development of Washington and the Pacific Northwest with an honorary doctor of law degree.¹⁸

Reginald Parsons began visiting the Dead Indian country not long after his Washington corporation purchased Hillcrest Orchard in Medford, Oregon, in 1908 and he and his wife and their young family began spending several months each year in southern Oregon. By 1911, Parsons had begun making camping trips up into the Dead Indian country, known for its abundance of deer. Although Parsons never actually hunted, this scenic plateau early on became a restful retreat

¹⁷ Pollard, History of Washington, 59; Seattle and Environs, 83; Seattle Times, June 9, 1955; Atwood and Evans, "Hillcrest Orchard, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form"; Reginald Parsons to Mrs. James Daily, April 27, 1922, Parsons Collection.

¹⁸ New York Times, June 16, 1955, 31; Seattle Times, June 9, 1955; Pollard, History of Washington, 59-60; Seattle and Environs, 84; Atwood and Evans, "Hillcrest Orchard, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form."

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from the rigors of his Hillcrest Orchard operation and his many business activities in Seattle. Parsons took great pleasure in his Dead Indian outdoor experiences and developed an enormous fondness for that country's forested mountain slopes, open meadows, and plentiful creeks and springs.¹⁹

Parsons also acquired considerable knowledge of the Dead Indian country and some of its landowners, as well as a keen interest in buying land in the area. In an October 1919 letter to his attorney, Lincoln McCormack, Parsons wrote: "I am desirous of acquiring some property in the Dead Indian Country, where we have been camping sometime, including the big spring. It would not be necessary to purchase over five acres, possibly less."²⁰ Despite subsequent correspondence between Parsons and McCormack about buying an 80-acre parcel with a spring, from either F. J. Swenning (of Farmington, New Hampshire) or Nels Swenning (of Rock Falls, Illinois), no purchase agreement was ever consummated that year.²¹ Seven years passed before he bought about an acre of land (one and a quarter miles north of Parsons's future lodge) in early 1926 from homesteader and rancher William C. Lindsay and his wife Joan Lindsay. Parsons had a small rustic log cabin built on this parcel, probably around the same time.²²

¹⁹ Photo album, Parsons Collection, Hillcrest Orchard; Mary "Nan" Parsons Day, interview by Marjorie Edens and Ruth Preston, February 28, 1979, transcript 92-20A and 92-22, Southern Oregon Historical Society, Medford, Oregon.

²⁰ Reginald Parsons to Lincoln McCormack, October 25, 1919, Parsons Collection.

²¹ Lincoln McCormack to Reginald Parsons, October 31, 1919; Reginald Parsons to Lincoln McCormack, November 3, 1919, both in Parsons Collection.

²² According to Roland Lindsay, son of William Lindsay, Parsons sold the one-acre parcel and cabin back to the Lindsays after the larger Dead Indian lodge was completed. This 1920s small log cabin, much altered from its original appearance, still stands and is now located in the Howard Prairie Resort campground along the west shore of Howard Prairie Lake. Roland Lindsay, phone interview by Gail Evans, September 1, 1996; William C. Lindsay, et ux to Reginald H. Parsons, Warranty Deed, March 3, 1926, Jackson County Deed Records, Vol. 159, p. 358, 359 and Vol. 162, p. 162, Jackson County Courthouse, Medford, Oregon;

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Parsons's long-time desire to acquire property near a favorite often-visited spring and campsite in the Dead Indian country was finally realized during the Great Depression. In March 1937, he purchased 200 acres of forest and meadow land south of Dead Indian Memorial Road from Winfred J. and Lena Swenning, husband and wife residing in Douglas County, Nebraska, for \$1,000.²³ Parsons immediately made plans to construct a "hunting lodge" on the northern portion of the acreage, just a few hundred feet south of the cold spring. During and after construction of the lodge, Parsons's Dead Indian retreat became his "newest love." In 1938, when he spent most of the year in southern Oregon and northern California, Parsons made frequent extended trips to the Dead Indian Lodge, occasionally in the company of his children, grandchildren, his wife Maude (who did not share her husband's love of rustic outdoor living), and visiting friends. Reginald continued making regular trips to the Dead Indian lodge well into his seventies, until his health began to decline in the late 1940s. Ill-health curtailed and eventually halted these visits about three or four years before his death at age eighty-one in 1955.²⁴

