

1830

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Historic District  
other names/site number none

### 2. Location

street & number Hwy. 86 approx. 4 mi. N-NW of junction with Hwy. 71  not for publication  
city, town Milford  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Dickinson code 059 zip code 51351

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>11</u>	<u>21</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>12</u>	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
			<u>21</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature] Date 10/31/91  
Signature of certifying official  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### National Park Service Certification

hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 12/23/91  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/research facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Same

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Park Rustic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls granite

roof wood shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Conservation  
Education  
Science

Period of Significance

1909-1942

Significant Dates

1936-37

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Thomas Huston MacBride (1848-1934)

Architect/Builder

USDA Bureau of Biological Survey  
Iowa CCC Camp B.F. 1

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet



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*Section 7: Physical Description*

As of 1942, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory covered eighty-nine acres located on the west shore of Miller's Bay, West Lake Okoboji, representing the original five-acre purchase made in 1909 and an additional eighty-four acres acquired between 1928-1930. The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory historic district comprises a total of thirty-three buildings and structures spatially arranged in three areas which cover approximately twenty of the eighty-nine acres (see Map 1). These three areas, separated by topography and vegetation, are 1) the main laboratory complex, 2) the main living/dining quarters, and 3) a lakeshore area which holds both laboratory facilities and living quarters. Twelve buildings and structures are the major contributors to the historic character of the district. They represent the various stages of property development, and they are scattered throughout all three areas. The boundaries of the district also include approximately sixty acres of open space located north and northeast of the building complexes, characterized by a mixture of meadows, marshes, and bogs. These areas, along with the lakeshore, have been locations for countless experiments and research projects over the decades and are thus integral to the historic field laboratory setting. The majority of the twenty-one noncontributing structures are at least fifty years old, and, while they are still compatible with the historic setting, the structures themselves no longer possess sufficient integrity to meet National Register eligibility standards.

Contributing structures include five stone laboratories (ILL-01 through ILL-05), entrance portals (ILL-06), a bathhouse (ILL-07), four stone cottages (ILL-08 through ILL-11), and Main Cottage (ILL-12). Noncontributing structures include a classroom building (ILL-13), a modern laboratory building (ILL-14), a storage building (ILL-15), a library (ILL-16), ten wood-frame cottages (ILL-17 through ILL-26), the manager's residence (ILL-27), a garage/shop (ILL-28), the dining hall (ILL-29), a converted boathouse (ILL-30), Dodd Cottage (ILL-31), faculty housing (ILL-32), and a modern bathhouse (ILL-33). Contributing and noncontributing resources are further described within general discussions of each of the three areas. There are several ancillary features and small structures which are not included in the count, such as footbridges and footpaths, an fire pit, a log slab bench, piers, and a volleyball court.

