

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 03000163

Date Listed: 3/28/2003

Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Lodge
Property Name

King
County

WA
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

3/28/03
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The level of significance is: *statewide*.

[The current documentation lacks sufficient scholarly and contextual analysis to assess the possibility of national significance. While the property appears to have garnered a measure of acclaim at the time of construction, it is not clear whether this property has been objectively evaluated in a national context after the passage of time.]

Period of Significance:

The period of significance is revised to read: *1950*.

[As appropriate for architecturally significant properties under NR Criterion C, the period represents the date of building construction rather than the period of function or ongoing use.]

These revisions were confirmed with the WA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Lodge
Other names/site number Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Resort, King County HRI #1059

2. Location

street & number 22500 SE 248th Street not for publication
city / town Maple Valley vicinity
State Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98038

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2/16/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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:)

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 3/28/03

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel
RECREATION & CULTURE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT:
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL STYLE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Stucco/Wood
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1950-1966

Significant Dates

1950

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Young & Richardson, Carleton & Detlie (Arch)
Veale Construction Co. (Bldr)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 Engineering Record# _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

King County Office of Cultural Resources
506 Second Avenue Room 200
Seattle, WA 98104

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 7.65 acres +/-

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>5</u> <u>72</u> <u>673</u> Easting	<u>52</u> <u>47</u> <u>523</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.) See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The boundaries for the nomination include the portion of property that is visually associated with the main lodge building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Phillip Seven Esser / Kate Krafft (edit & additions July 2003)
 organization Historic Preservation Services date September 13, 2001
 street & number 318 Terry Avenue N, Suite B telephone (206) 322-4948
 city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98109

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Maple Valley, Parks Department
 street & number PO Box 320 telephone (425) 413-8800
 city or town Maple Valley state WA zip code 98038

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GAFFNEY'S LAKE WILDERNESS LODGE
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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Lake Wilderness is located east of Kent in the town of Maple Valley in King County, Washington. The lodge is located just southwest of the intersection between Highway 18 and the Maple Valley Highway (Hwy 167). The lodge is located at the end of SE 248th Street, on the northwest corner of the lake, within King County's Lake Wilderness Park.

Setting

The Lodge sits on a low rise between a high forested knoll and Wilderness Lake. The exterior appearance of the asymmetrical building reflects the original interior uses of the spaces, which are divided between the public gathering spaces, offices, and hotel rooms. The building does not present a "primary" facade. Rather, it is designed to be viewed both from the entry side and from the lake side. The designs of the two main elevations reflect their distinct purposes--welcoming and entry at the front, and recreation and scenic vistas at the back.

Exterior

The building has two main sections, which join at a central vertical core. The center vertical section, clad in white cement stucco over wood frame walls, contains the stairs and other service elements. The vertical core has large textured glass windows lighting the stairwell on the south side. Visually, it serves as a solid anchor for the steeply sloped built-up tar roof of the southern portion of the building. The roof rests on walls comprised of large fir-framed glass panes. Dark stained hand split cedar, used as an exterior finish material on the solid walls of the structure, accentuates the contrast with the white stucco. A long canopy projects horizontally across the entry drive from the main (central) entrance of the lodge. The canopy defines the primary entry, as well as providing shelter for visitors. The canopy is supported on a welded steel box running its entire length and rests on three slender exposed steel pipe columns.

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The northern wing, designed to accommodate small hotel rooms and support services, extends horizontally as a bridge to the forested knoll. The wing stretches across a driveway, and rests on a separate manager's apartment at the basement level. In contrast with the expansive glass walls of the public areas, the lodging wing has a few fixed windows on the entry elevation.

The Lodge's lakeside elevation presents an open appearance with vast expanses of glass walls from floor to ceiling thus blurring the distinction between the interior and the exterior. The central section features a prominent two-story gabled projecting volume. This space, containing the dining room, is continued visually on the exterior by a large cantilevered concrete wrap-around deck, which floats above the lawn. The concrete deck is supported on two rows of concrete columns and concrete beams. The basement is above grade on the lake elevation. With stuccoed walls and more limited use of windows, the basement appears as a solid base for the building. From the lake, the "bridge" function of the flat-roofed lodging wing is particularly evident. However, on this elevation, this wing is also opened to the view by large windows and private decks for each room.

Interior

The interior contains approximately 20,000 square feet of space. The main hall has an open floor plan centered on a three-story "Thunderbird" carved cedar pole. The ceiling rises over two stories, giving a sense of great height and spaciousness to the interior.

The main hall was designed to contain a dining room opposite the entry hall foyer and a cocktail lounge under the sloping roof of the south wing. The ceiling of the lodge remains natural Douglas fir, with exposed fir beams. Natural fir columns bear the weight of the roof above the window walls, which feature square panes of glass measuring about 6'x6'. A single wood piece extends horizontally across the middle of the panes of the glass panes closest to the ground. There are back to back fireplaces near the base of the sloping roof.

An open mezzanine, accessed by the central circular stair, creates a balcony above the dining room, and provides access to the lodging wing. The ten lodging rooms,

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measuring about 10' x 15' each, have private bathrooms, and small balconies with views of the lake and mountains. Clad in wood paneling, the rooms feature low acoustical ceilings and built-in wooden furniture popular in the 1950s. The flooring is covered in sisal matting.

A service stair in the vertical core connects the main floor, the lodging rooms, and the penthouse apartment for the facility manager, which is atop the vertical core of the building. There are asphalt tile floors at the base of the main stair.

The 33' tall carved pole commissioned from Bellevue artist Dudley Carter, is the centerpiece of the main hall design. This pole rises three stories from the basement to the roof through the center of the lodge's main hall, and serves both as a decorative focal point and structural support for the main girder beam of the roof peak and the mezzanine level framing.

The free standing elliptical circular stairs rising through the building around the column consist of open treads bolted to steel angle supports which in turn are welded to the eight inch diameter steel pipe center piece. The hand railings are polished brass.

Evolution

The exterior and primary public spaces of the Lodge display a high level of integrity. Exterior alterations are minimal, and interior changes on the significant public areas of the main floor level have been limited to enclosing half of the fireplace area and installing safety-oriented features. While the basement floor plan has been altered, and modifications have been made in the guestrooms and apartments, these changes do not detract significantly from the overall integrity of the property.

Outside, several changes have occurred to the site and surrounding environments since completed in 1950. The driveway historically provided access to some lakeside cabana units. While the Gaffneys had planned the construction of numerous individual cabins, with steep gable roofs and projecting porches to complement the main lodge, the only additional accommodations built after the lodge were the lakeside cabana units. The cabanas were continued in a low, shed roofed concrete

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block buildings. The units had staggered setbacks in order to capture views and provide privacy. These cabanas were built in the mid-1950s, and were demolished in the early 1990s.¹

Inside the original layout of the lodge has been preserved with few changes, as have the most significant features and finishes. In the main hall a single wood piece extends horizontally across the middle of the panes of the glass panes closest to the ground. While not original, these were installed for safety reasons, and do not substantially alter the appearance of the windows. Back to back fireplaces near the base of the sloping roof were used to divide the foyer and a cocktail lounge at the south end of the room. Today the cocktail lounge space has been divided off into a closet; however, the back-to-back fire places remain.

The open railing of the spiral staircase was supplemented in 1994 by an elaborate infill piece, which raised the height of the railing and brought the large rail openings into compliance with life-safety codes. The new work was designed and fabricated by metal artist Jim Garrett, a participant in the King County Public Art Program's Artist-Made Building Parts Program.

In the mid-1990s, the installation of an elevator resulted in some alterations to the manager's apartment, which is presently unoccupied. At the basement level, space below the apartment and the dining area housed a kitchen, recreation room, a small banquet room and a bar. The basement floor plan appears to have been altered by the construction of new partitions. However, original asphalt tile floors remain at the base of the main stair.