Modern Rustic Style Architecture

The Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge achieves architectural significance as a little altered rustic log structure, built as a private recreational retreat in the upper Klamath Basin Dead Indian Plateau country. Historically, log cabins built in this area were constructed as part of working homesteads (such as the Lilyglen Log Cabin on Howard Prairie Lake), year-round residences, or lodges for

Maisie Daily to Berth Lee Crouse, June 27, 1938, Parsons Papers, Special Collections, Knight Library, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon [hereafter cited as Parsons Papers]; Day, interview by Edens and Preston, transcript, 92-21; Photo album, Parsons Collection; Visual inspection of cabin, by Judson Parsons and Gail Evans, August 10, 1996.

²³ Winfred J. Swenning, et ux to Reginald H. Parsons, Warranty Deed, March 11, 1937, Jackson County Deed Records, Vol. 211, p. 498; Reginald Parsons to Maisie Daily, March 2, 1937 and March 16, 1937, Parsons Papers.

²⁴ Bertha Crouse to Reginald Parsons, August 4 and September 1, 1938, Parsons Papers; Parsons, phone interview by Evans, August 28, 1996.

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the traveling public (such as the Pinehurst Inn on the Greensprings Highway, twenty-five miles east of Ashland), or they are no longer extant. The Parsons Dead Indian Lodge is also a fine example of the Modern Rustic style of architect, distinguished by its log construction, large stone chimneys, use of natural materials in foundations, porches, and interior features, moderate or steeply pitched gable or hip roofs, and numerous multi-pane windows. The architect-designed lodge is associated with the work of Medford architect Robert J. Keeney, then in partnership with prolific Rogue Valley architect Frank C. Clark. Only one other Modern Rustic style recreational log cabin designed by the Keeney-Clark team is known to exist in southern Oregon, a smaller now somewhat altered structure built by Parsons in 1937 for Hillcrest Orchard employees, Maisie and Timothy Daily, located a few hundred yards north of the Parsons Dead Indian Lodge. The lodge is further distinguished by its six intact outbuildings and single structure, all built in the rustic style and constructed during or soon after completion of the lodge. All of the buildings share many of the same design features and building materials.

Robert J. Keeney, primary architect of the Dead Indian Lodge, received his architectural training at the University of Oregon. After taking his degree in 1931, Keeney worked for the Portland firm of Lucius and Miller for a year before accepting an offer, in March 1932, to design and draw small house plans for Big Pines Lumber Company in Medford, Oregon. Soon after arriving in southern Oregon, he met architect Frank C. Clark and began working in his office on nights and during weekends. By 1936, he had accumulated enough hours of practical experience with Clark, a registered architect, to qualify for the Oregon licensing exams. Keeney became registered as an architect in Oregon in November 1936 and, soon after, joined in partnership with Frank Clark in the firm of Clark and Keeney. Their professional association continued (except for four years during World War II when Keeney enrolled in the military) into the 1950s.²⁵

²⁵ Robert Keeney, interview by Marjorie Edens, January 24, 1980, transcript 121-2, 121-7, Southern Oregon Historical Society; Robert J. Keeney, interview by Kay Atwood and Gail Evans, April 13, 1982, transcript 271-2 to 271-5, Southern Oregon Historical Society; "Retired Architect Robert Keeney Dies," Medford Mail