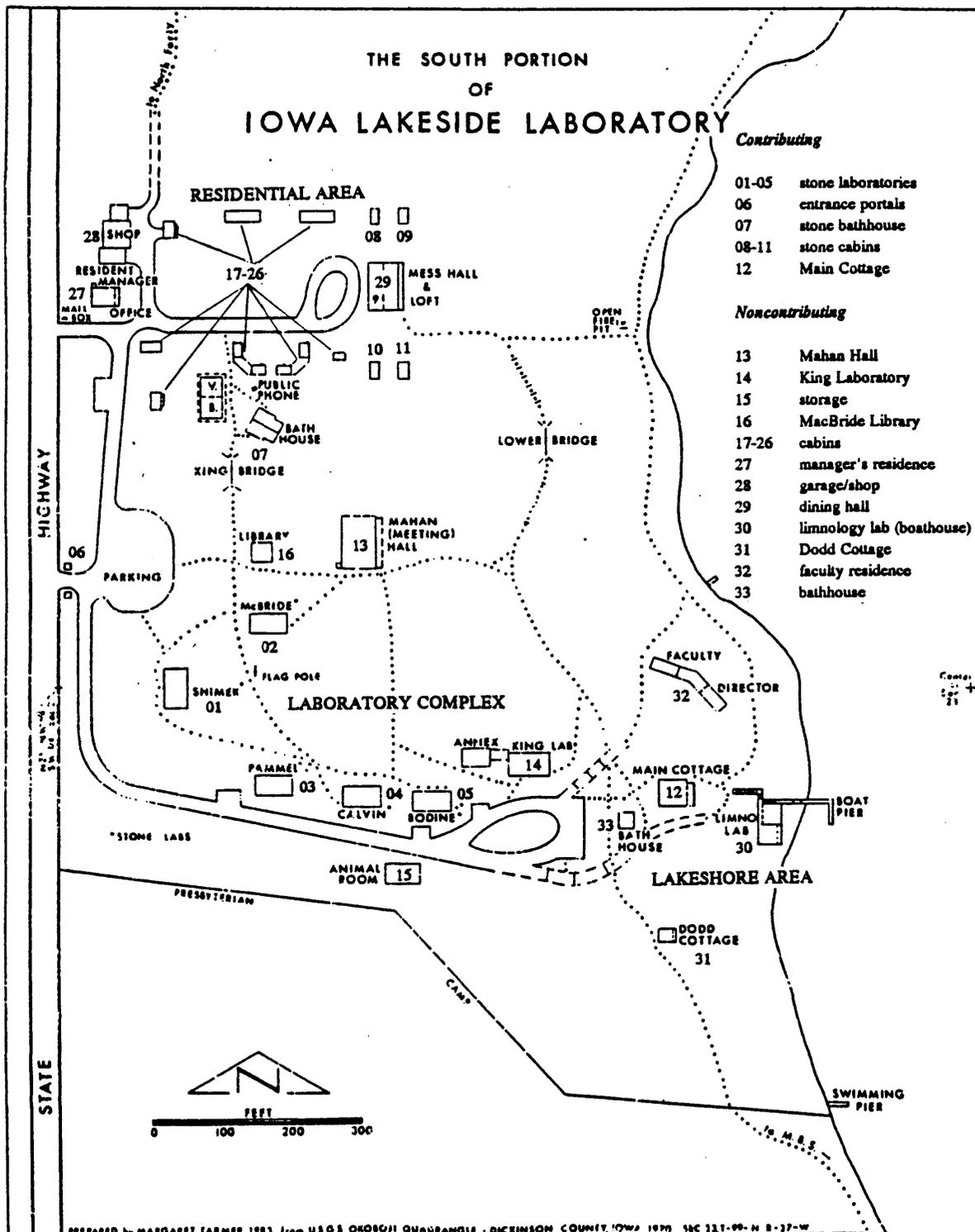
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*Map 1: Contributing and Noncontributing Resources  
Iowa Lakeside Laboratory*



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Main Laboratory Complex

The main laboratory complex is the heart of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. It consists of nine buildings arranged in an irregular "U" around a small knoll as well as a set of stone portals which mark the first of two entrances to the facility from State Highway 86. A prominent grouping of five stone buildings are visible as one enters the complex from the west. These five buildings, all named for prominent Iowa scientists who were associated with the laboratory, were the major buildings constructed by CCC Camp B.F. 1 in 1936-1937. Four other buildings have been added to the complex in recent years, but all of them have been sited so as not to intrude on the spatial integrity of the five stone buildings. Noncontributing buildings include Mahan Hall (ILL-13), constructed in 1961; King Laboratory and annex (ILL-14), built in 1970 and expanded in 1978; the Animal Room (ILL-15), built in 1966 and scheduled for conversion to a storage building; and the Library/MacBride Reading Room (ILL-16). Mahan Hall, King Lab, and the Animal Room are all noncontributing by virtue of age. The present-day library-reading room is an old country schoolhouse which was moved from a nearby location onto the laboratory grounds in 1971, altered with the addition of a rear porch in 1973, and expanded by an addition in 1986 that almost doubles its size. This building is of interest because of its association with local history, but that association does not include the history of Lakeside Laboratory, and it is therefore considered a noncontributing structure.

Shimek Library (ILL-01)

Shimek Library, now used as a laboratory, is a highly symmetrical, rectangular building measuring 47'6" x 27' and constructed of uncoursed, rough-cut granite. Massive exterior chimneys are located at both ends. The gabled roof, set at a 45-degree angle, is covered with wood shingles. Two rather small hipped roof dormers pierce the roof on both the west front and east rear. A centrally placed front entrance consists of a strap-hinged wooden plank door immediately flanked by two wood-sash windows which function as sidelights. Other features of the front entry include a flagstone landing, a wrought iron boot scraper, and a decorative metal light fixture, all of which appear to be original architectural features. The name "Shimek" is cut in block letters on a smooth stone surface immediately to the left of the entrance. Two units of three wood-sash windows each are symmetrically spaced on either side of the front entry; three window trios are arranged along the rear. All are accentuated with prominent stone sills. The original windows were four-light over four-light. In recent years, the

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windows have been replaced with aluminum combination storm windows, but these have been set into the original wooden frames in such a manner that the fenestration could easily be returned to wood-sash windows. The interior remains largely unaltered, though the library furnishings have been exchanged for laboratory tables and equipment. Large, segmentally arched fireplaces are located at either end, and original metal lighting fixtures are still suspended from an open beam ceiling.