Other changes to the building include the removal of a covered barbecue area at the south wall, and the replacement of the built-up tar roof, which was originally covered in chips of green crushed marble.² The flooring in the lodging rooms was a simple Berber carpet, and is now covered in sisal matting.

¹ Carroll J Hall & Thomas E. Coulton, "Appraisal of Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Resort As Of July 1, 1966" gives a date of 1954 for the Cabanas. Roland Hoefer's "Appraisal Report Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Resort" appraisal gives a date of 1957 for the cabanas.

² Young & Richardson Carleton & Detlie, "Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Lodge" Summary Specifications. October 18, 1951. TRA Project Records.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lake Wilderness Lodge is historically significant under *Criteria C* as an outstanding example of Pacific Northwest Regional Style architecture from the post-World War II era. The building, designed by the Seattle architectural firm Young & Richardson, Carleton and Detlie opened in 1950. The lodge received several design awards, including the Washington State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects' honor award in 1951 and the prestigious American Institute of Architects' national Honor Award in 1952. As a result of these accolades, architectural design in Washington State received national attention and brought about a focus on regional design to the architectural community. The building was associated historically with Gaffneys' Lake Wilderness resort, which operated as a destination resort in Maple Valley from the mid-1920s until the mid-1960s.

Site History

While the significance of the lodge dates to its construction in 1950, its historic context is framed by the pre-World War II development at Lake Wilderness. No significant intact buildings associated with the pre-World War II development and use of the site remain.

The earliest development near Lake Wilderness was associated with logging and agricultural activities. By the late 1880s, the Pacific Coast Railroad line extended up the east-side of the lake, which encouraged development in the area. In the 1890s, the Hanson mill operated at the south end of Lake Wilderness. Owned by people from Enumclaw, the mill was later moved to Enumclaw where it was reestablished as the White River Mill.¹ At the south end of the lake near the mill was a settlement known as Eddyville. Other economic activity in the area included small-scale agricultural operations, which centered on land claims such as the Scholtman family's at the north end of the lake.

Recreational use of the Lake Wilderness area reaches back to the first phases of Euro-American settlement. The Jacobsen family, which owned the tract at the

¹ Laura Lorenz, *Historical Sketch of the Greater Maple Valley Area*, p. 23.

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Northwest shore of the lake, opened their farm for hunting and fishing shortly after the turn of the century. ² Lake Wilderness enjoyed a reputation as one of the clearest of the lowland lakes in western Washington, which made it a particularly popular recreational destination.

In the 1920s, resorts were developed on many of King County's woodland lakes. These privately-operated lake resorts typically offered cabins to rent for overnight stays, docks and improved swimming areas, boat rentals, and activities such as dancing to the music of touring orchestras or bands. Most of King County's inland lakes, including Pine Lake, Beaver Lake, and Lake Sammamish sported resorts, and Lake Wilderness was no exception. In the early 1920s, three small family resorts, Dieckman's, McKinleys, and the Kingen brothers, operated small resorts on the northwest shore of Lake Wilderness.³

In 1926, Kain and Tom Gaffney purchased the Kingens' property, intending to improve the rudimentary resort. The Gaffney brothers were originally from Sprague, located in Eastern Washington's wheat country. Kain's interest in music brought him to the Puget Sound area, where he toured with an orchestra. Following an appearance of his orchestra at Lake Wilderness, Kain sought an opportunity to invest in a vacation resort on the lake. In 1925, Kain leased land on the northeast part of the lake from Robert and Curley Kingen, and, with his brother Tom, purchased the parcel the following year. ⁴ When the Gaffney brothers purchased the resort, little existed in the way of improvements. They included a few crude cabins, a muddy beach, and little beach equipment. Soon the brothers brought in sand to create a pleasant beach, extended a dock to create a sheltered swimming area, built more cabins and a dance pavilion, and created tennis courts, picnic areas, ball fields, and playgrounds.⁵ An advertisement in the 1927 Seattle Times announced that the resort could be reached in less than one hour from Seattle, and that the site had been "greatly improved."⁶

² Taylor, Holly. Lake Wilderness Park Historic Overview. King County Parks Division Cultural History Research Project, 1995.

³ King County Property Tax Records document the land and structures associated with these various resorts over time.

⁴ Lorenz, p. 23

⁵ "Two Merged Lake Wilderness Resorts," Seattle Times, May 3, 1939, Maple Valley Historical Society Collection.

⁶ Seattle Times, May 19, 1927. Advertisement for "Lake Wilderness Grove."

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In 1931, the Gaffneys built a home on the property, which remains today, though altered. Another farmhouse (demolished) provided an additional residence. The Gaffneys continued to expand and improve their facilities during the Depression. Then in 1936, after the original dance hall on the Gaffney property burned, the Gaffney's built what local residents recall as a beautiful dance hall. The hall, designed with a Moorish theme interior, had maple dance floors. Bud Byers, long time Maple Valley resident, recalled that "People on Saturday night would come out, and the dance hall would be filled, the roller skating rink would be going full blast . . . and the cabins would be filled."⁷

Visitors to the resort came from both nearby agricultural and industrial oriented settlements as well as from more distant urbanized areas. Coal mining continued in the area into the 1930s. A large tile factory at Taylor, and the industries in the Green River valley communities employed workers who sought weekend recreation opportunities. In spite of the economic downturn during the depression, business at the resort prospered throughout the 1930s, particularly after the local roads were paved. During this time, Tom Gaffney developed a nine hole golf course on a parcel of land inland from the lake, in cooperation with the Long brothers. Expansion of the resort facilities continued with the construction in 1933 of an office building, tavern, and bath house at the lake shore. By then the Maple Valley area was becoming well known as a destination for weekend recreation, with the various dance halls attracting various ages of people or enthusiasts for particular types of dance music. Bud Byers explained that Gaffney's tended to attract a younger more boisterous crowd, while Foss's resort at Shadow Lake had an older crowd--with less fighting.⁸

In 1939, the Gaffneys extended their holdings through the purchase of the neighboring McKinney's resort property (parts of which were owned jointly by Mary Schelptin and C.H. McKinney), which lay to the south. McKinney's had a dock, a number of cabins, and a roller rink which had been constructed in 1927. This purchase expanded the Gaffneys' holdings to 45 acres.

The combined resort now featured 67 cabins, which ranged in size from 150' to 450'

⁷ Bud Byers, "History of Lake Wilderness & The Surrounding Communities." Transcription of interview with Bud Byers of the Maple Valley Historical Society by Holly Taylor, July 31, 1995 for the King County Parks Division Cultural History Research Project.

⁸ Byers interview.

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square feet. The dance hall drew hundreds of people for weekend dances, and the roller rink drew crowds as well. A newspaper article reporting the expansion of the resort explained that in addition to the beach area with its docks, water slides, and floats, the resort offered seven baseball fields, three tennis courts, and horse shoe courts, for which the resort provided equipment free of charge.

In the 1940s, the Gaffney's expanded their holdings again, purchasing the Diekman property, which lay to the north of their original parcel. The Diekman property had been largely developed in the late 1920s; improvements consisted of a few small cabins. The purchase enlarged the Gaffney's resort to 108 acres, bringing Gaffney's Resort to its largest size. At the time, the resort stretched for a half mile along the Lake Wilderness shoreline.

During World War II, industries attracted young workers to war production plants in Renton and Auburn. As a result, Gaffney's drew weekend crowds to its dances and other attractions. Since gasoline was rationed, people would travel by bus to the dances.⁹ An advertisement for the resort in the 1940s described it as the "Largest Resort in the Northwest" and listed among its attractions the Sunday afternoon double-header baseball games and dancing to the eight piece Bus Riley's Orchestra.¹⁰

Post-War Expansion

Following the end of World War II, the Gaffneys' decided to modernize their resort facilities by building a new lodge and rental cabins. The Gaffneys envisioned that a new lodge would attract weekend visitors, as well as conference business. Several factors influenced their decision to build a new structure. A new state highway (Hwy 18) was slated to pass through the Maple Valley, connecting Interstate 5 west of Auburn with Interstate 90 near Snoqualmie. Via the highway, the lodge would be 27 miles from both Tacoma and Seattle, Puget Sound's largest cities.