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Frank Chamberlain Clark first began practicing architecture in southern Oregon's Rogue River Valley in 1902, after apprenticing in the offices of several New Jersey and New York architectural firms, including the nationally renowned McKim, Mead, and White, and traveling west to Los Angeles, where he first joined the firm of Frederick Roehrig and then began working on his own projects in Arizona. Clark moved permanently to Ashland, Oregon, in 1903. Not long afterward, he opened a second office in Medford, when rapid growth and building activity there provided fresh opportunities for the skilled architect, then in his early forties. Soon afterward, he took up residence in Medford. During the thirty-five years prior to the construction of the Parsons's Dead Indian Lodge, Clark, sometimes working with assistants, designed scores of Rogue Valley residences, commercial buildings, educational facilities, churches, fraternal lodges, and agricultural buildings of all kinds, many of which were for Reginald Parsons. In 1982 an inventory of Frank Clark's work in the valley disclosed that over 250 buildings were designed in his office. Since then, more Clark-designed buildings have been documented. When Robert Keeney joined Clark, he was known throughout southern Oregon for the merits of his work, which had been recognized statewide with an appointment to the Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners and election to the Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects as an associate.²⁶

Reginald Parsons's Dead Indian Lodge was among the first assignments and one of only two log building projects (the other being Parsons's cabin for Maisie and Timothy Daily) that Robert Keeney presumably ever undertook during his partnership with Frank Clark. Together Keeney and Clark designed numerous residences, commercial buildings, food processing plants and fruit packing houses, and public

Tribune, August 22, 1989.

²⁶ Kay Atwood, "Frank Chamberlain Clark, 1872-1957: A Biography" (Medford, Oreg.; Southern Oregon Historical Society, 1982); "The Man Who Was Medford's Master Architect," Medford Mail Tribune, March 26, 1995, 2D; "Appoint Clark Oregon Board of Architects," Medford Mail Tribune, June 1, 1920; Kay Atwood and Gail Evans, "Inventory of Frank Clark Buildings," Clark Papers, Southern Oregon Historical Society.

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buildings throughout the Rogue Valley and the Yreka area in northern California. Keeney and Clark did all the design work for Reginald Parsons who, according to Keeney, was always involved in building projects on his properties. After Clark ceased practicing, Robert Keeney completed designs for several major buildings in southern Oregon in association with other architectural firms, including Unthank, Poticha, Waterbury of Portland to design the Medford post office (for which Keeney received a national award) and Balzhiser Longwood Smith Paul & Anderson of Eugene, Oregon, to design the Southern Oregon State College Student Union and Britt Center. By the time of his death in 1989, Robert Keeney's rich and diverse architectural legacy included over 150 schools, several bank buildings, packing and cold storage plants, and medical clinics, as well as numerous residences.²⁷

Robert Keeney began designing the "hunting lodge" soon after Parsons bought the Dead Indian property in March 1937, as the last winter snows were melting and brush was being cleared and burned on the site. By the third week in May, plans for the lodge were substantially completed and William Lindsay, early homesteader and, later, rancher and sawmill owner, began felling logs on Parsons's property, dragging them to the site with horses, and cutting them to the specified lengths.²⁸ As the log work in the woods progressed,

²⁷ Keeney, interview by Edens, January 24, 1980, transcript 121-21; "Retired Architect Robert Keeney Dies"; "Reception Given for Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Keeney, vertical file, Southern Oregon Historical Society.

²⁸ William Crawford Lindsay, Scottish-born mother, Margaret, and his brother, Charles, homesteaded their ranch on Dead Indian Road, near the Parsons's lodge site, in the late 1890s. On their original 160-acre land, which gradually expanded to 1,800 acres and became known as "Lilyglen," the Lindsays raised Angora goats for their mohair, milked twenty to thirty Red Polled cows, and kept Clydesdale horses for work animals. William Lindsay also owned and operated a sawmill. William Lindsay served as postmaster when a post office existed on the ranch between 1904 and 1909. When Margaret Lindsay died in 1916, the ranch was divided between William and Charles. Much of the Lindsay homestead was inundated when the Bureau of Reclamation created Howard Prairie Lake in the late 1950s. L. Scott Clay/Kay Atwood, "Lilyglen Log Cabin: Jackson County Cultural and Historical Resource Survey" (Medford, Oreg.: Jackson County Planning Department, 1979/1991); "Lindsay Dies of Gunshot Wounds in His Residence," vertical file,