## MacBride Laboratory (ILL-02)

MacBride Laboratory, and the other three stone laboratories which are virtually identical to it, differ only slightly in design from the library. They are rectangular in plan, measuring 27'x60'. Gable roofs are pitched at 45 degrees and covered with wood shingles. Unlike the library, the laboratories have no roof dormers. While the library is sited on a north-south axis, the laboratories are sited on an east-west axis. Exterior chimneys, flanked by wood louver vents, are centrally located on the east and west ends of each building. The laboratory chimneys, though prominent, are not nearly as massive as those of the library. On this particular building, the name "MacBride" is incised in on a smoothed stone near the top of the west chimney. Also unlike the library, which has a central front entry, the laboratory entries are placed off-center on either end. Strap-hinged wooden plank doors are set into segmentally arched doorways. Four sets of three windows each are symmetrically spaced along the north and south sides. Fenestration along the south side consists of replacement aluminum combination windows, but the original 4/4 wood-sash windows are still intact along the north side. The interior of MacBride Laboratory reflects the original layout to a greater degree than do the other three laboratory buildings, but the interiors of all four labs actually retain a remarkably high degree of design integrity. The original design placed four workrooms off a hallway that ran the length of each building along the south side. A series of poured-in-place concrete tanks for holding aquatic life lined the entire length of the south interior wall. Interior rooms were partitioned with knotty pine paneling. Each workroom could be accessed by a doorway off the main hallway or by an interior doorway connecting it with the adjacent workroom. All workrooms were equipped with concrete slab sinks and worktables. Floor-to-ceiling closets were built into the two end workrooms. This layout, including all the original built-in laboratory furnishings, is still intact in MacBride Laboratory.

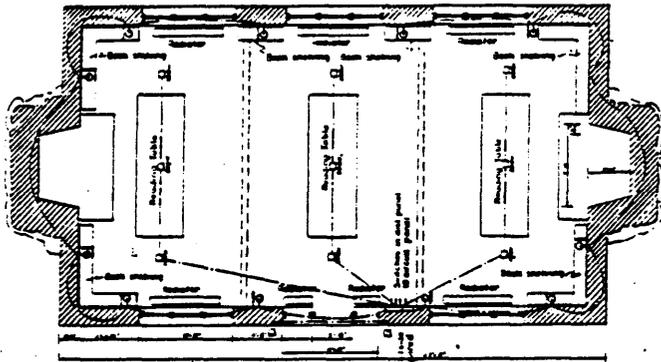
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*Architectural Plans for Shimek Library  
U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, 1936*

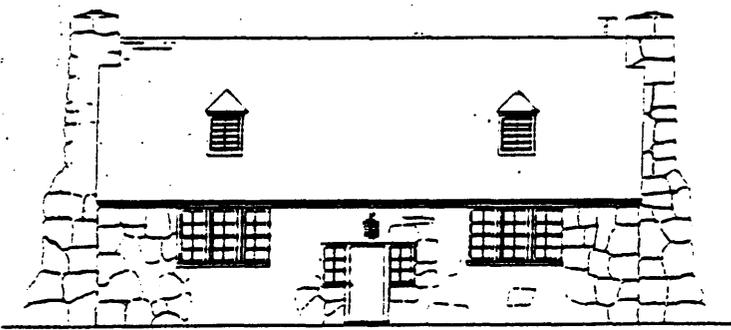


PLAN  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

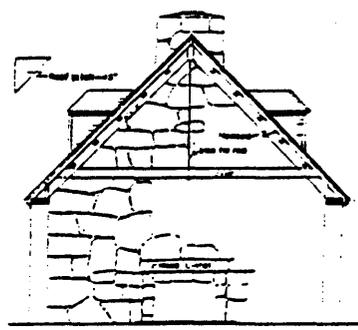
Note:  
1. Double doors to be  
used where shown.  
2. All windows to be  
large windows 12' x 6' or 12' x 8'.  
3. Windows to be placed in center of wall.  
4. Doors to be placed in center of wall.  
5. Entrance door.  
6. Located on right side of building.  
7. Located on right side of building.  
8. Located on right side of building.  
9. Located on right side of building.  
10. Located on right side of building.