⁹ Lorenz, p. 24.

¹⁰ Maple Valley Collection, date unknown

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The Gaffneys believed that their resort was in a location accessible not only to the automobile traveler, but also to the private pilot. In the late 1940s, private aviation was predicted to become an increasingly popular travel mode for both business and recreational travel. Between 1938 and 1948, a ten-fold increase in non-scheduled (private) airline flights supported the vision of a flight-oriented future--particularly in Boeing's backyard.¹¹ Locally, the opening of an expanded and improved terminal at Sea-Tac in May of 1950 also reinforced the importance of aviation. A new airstrip at Lake Wilderness, which ran just parallel to the access road on its north side would make the Gaffney's resort accessible by small plane in just 12 minutes from the Renton airport.

Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Lodge

The Gaffneys selected the Seattle firm of Young & Richardson to design their new lodge building. The record is un-clear about what led the Gaffneys to select the firm. It may have been a highly publicized project Young & Richardson had underway for the Seattle Park Department Headquarters (1949-50), or there may have been a personal connection. Shortly after design work began on the project, in 1950 new partners joined the firm and Young & Richardson became Young, Richardson, Carleton & Detlie (YR/CD).¹²

The Young & Richardson Firm was a continuation of the highly respected Seattle firm of Schack, Young & Myers. Partner Arrigo M. Young, of the original firm, was born in London in 1884. He attended the University of Michigan and received a degree in engineering. In 1910 after working in Chicago and St. Louis, he arrived in Seattle and joined the firm of Schack & Myers. Together the designed several notable buildings around the state including the Hotel Monticello (1922-23) in Longview, the Women's Dormitory at the University of Washington (1935-36), and several notable residences. Stephen Hinley Richardson, who joined the firm in 1936, was born in Ogden, Utah in 1910. He arrived in Seattle in 1928 and attended the University of Washington Architecture School, and later MIT. William Hodder Carleton, a native of Washington arrived in Seattle in 1919. He attended Stanford University and

¹¹ "Who Flies--and How?" *Flying Magazine*, May, 1950, pp. 14-15.

¹² Jeffrey Ochsner, ed., *Shaping Seattle Architecture*, p. 342, 354.

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received his degree in architecture from University of Washington. Carleton joined the firm of Young & Richardson in 1946 and became a full partner in 1950. John Stuart Detlie joined Young & Richardson in 1946 and became a partner in 1952. Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Detlie received an undergraduate degree in engineering from the University of Alabama and a Master's of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1933.

The firm of Young, Richardson, Carleton & Detlie later became The Richardson Associates, and today is known as TRA. Other projects of the Young, Richardson, Carleton & Detlie firm includes Terry Hall/Lander Hall, University of Washington (1950-57), Cathedral House/Blodel Hall addition to St. Mark Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle (1957-59), the National Bank of Commerce, Renton (1960-61 and), concourse additions to the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (1963-65) and the State Office building No. 2, Olympia (1973-75)

Constructed by the Veale Construction Company, Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Lodge embodies many characteristics of the Northwest Style of architecture. It reflects a regional interpretation of the architectural vocabulary of the international modern movement--glass curtain walls, planar finishes, and floating horizontal slabs, combined with emerging values in Northwest architectural design, such as a site-specific design with an emphasis on light and vista, and the use of native materials. The connection with local tradition was also emphasized by the central position of a substantial carved cedar pole inspired by Northwest Native American art forms.

The Lodge was carefully sited and configured to take advantage of picturesque views of Lake Wilderness and Mount Rainier beyond. The building sits atop a rise at the north end of the lake. The main section of the building, with a steep gable roof, mimics the lines of Mount Rainier. The integration of the building with its site was a key design element. Design, according to Young, Richardson, Carleton & Detlie, is a "transcendent quality" which emerges when architects work within strict disciplines of site and economy to produce a "whole building" which is "at one with the landscape beyond and the furnishings within."¹³ A visitor's experience of the building's integration with the site was enhanced by the large areas of plate glass which blurred the division between interior and exterior spaces.

¹³"Totem Pole Design," *Institutions Magazine*, February, 1953,

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Like many northwest regional style residences of the post-war era, the entry side of the lodge is not the "primary" facade. While it contains the entry, and the covered walkway from the driveway helps define the entry, the total design is only revealed from the rear, lakeside elevation, which opens to the lake with a broad expanse of windows. Native northwest materials--particularly fir beams were featured in the interior in juxtaposition with modern furniture, detailing, and design aesthetic.

The use of the center pole reflected a desire to integrate decorative elements and the physical fabric of the building. Dudley Carter, who received the commission for the center pole sculpture, was well-known in the region for his massive timber carvings. Carter often produced his work in full view of the public and he carved the Lake Wilderness pole with a broad axe at the King County Fair in Enumclaw. This provided the publicity-minded Gaffneys an opportunity to promote their new lodge. The pole, a 7 1/2-foot diameter cedar log, came from the slopes of Mount Pilchuck. It was lifted into place with a crane before the roof and upper walls were constructed. Architect John S. Detlie, who supervised the Gaffney's project for the firm, later observed that this type of integration of art and architecture reflected a tremendous opportunity in American art. He commented: "If in our time a great flowering of the arts comes to America, we believe that it will come through America's special genius for coordinated action. The architects belong to the very forefront of this action."¹⁴ Carter drew on the principals of the Northwest Indian Totem poles for his design.

The newly completed lodge received an enthusiastic response from the architectural community of the region as well. In June 1950, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Washington Chapter initiated a statewide honors awards program. Honorees were selected from a slate of nominated buildings by a vote of AIA members statewide. The following year, 1951, the Lake Wilderness project took first prize in the commercial class and the Grand Award for best in all classes.¹⁵ The award was the firms second award in the two years of the program. They had also won the grand honor award for their design of the Seattle Park Department Administration Building.

¹⁴1956 Seattle Times article announcing John S. Detlie's presidency of the newly formed Allied Arts organization. AIA Archives, University of Washington Special Collections.

¹⁵ Washington AIA newsletter, September 1951, AIA Archives, UW Special Collections.

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Accolades for the building came at the national level as well. At the fourth annual program of the AIA National Honor Awards in 1952, the AIA presented YR/CD with a National Honor Award. The competition announcement stated that the jury was charged to award one national honor award for buildings completed since 1947. In the end, the jury selected three buildings. The grand honor award citation described the lodge as one of the three "most exceptional" buildings designed in the United States during the past four years.

Other buildings winning AIA honor awards in 1952 were the Lever House, in New York City, Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill, Architects, now a designated New York City Landmark, and the Office of William Beckett, Los Angeles, by William Beckett, Architect. Among the other buildings recognized with merit awards were two homes by Richard J. Neutra, as well as a Neutra office building in LA, and a 500 home suburban development in Brentwood, CA.¹⁶

The national AIA honor award received by YR/CD was the first ever allocated received by a Pacific Northwest firm.¹⁷ On receiving the award, Stephen H. Richardson commented that "More than anything else, this honor award is a tribute to the tremendous strides in architecture during the last 10 years. . . It demonstrates that we are building as intelligently, as soundly, as creatively, as any other region in the world today, and with a distinction reflecting the spirit of the Pacific Northwest and its people."¹⁸

Following the attention garnered by the AIA honor award, the Lodge was widely published in architectural and construction trade journals. Articles focused on the building's unusual design features and innovative open plan. Articles appeared in numerous publications, including "Architectural Metal," "Building Digest," "Institutions Magazine," and even in European publications. Articles focused on the design's successful native Northwest materials and modern furniture and finishes.¹⁹

¹⁶ "Honor Awards and Awards of Merit" *Architectural Record*, August 1952, pp. 11-14.