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Significance (continued)

Hillcrest Orchard employee Timothy Daily and others hauled rocks and sand to the site for the buildings' foundations and the lodge fireplace. In late June, when all the logs had been cut and hauled to the site, a stone mason named Warner, who was known around the Rogue Valley for his excellent rock work, began working on the lodge foundation and fireplace.²⁹

Progress on the lodge slowed briefly when William Lindsay, in charge of the project, became ill with anemia and was replaced by Ashland builder "Red" (Loren) Bushnell. Several men from the Ashland area, including Edwin Hahn, Mike Tucker, and "Shorty" Tucker, as well as some Hillcrest Orchard employees, converged on the site as the log walls went up and carpentry began on the inside. Loads of lumber and other building materials from Medford (Big Pines Lumber Company and Hubbard Brothers), thirty miles away, came up the Dead Indian Memorial Road to the building site throughout the summer and early fall. William Lindsay probably also supplied lumber from his nearby sawmill. By late October, all the lodge floors were finished, the window casings put in, and the doors in place. Substantially completed and furnished by November 1937, after snow had begun to fall, Hillcrest Orchard employee Timothy Daily drained the lodge's water pump near the end of the month. When the lodge was reopened the following spring, little remained to be done except remove moss from the logs, oil the windows, and complete some unfinished handcrafted furniture.³⁰

Southern Oregon Historical Society, Medford, Oregon.

²⁹ Frank C. Clark and Robert J. Keeney, "Hunting Lodge for Mr. Reginald Parsons" (building plans), 1937, Parsons Collection; Maisie Daily to Reginald Parsons, May 17, May 19, May 29, June 21, and June 23, 1937; Reginald Parsons to Maisie Daily, May 14, 1937, Parsons Papers; Day, interview by Edens and Preston, transcript 92-21, 92-22; Lindsay, interview by Evans, September 1, 1996.

³⁰ Lindsay, phone interview by Evans, September 1, 1996; Jack Gunter, phone interview by Gail Evans, August 29, 1996; Keeney, interview by Edens, transcription 121-17, 121-19; Maisie Daily to Reginald Parsons, October 2, November 21, 1937 and August 31, 1938; Reginald Parsons to Maisie Daily, November 8, 10, 15, and 23, 1937, Maisie Daily to Reginald Parsons, June 8 and July 26, 1938, all in Parsons Papers.

Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge
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Significance (continued)

The construction and relocation of most of the outbuildings proceeded along with the lodge, during the summer and fall of 1937. Evidence indicates that William Lindsay built and moved the sleeping cabin and the garage to the Dead Indian Lodge from Reginald Parsons's "old cabin" site, which were near Lindsay's own property and sawmill and located about a mile from the construction site. By late October, the lodge woodshed of peeled log construction and possibly the sleeping woodshed and woodshed extension on the garage, also built with peeled logs, were nearly finished.³¹ Excavation and construction of the concrete and stone pump house/cellar for the Delco power plant that pumped water from a well into the cabin was completed before the end of 1937.³² It is possible that workmen may have put finishing touches on some of the outbuildings the following summer. The tool house, distinguished from the other buildings only by its horizontal channel-drop siding, was constructed in the early 1940s, probably to shelter a new gasoline-powered generator used to pump well water. At Dead Indian, just as at Hillcrest Orchard, Reginald Parsons took an active interest in the design and construction of his Dead Indian retreat, insisting that the outbuildings and the lodge be designed and function as a unified whole. In mid-May 1937, he explained to Maisie Daily that "we must be careful and have the garage, woodshed, etc. built entirely rustic and in conformity and harmony with the two log houses . . ." (the other being the smaller log cabin built at the same time for the Dailys across the meadow).³³ Since completion of the Dead Indian Lodge complex,

³¹ In a letter to Reginald Parsons, Maisie Daily reported that Lindsay "said he would agree to give you \$500 for the [Parsons's old] cabin in Dead Indian in work, labor, lumber . . . and will move the two cabins, that is the garage and sleeping cabin." Maisie Daily to Reginald Parsons, April 17, May 17, and October 25 1937; Keeney, interview by Edens, transcript 121-17; Lindsay, interview by Evans, September 1, 1996.