SIDE ELEVATION  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



FRONT ELEVATION  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



SECTION  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

LIBRARY FOR STATE LABORATORY  
GROUP AT LAKE OHOBOSHI, IOWA  
US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Approved: *J. S. Gentry*  
Special Agent in Charge  
*J. H. Gentry*  
Library Assistant  
in Charge  
and Director of Collections

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Architectural Plans for Typical Laboratory  
U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, 1936

**PLAN**  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

**SIDE ELEVATION**  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

**SECTION**  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

**ELEVATION**  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

**WINDOWHEAD / CORNICE SECTION**  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

**SILL SECTION**  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

**SILL PLAN**  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

**LOUVRE DETAIL**  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

**TYPICAL LABORATORY LAKE OKOBOJI IOWA**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DESIGNED BY ARCHITECTURE SECTION  
APPROVED BY DIRECTOR OF BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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**Pammel Laboratory (ILL-03)**

The design of Pammel Laboratory is identical to MacBride Laboratory in every respect except that the name "Pammel" is incised in the west stone chimney. New wood shingles are located on the north rake of the roof, replacements required after a tornado damaged the originals in a 1989 storm. All of the windows in this building are the original 4/4 wood-sash windows. The interior has been modified to some degree, but the original design is still discernible.

**Calvin Laboratory (ILL-04)**

Calvin Laboratory is identical in design to MacBride and Pammel Laboratories, with the exception that "Calvin" is incised in the west stone chimney. Like Pammel Lab, the original fenestration remains intact, though the interior has been slightly modified.

**Bodine Laboratory (ILL-05)**

This, too, is identical in design, and like Pammel and Calvin Laboratories, the original fenestration is intact. "Bodine" is incised in the familiar chimney location.

**Entrance Portals (ILL-06)**

Two stone piers are set on either side of a 24' driveway located at the southerly entrance to Lakeside Laboratory. These piers stand 11' tall on 4' concrete bases. They are constructed of uncoursed, rough-cut granite mortared to a concrete core. In design, the piers measure 7' at the base, and taper in steps to 4'6" at the top. "Built by Camp B.F. 1 C.C.C." has been incised into a smoothed stone surface on the left pier. "Iowa Lakeside Laboratory" is lettered into the stone on the right pier. Metal bars to support gate hinges have been set into the concrete core. The original gate, fabricated of peeled logs bolted with iron straps, is suspended between wrought iron collars attached to the support bars.

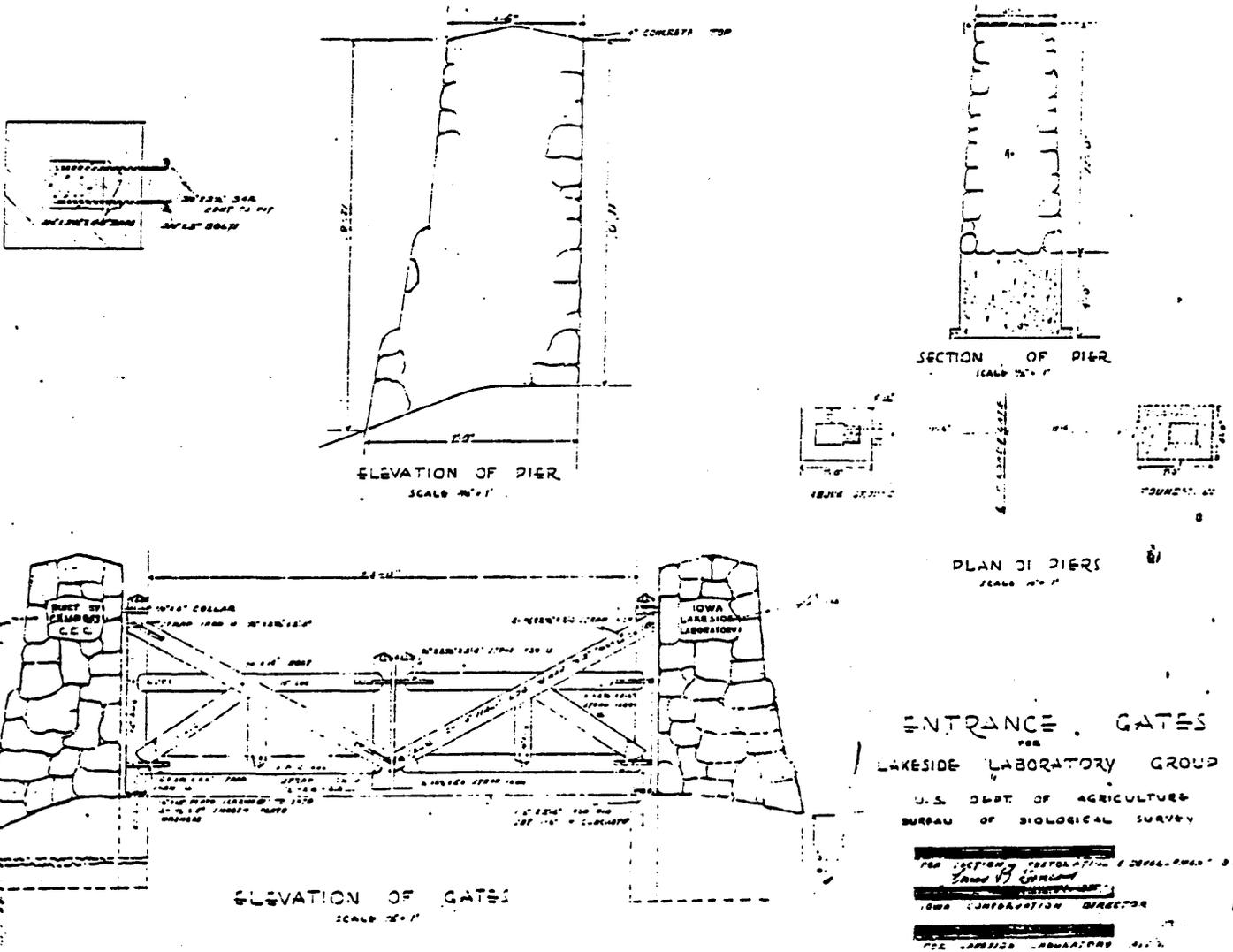
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## Architectural Plans for Entrance Portals U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, 1936