¹⁷ Washington Chapter "Monthly Bulletin" September, 1950, Vol. XIX, No. 7. AIA Archives, UW Special Collections.

¹⁸ Press Release, 1952. TRA Project Files.

¹⁹ Project files at TRA contain copies of these articles.

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Recognition of the Lodge by the AIA reflected also a growing interest in Northwest architecture. As a result, Seattle was selected as the site for the AIA's 1953 national convention. While WWII had brought attention and growth to the city, Seattle still remained distant from the country's eastern focused economic and cultural centers. Delegates to the 1953 convention traveled to Seattle from New York via a special excursion train, which gathered more delegates as it traveled west. *Architectural Record* devoted its April 1953 issue to the region's architectural production, including pro and con essays by Seattle architects on the questions, "Have Wean Indigenous Northwest Architecture?". By the mid 1950s there was growing awareness, according to *Architectural Record* editors, of regional influence in the development of contemporary architecture. One symposium participant postulated that perhaps the Northwest people "accept new ideas more readily than people in regions already steeped in styles".

Architectural acclaim however was not enough to ensure the resort's continued economic success. The economic prosperity, which followed the war and encouraged the Gaffneys to expand the resort also brought changes in people's recreation habits. As automobile ownership increased, and improved highways reached through the west, people began to travel farther for their vacations such as into the mountains or to the ocean beaches. Closer to home, a growing public park system provided recreation opportunities. All these factors contributed to a decrease in popularity of the county's lake resorts. In the 1960s, many of the small resorts around the county closed, and were sold for housing development or for public parks. Lake Wilderness Lodge operated at a loss most of the years following the opening of the new building, and the cabin developments proposed when the lodge was constructed were never realized. In 1964, King County Parks purchased the property, which it then leased to the University of Washington as a conference center. Most of the old cabins and recreation facilities, which had fallen into disrepair, were removed following King County's acquisition of the site. In the 1980s, after considering a variety of uses, the County decided to utilize the building as a recreation center.

Today the land surrounding the lake, which is not in the park, has seen extensive single-family residential development in recent years. However, the park property, stretching to the south of the lodge, maintains the context of the historic recreational use of the site.

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Maps

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King County Property Tax Records, Puget Sound Regional Archives

King County Assessor's Records. Puget Sound Regional Branch of the Washington State Archives.

Maple Valley Historical Society

TRA Architects Project Files

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the NE corner of Parcel 2122069028; thence eastward along the N boundary of the parcel (the railroad right-of-way) 245 feet more or less; thence southwestward, along a line perpendicular to the NE boundary line of Parcel 2122069033, 770 feet more or less to that NE boundary line of Parcel 2122069033 at a point 90 feet more or less from the NE corner of the parcel; thence southeasterly along said NE boundary (as if extended) 620 feet more or less to the shoreline of Lake Wilderness; thence northerly along the shoreline to the point where it intersects the eastern boundary of Parcel 2122069028; thence northerly along the eastern boundary of the parcel 155 feet more or less to the point of beginning.

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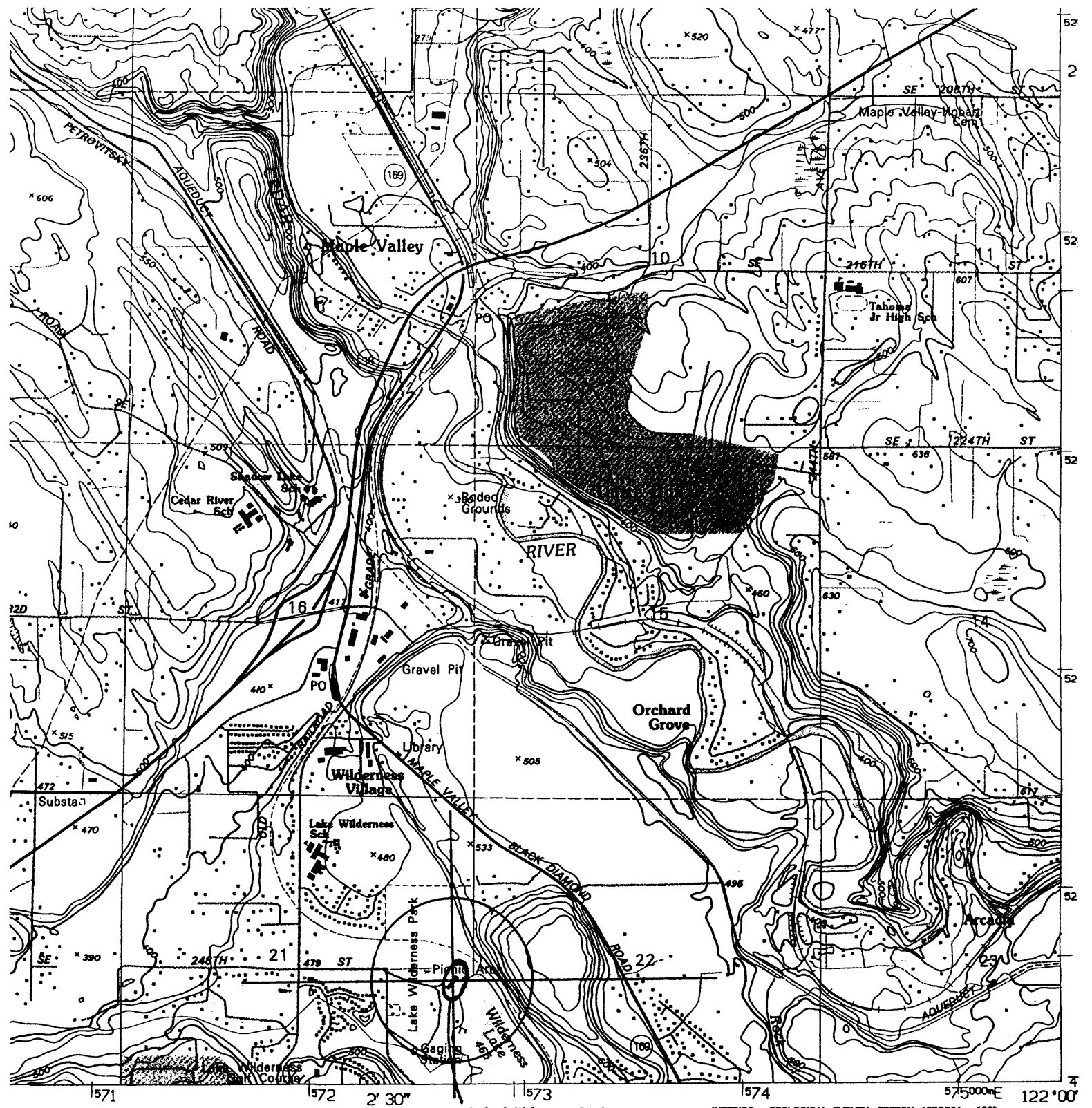
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PHOTOGRAPHS

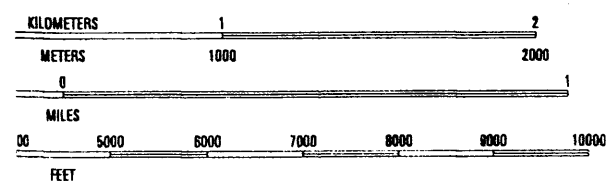
Photographs #1-14 listed below were taken by Phillip S. Esser on September 17, 2001. A 35mm camera was used and the negatives are located at King County Landmarks & Heritage Program, Office of Cultural Resources, Seattle.

Historic photograph #15 was provided by King County Parks Department, Lake Wilderness Lodge, Maple Valley, Washington.