³² Reginald Parsons, had originally intended to draw water for the lodge from the nearby spring but, after learning that he did not own the water rights to the spring water, was forced to have a well dug and an electric pump installed in the excavated cellar. Desiring to keep the lodge as rustic and primitive as possible, Parsons never used this pump to furnish electricity to the lodge for lighting. Keeney, interview by Edens, transcript 121-17 to 121-19.

³³ Reginald Parsons to Maisie Daily, May 14, 1937, Parsons Collection.

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Significance (continued)

Hillcrest Corporation and Parsons family members have made every effort to retain the harmonious rustic qualities of the Dead Indian buildings and forested setting, while striving to protect and maintain this historic building ensemble in excellent condition.

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Major Bibliographic References (continued)

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Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge
Name of Property

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County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Southern Oregon Historical Society
Jackson County Planning Department
Special Collections, University of Oregon

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Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge
Name of Property

Jackson County, OR
County and State

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreeage of Property 4.12 acres (179,321.12 sq. ft.) Hyatt Reservoir, Oregon
1:24000

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>10</u>	<u>548340</u>	<u>4674850</u>	3	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—
	— See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge is located in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 36, Township 38 South, Range 3 East of the Willamette Meridian in Jackson County, Oregon. The nominated property includes a portion of Tax Lot 7800 just west of Howard Prairie Lake, at Milepost 4 on Hyatt Prairie Road, about twenty-one miles east of Ashland, Oregon. The property boundaries are roughly described as follows: From the quarter section common to Sections 25 and 36, run south 0 degrees 12 1/2 minutes east along the true north-south center line of Section 36 for 813.4 feet to the point of beginning; thence 358.3 feet south 83 degrees 53 1/2 minutes west along the southern boundary of Tax Lot 7900 to an iron pin along Hyatt Prairie Road; thence approximately 485 feet southwest along Hyatt Prairie Road; thence approximately 385 feet north 83 degrees 53 1/2 minutes east to an iron pin; thence approximately 480 feet north 0 degrees 12 1/2 minutes west more or less to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property encompasses approximately 4.12 acres of Tax Lot 7800 occupied by the Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge, its six outbuildings and one structure, as well as the building ensemble's historic natural setting featuring forest land, meadow, and a natural spring and rivulet.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title <u>Gail E. H. Evans</u>	date <u>August 30, 1996</u>
organization <u>Historical consultant</u>	telephone <u>(503) 873-4131</u>
street & number <u>427 Grant Street</u>	state <u>OR</u> zip code <u>97381</u>
city or town <u>Silverton</u>	

=====
Property Owner
=====

name <u>Hillcrest Corporation</u>	telephone <u>(206) 623-2874</u>
street & number <u>1218 Third Avenue</u>	<u>2300 Seattle Tower</u> <u>Medford, OR: (541) 773-1487</u>
city or town <u>Seattle</u>	state <u>WA</u> zip code <u>98101-3059</u>