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### Main Residential and Dining Area

The main residential and dining area is located north of the main laboratory complex, and the two areas are separated topographically by a shallow ravine. Two footpaths and footbridges link these areas. There are eighteen buildings in the residential and dining area. Five of them can be considered contributing structures: four stone cottages and a stone bathhouse-toilet, described below. These five buildings were part of the 1936-37 CCC building program. Noncontributing structures include ten wood-frame cottages (ILL-17,-18,-19,-20,-21,-22,-23,-24,-25,-26), a manager's residence/office (ILL-27), a garage/shop building (ILL-28), and a dining hall (ILL-29).

Several noncontributing structures are buildings acquired with the 1929-1930 land purchases. The largest parcel contained several buildings, including a farmhouse, a barn, and five small cottages. As part of the CCC building project, the farmhouse was razed, and the barn was relocated and converted for use as a dining hall. Work began in mid-1936, when the barn was set on a new foundation. A 16'x56' porch was added on the east side overlooking the lake, and the exterior walls were covered with wood shingles. A comparison of photographs taken after the barn renovation with the dining hall as it appears today indicates that since 1936 windows have been replaced, new doors have been cut into the gable ends to provide access to sleeping lofts on the upper level, the exterior walls have been reclad with asbestos panels, and a recreation room has been added underneath the east porch. The CCC building project was to include another four overnight cabins for this area, in addition to the four that were constructed, but funds ran short. Instead, ten wood-frame cabins were added to the complex sometime after 1938 as a separate building project. All of these cabins were very small, plain, wood-frame buildings, built at a minimum of cost. Over the years they have been incrementally altered in order to make them more comfortable. While the scale and spatial arrangement of the dining hall and the wood-frame cabins are compatible with the historic setting, these buildings no longer meet National Register integrity standards.

The manager's residence/office and an associate garage/shop are noncontributing by virtue of age. The residence was constructed in 1949, but underwent a major remodeling in 1972. The garage also was constructed in 1949, and enlarged with an attached shop in 1966.

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**Bathhouse-Toilet (ILL-07)**

The existing bathhouse is one of two identical structures that were planned for construction. If the second structure was built, it has since been removed. The structure measures 26'x14'6" and it is constructed of rough-cut uncoursed stone. In keeping with the design of the laboratory buildings, the bathhouse even incorporates an end chimney, although here the feature is purely decorative. The original plan called for the front entrance to be located on the far left side of the front facade with two six-light windows evenly spaced to the right. As built, however, the entry door was placed center front, with two four-light windows on either side. The roof, like those of the other CCC buildings, has a 45-degree pitch and is covered with wood shingles. The building has been modified with a rear extension that now contains the shower rooms. This addition, though substantial, does not alter the appearance of the front and side facades.

**Stone Cottages (ILL-08,-09,-10,-11)**

CCC Camp B.F. 1 built four stone-and-wood cottages as part of the 1936-37 expansion. The cottages are identical, being rectangular in plan and measuring 24'10"x14'9". Low-pitched gable roofs have exposed rafters and beams under moderate eaves and are covered with wood shingles. The cottage design is a rather unusual blending of stone and wood construction. In appearance, the stone portion of each building forms a scoop shape which seems to hold a small wood-frame structure. An exterior chimney anchors the end wall of each cottage. Then, the stone wraps around to form a small section of each side wall. Stone masonry construction continues along the side walls and the front end wall up to the lower edge of the windows. The upper walls of the building sides and front are of wood-frame construction, with the side walls clad in board-and-batten and the front end clad in 10" clapboard. A stoop entry is centrally located on each front end. The original design called for a centrally placed window on both of the side walls, flanked by four small, horizontal windows. The small horizontal windows have recently been replaced with larger awning windows which allow greater airflow through the cottages.