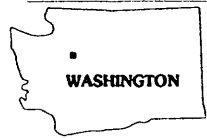
- 1) Context - View from Lake Wilderness. View from southeast.
- 2) North & west elevation. View from northwest.
- 3) North elevation. View from north.
- 4) South & west elevations. View from southwest.
- 5) South elevation. View from southwest.
- 6) Deck detail - south elevation. View from southwest.
- 7) South elevation. View from southeast.
- 8) Entrance lobby - north elevation. View to northeast.
- 9) Main area - first floor. View to north.
- 10) Second story overlooking main area. View to southwest.
- 11) Staircase detail - main area. View to northeast.
- 12) Totem pole detail. View to northwest.
- 13) Totem pole detail. View to southwest.
- 14) Stair detail - lower level. View to northwest.
- 15) Historic photo - date unknown. South elevation. View from south.



LE 1:24 000



Lake Wilderness Lodge



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 1985

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway hard surface
- Secondary highway hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road

- Interstate Route
- U.S. Route
- State Route

INTERVAL 25 FEET
 IC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 0 METERS MULTIPLY BY 0.3048
 TO FEET MULTIPLY BY 3.2808

1	2	3	1 Mercer Island
			2 Issaquah
			3 Fall City
4		5	4 Renton
			5 Hobart
			6 Auburn

MAPLE VALLEY, WA
 47122-D1-TF-024

NW. 21-22-6

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

Lot 3

Lot 4

LAKE WILDERNESS ESTATES

BURLINGTON NORTHERN R.R. (PACIFIC COAST R.R.)

GAFFNEY'S LAKE WILDERNESS LODGE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

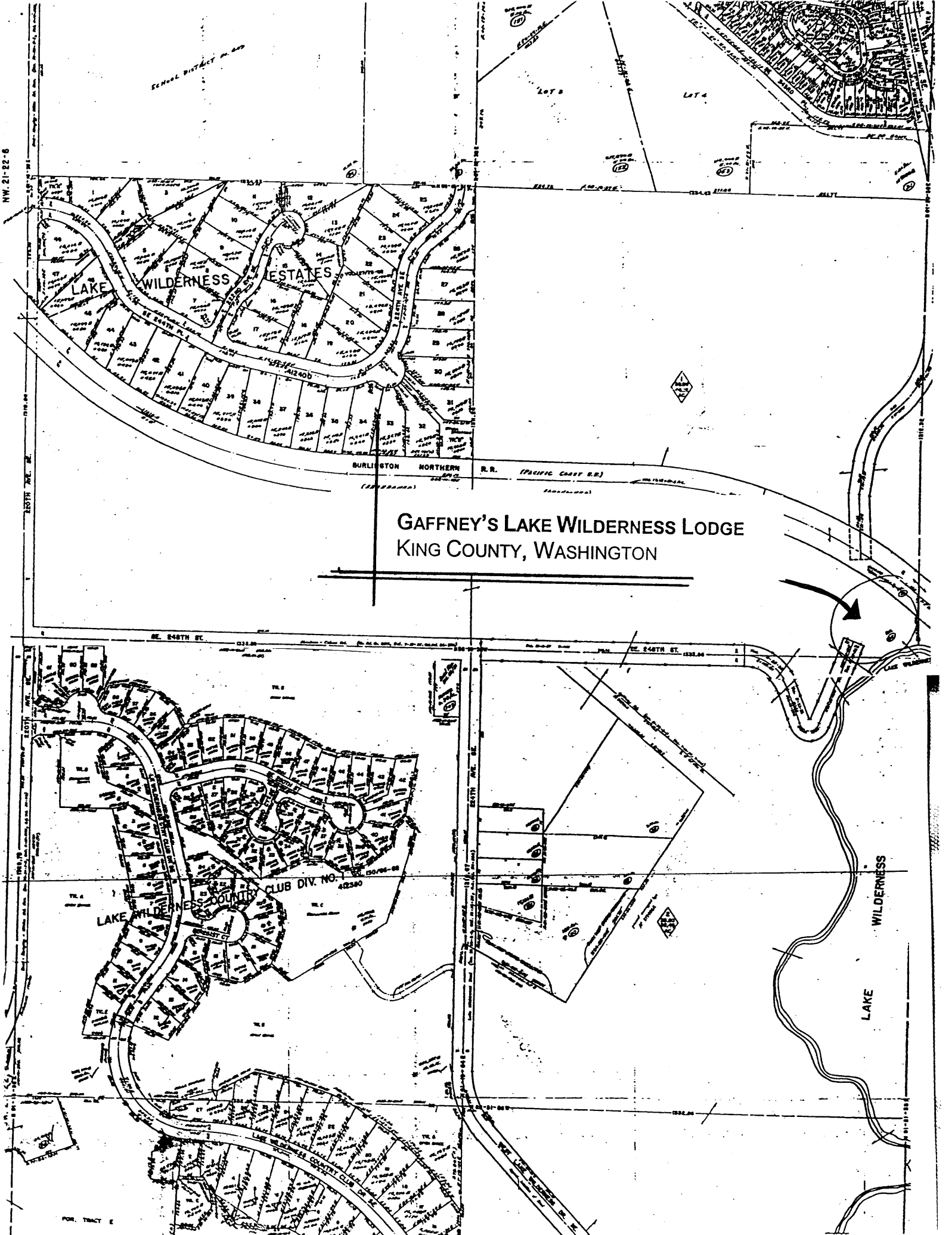
SE. 84TH ST.

SE. 84TH ST.