Reginald Parsons Dead Indian Lodge

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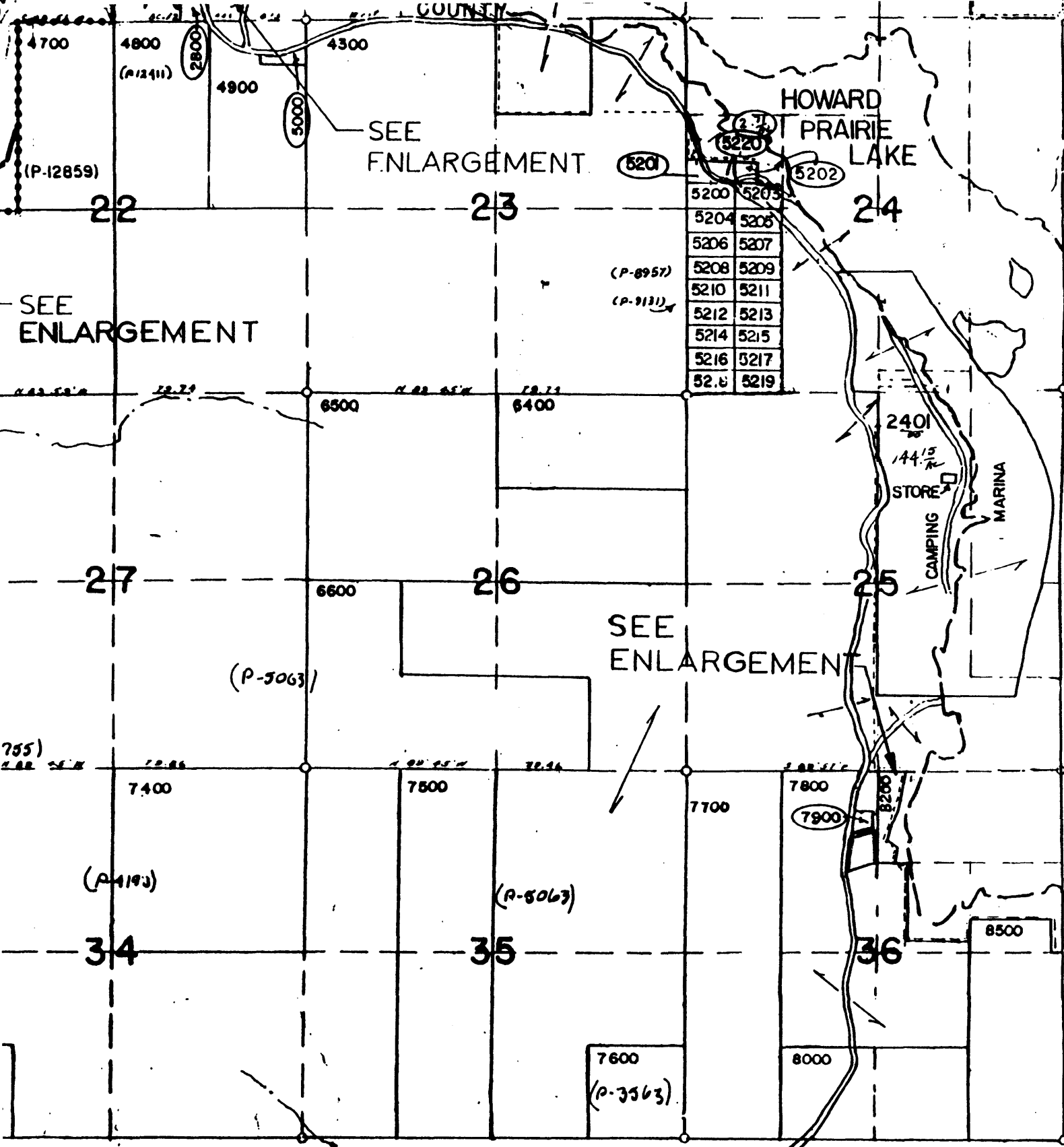
Wagner, F. D. "Pelican Bay via Dead Indian Route." Ashland Daily
Tidings, December 31, 1914.