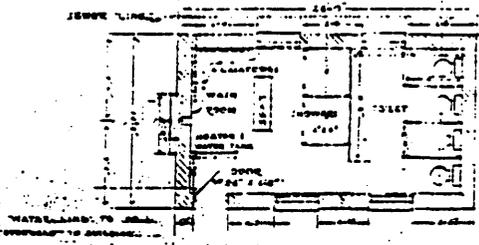
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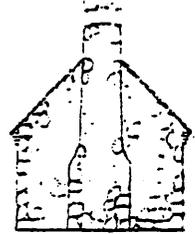
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## Architectural Plans for Bathhouse and Toilet U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, 1936

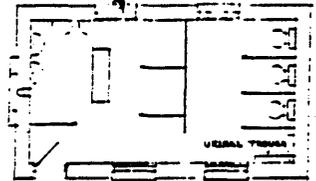


PLAN  
MEN'S BATH, HOUSE & TOILET  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

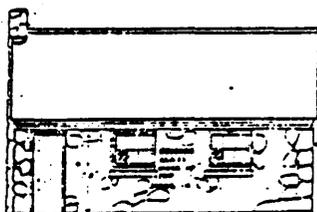
ALL INTERIOR PARTITIONS  
TO BE OF 2" DIM.



END ELEVATION  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

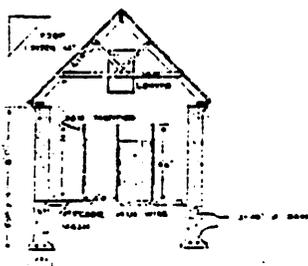


ALTERNATE PLAN  
MEN'S BATH, HOUSE &  
TOILET



FRONT ELEVATION  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

WOOD LISTS  
FOR INTERIOR & EXTERIOR



SECTION  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

BATH HOUSE  
AND  
TOILET  
FOR  
STATE LABORATORY GROUP  
LAKE GEORGE, IOWA  
U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

APPROVED: *James S. [Signature]*  
ARCHITECT  
FOR THE BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
20250

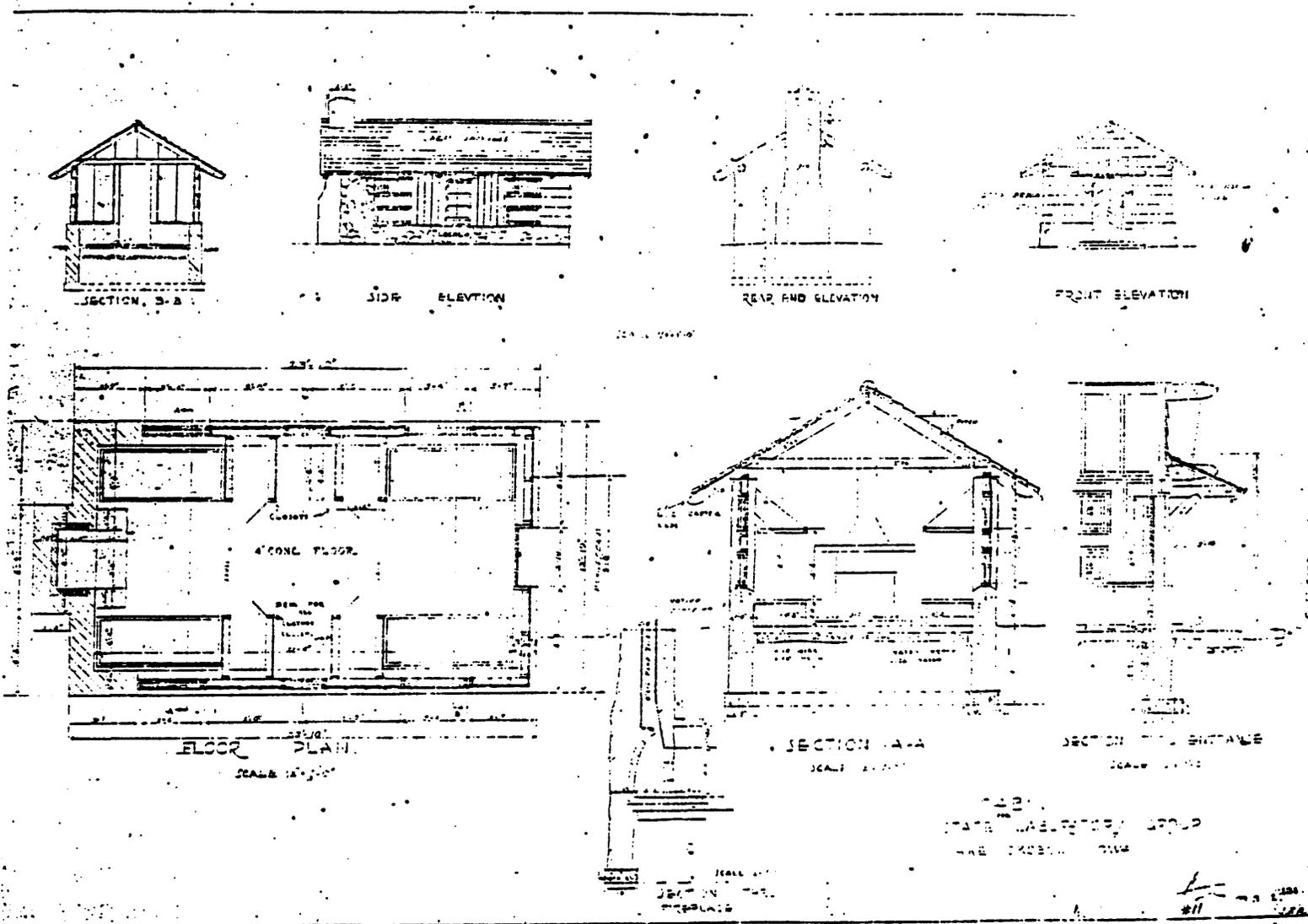
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## Architectural Plans for Stone Cottages U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, 1936