LAKE WILDERNESS COUNTY CLUB DIV. NO. 1 40290

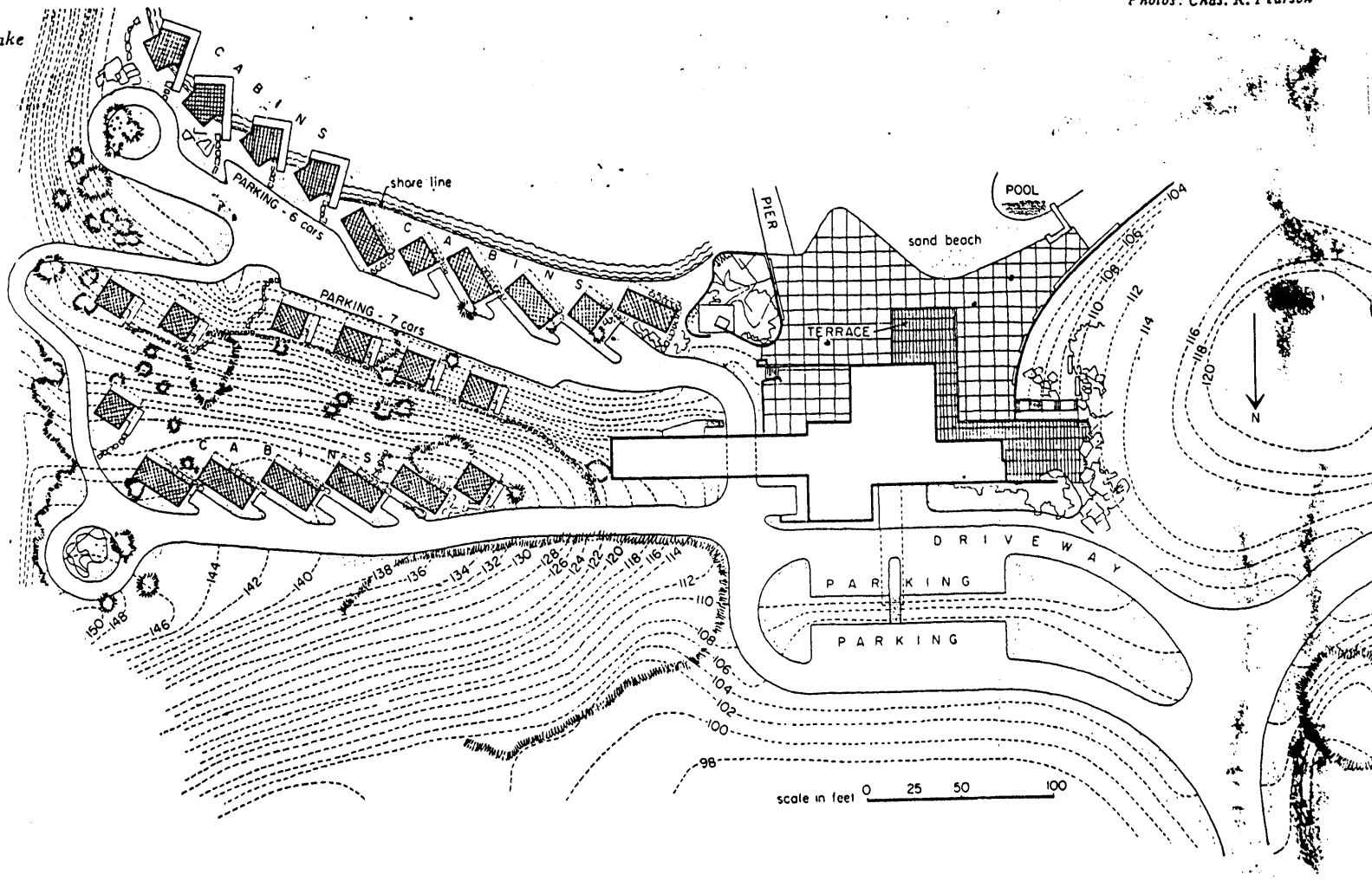
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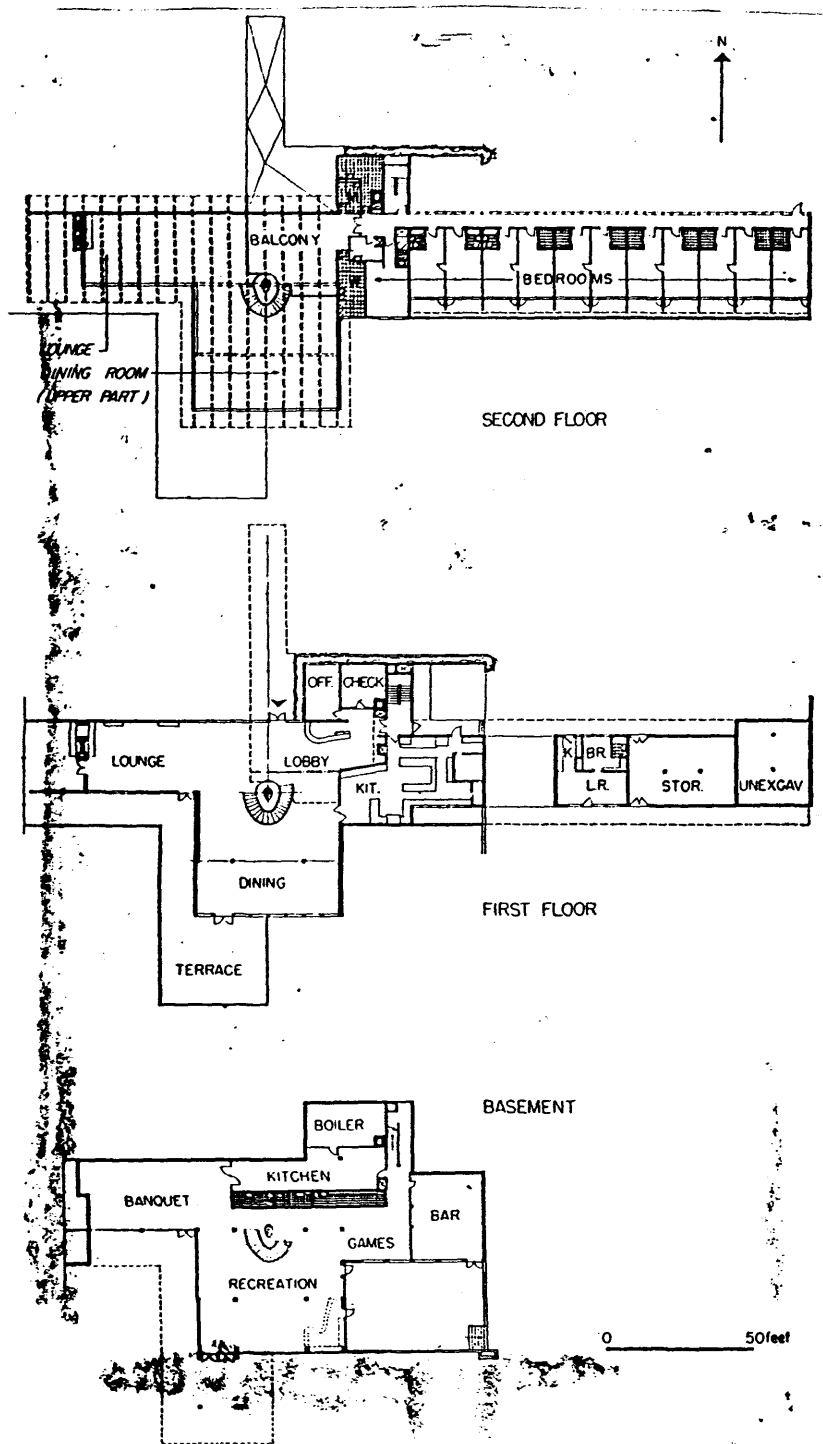
LAKE