REGINALD PARSONS DEAD INDIAN LODGE

NE 1/4 of NW 1/4, Sec. 36, T. 38 S., R. 3 E

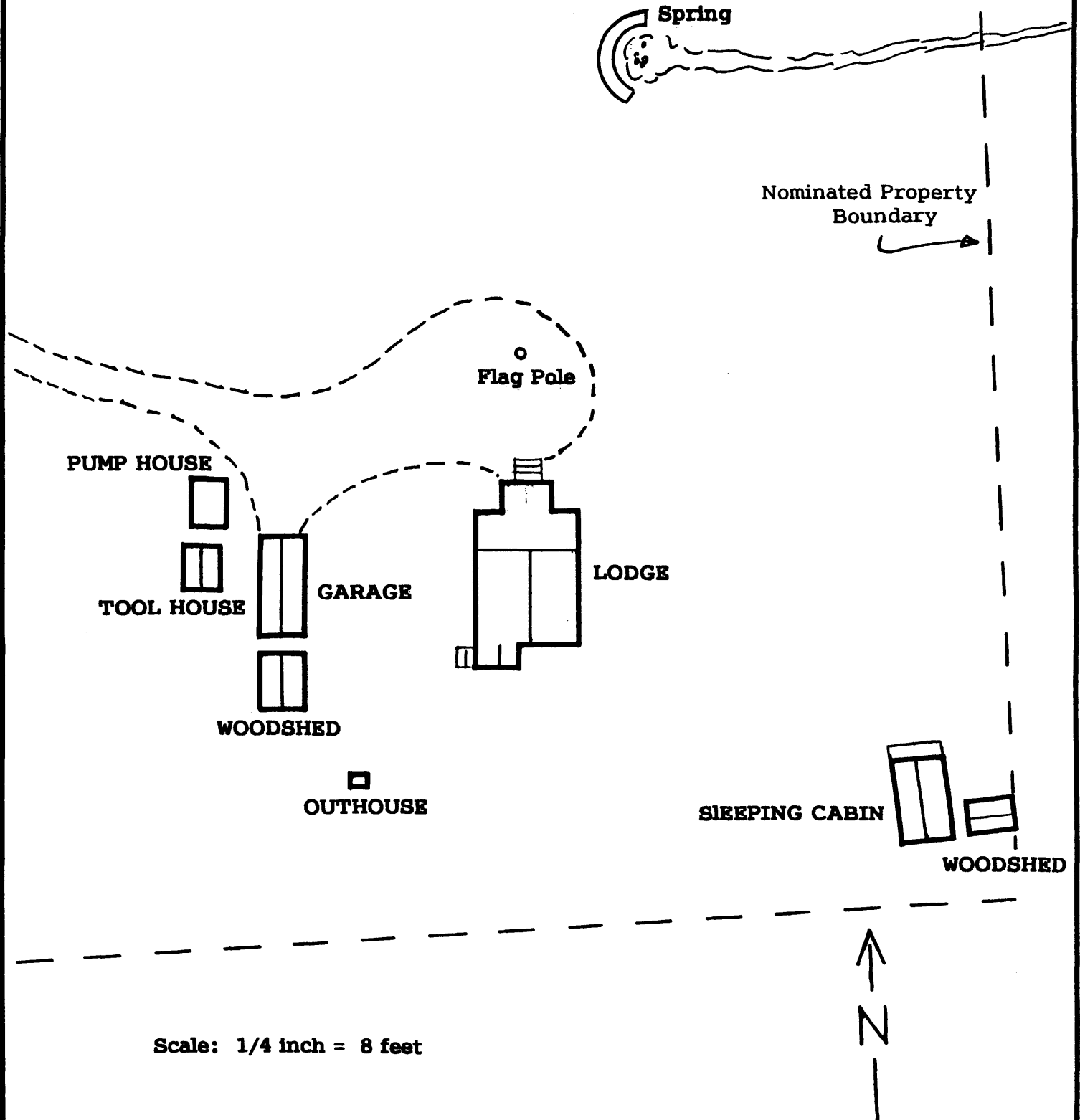
Willamette Meridian

Jackson County, Oregon



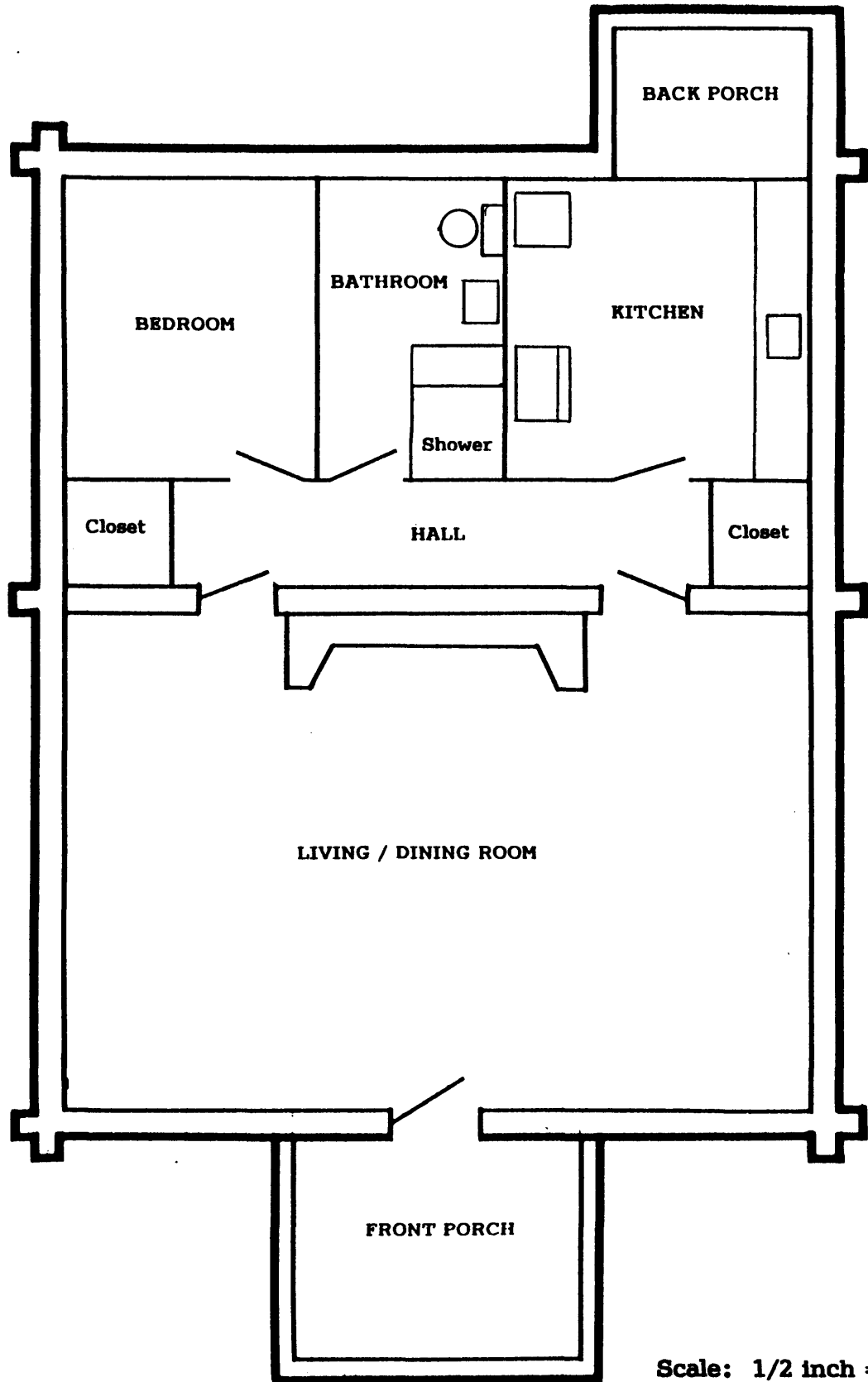
DEAD INDIAN LODGE SITE PLAN

Howard Prairie Lake
Jackson County, Oregon



REGINALD PARSONS DEAD INDIAN LODGE

Howard Prairie Lake
Jackson County, Oregon



BACK PORCH

BEDROOM

BATHROOM

KITCHEN

Shower

Closet

HALL

Closet

LIVING / DINING ROOM

FRONT PORCH



Scale: 1/2 inch = 3 feet