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Lakeshore Area

The Lakeshore Area contains the original five acres purchased in 1909 plus a small portion of the eighty-four acres acquired between 1928-1930. There are five buildings in this area, but only the Main Cottage is considered a contributing structure. The four noncontributing structures in this area are the Boathouse/Limnology Laboratory (ILL-30), Dodd Cottage (ILL-31), the Faculty Residence (ILL-32), and a bathhouse (ILL-33).

The boathouse and associated stone steps were constructed by the CCC camp as part of the 1936-37 expansion program, but the boathouse has been considerably altered by the addition of a laboratory, which was built on top of it in 1963. The building itself is intact, but it now has the appearance of being a foundation and basement story for the laboratory; and, in consequence, it no longer blends into the rocky shoreline. Alterations make the boathouse noncontributing, although it could probably be restored to its original condition. Should such restoration ever take place, the building should be reevaluated for significance as a contributing structure.

Dodd Cottage was acquired as part of the eighty-four acres purchased between 1928-1930. Since then much of the historic fabric has been removed with alterations. Although it probably dates from the turn of the century, it is considered noncontributing because of building modifications. The faculty residence is a modern, one-story wood-frame building with two wings forming a wide, chevron footprint. The south wing was constructed in 1966, the north wing in 1968. It is noncontributing by virtue of age. Likewise, the bathhouse, a small, one-story, wood-frame building located behind the Main Cottage, is noncontributing because of age. It was constructed in 1965.

Main Cottage (ILL-12)

This cottage was standing when the laboratory site was purchased in 1909. Little is known of its construction history prior to purchase, but judging from its late Victorian features, the building probably was constructed sometime during the 1890s. The cottage is rather large, measuring approximately 60'x40' with a 10' wraparound screened porch on the east front and south side. The porch gives the house a bulky rectangular appearance, but the floor plan is actually two rectangles offset against one another: a large 30'x37' rectangle forms the back half, and a smaller 31'x24' rectangle

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offset to the right forms the front half. A low-pitched, complex hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Low, hipped roof dormers are located on the east front as well as the south and north sides. The predominant fenestration is 6/1 wood-sash windows. The exterior walls of the house proper are clad with narrow clapboard, while the lower walls of the screened porch are constructed of narrow vertical boards. Lattice skirting screens the porch and house foundations. The cottage was built with three entrances, two of them approached through the porch and one located along the west rear. A second rear entry was added during the mid-1960s when interior partitions were rearranged to provide more sleeping rooms. The only other modification of the exterior design has been the addition of a covered walkway along the west rear of the house. This walkway cover, which consists of a shed roof supported by 4"x4" posts and decorative lattice panels, is entirely compatible with the historic fabric.

Main Cottage is the only building which remains of the original laboratory complex. Built for use as a summer residence, but it functioned as the laboratory's first administration building and library. An I-shaped wood-frame laboratory building was constructed north of the cottage. Faculty and students slept in tents, and meals were served in a large screened dining tent. Shortly after the site was purchased, a two-room cottage, an ice house (or boathouse), an electric light plant, and a water pumping station were added. In 1921, a new boathouse was erected, and a three-compartment garage was added in 1922. All of these structures are gone.