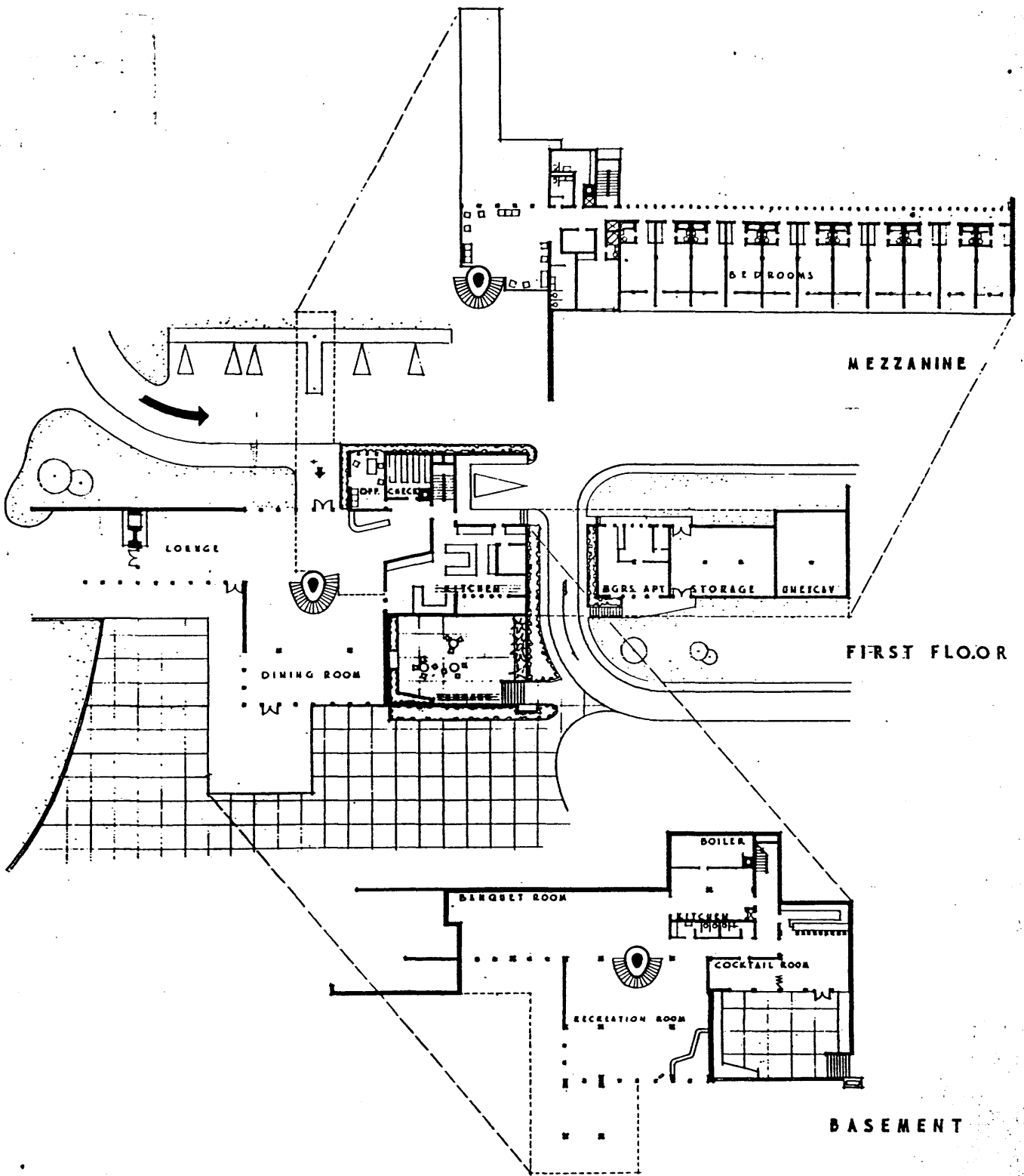


Photos: Chas. R. Pearson

From the Lake







MEZZANINE

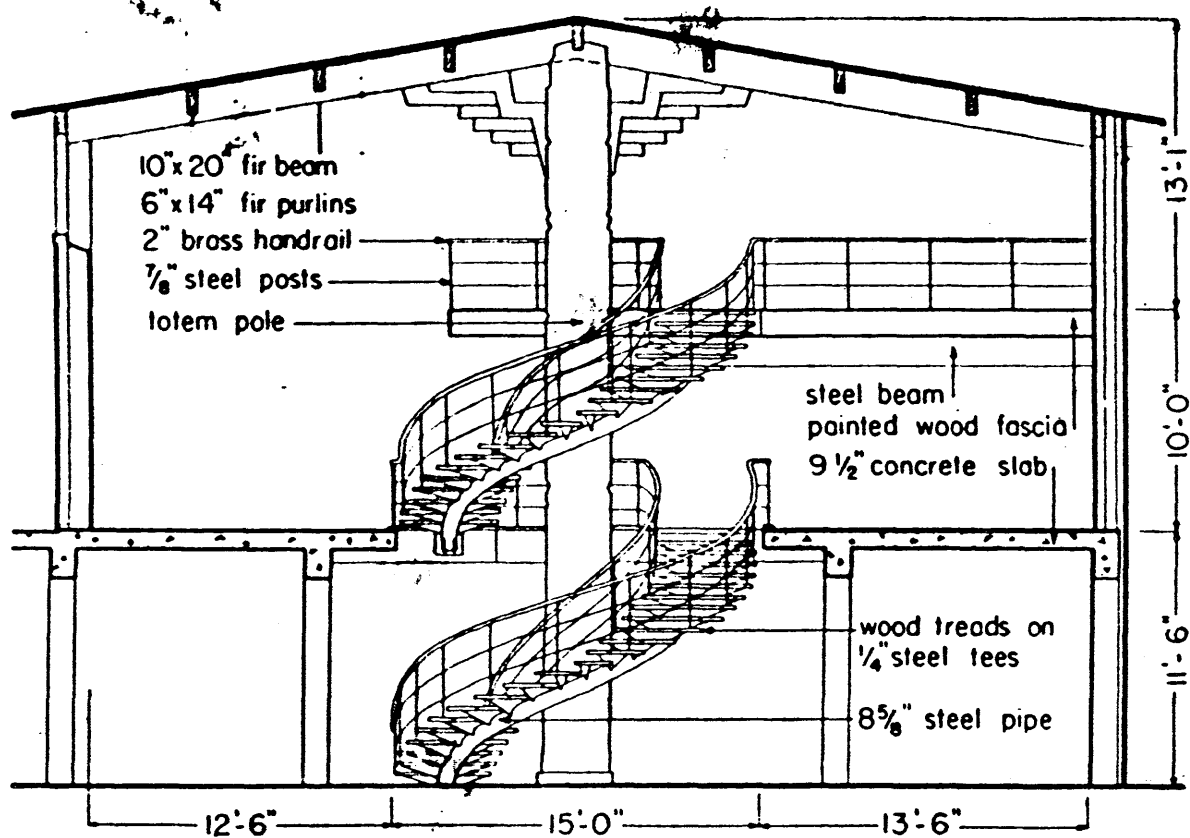
FIRST FLOOR

BASEMENT

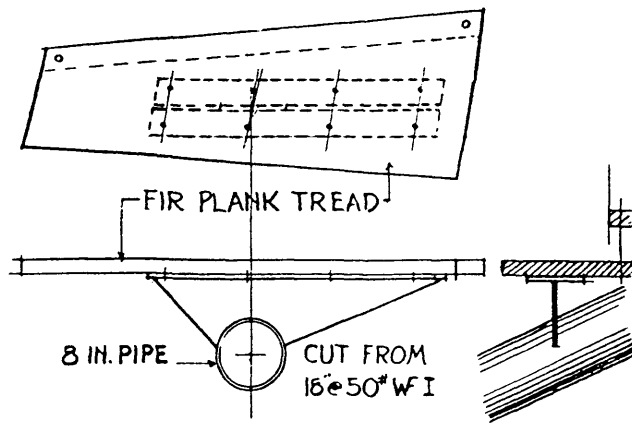
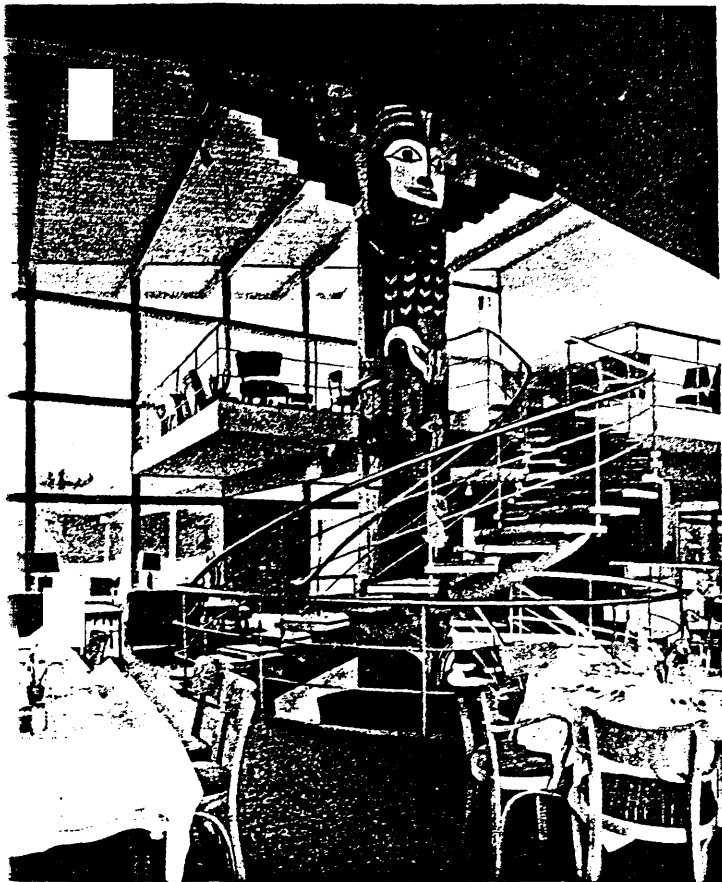
YOUNG & RICHARDSON, CARLETON & DETLIE, Architects

VEALE CONSTRUCTION CO., General Contractor

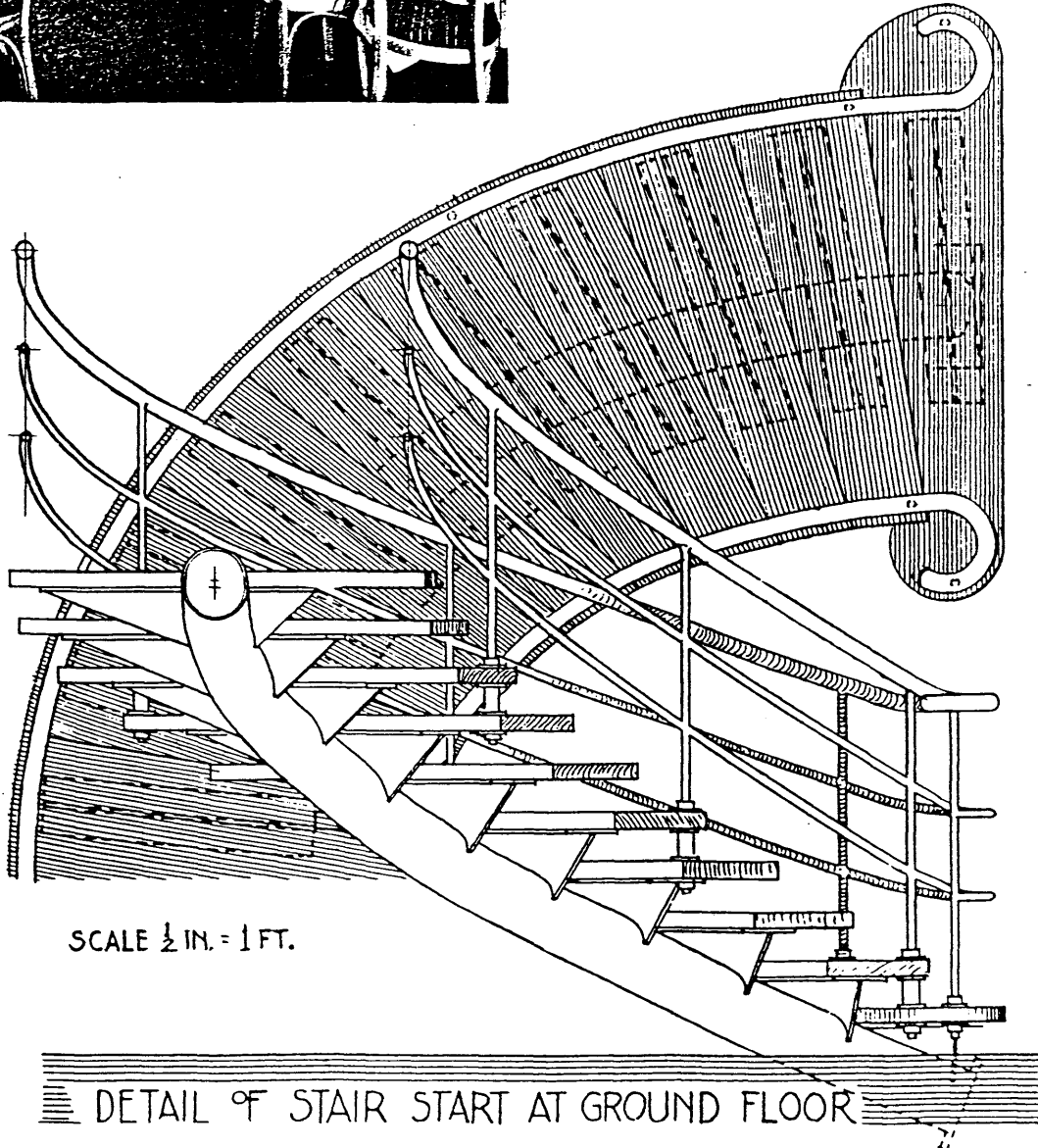
DUDLEY CARTER, Sculptor



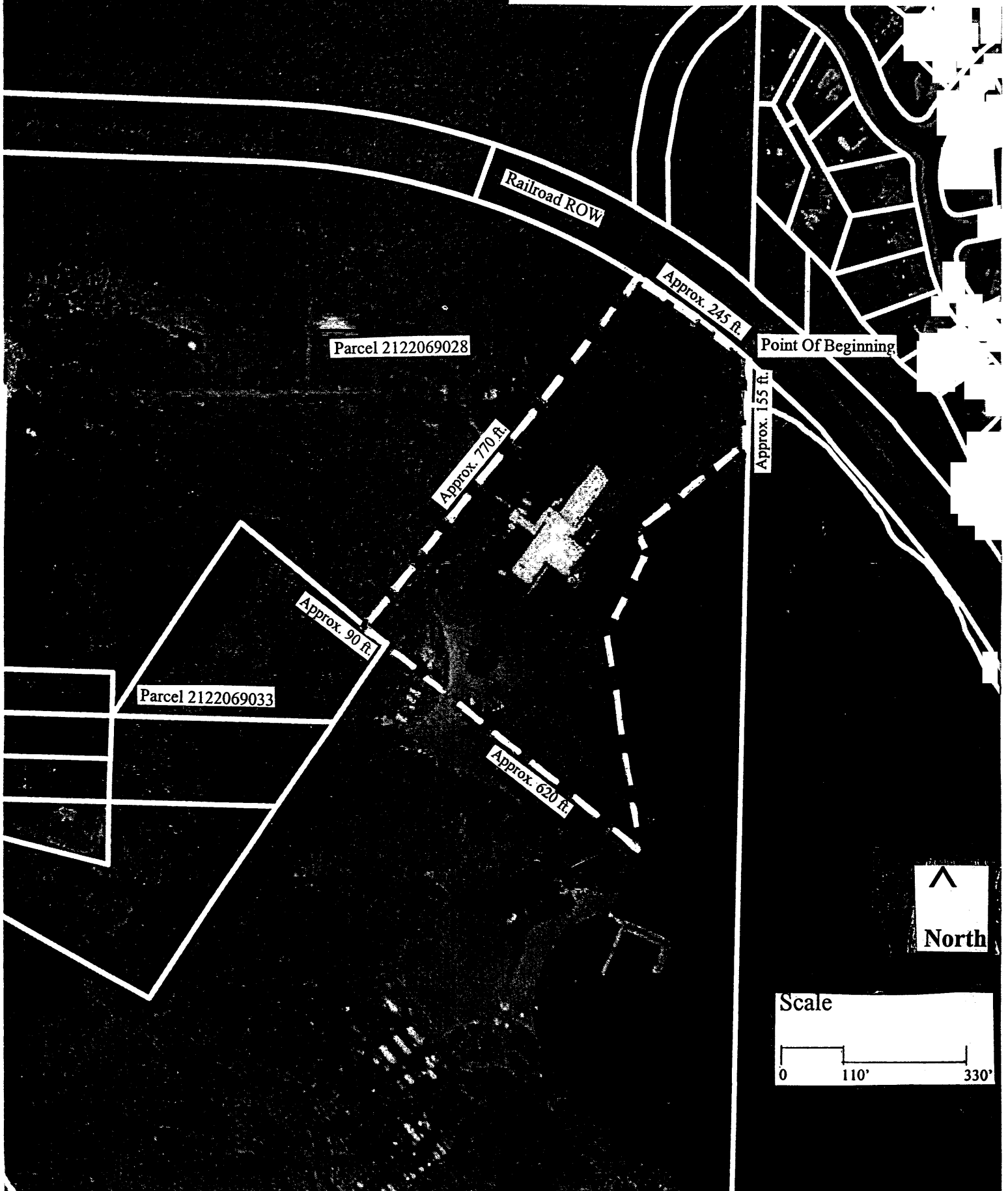
Section above shows how total area is split into neatly sized service areas. Canopy to entrance right is supported by exposed steel box beam on single row of pipe columns.



DETAIL OF TREAD SUPPORT



Lake Wilderness Lodge Property Boundary Map



Parcel 2122069028

Railroad ROW

Approx. 245 ft.

Point Of Beginning

Approx. 155 ft.

Approx. 770 ft.

Approx. 90 ft.

Parcel 2122069033

Approx. 620 ft.



Scale