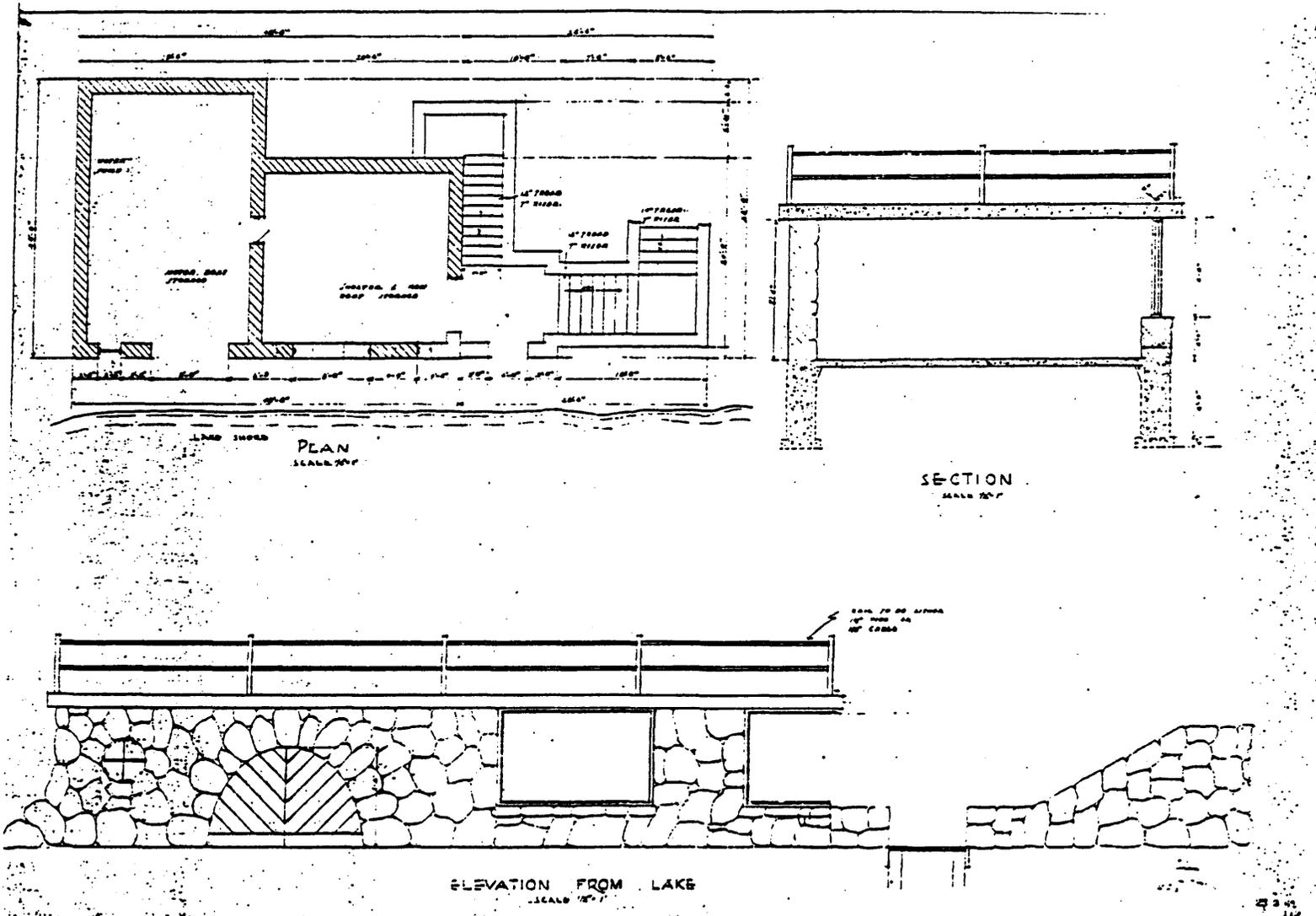
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## Architectural Plans for the Boathouse U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, 1936



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### *Section 8: Statement of Significance*

#### *Summary Significance Statement*

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is significant under Criterion A as the earliest and one of the most important research and educational institutions associated with the conservation movement (see Subsection V of Section E, "Conservation of Native Flora").\* It is also significant under Criterion B as the one property in the state most closely associated with Thomas H. MacBride, considered by some to be the "father" of the conservation movement in Iowa. Additionally, it is significant under Criterion C as a successful adaptation of the Park Rustic architectural style to meet the physical requirements of an institutional research facility.

#### *Criterion A*

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is significant under National Register criterion A as a place associated with many aspects of the history of conservation in Iowa, particularly as that history concerns the interplay between scholarly and applied research, that is, the pursuit of knowledge about ecological systems vis-a-vis the application of that knowledge to solve natural resource problems.

The field laboratory was the brainchild of Thomas MacBride, Bohumil Shimek, and their mentor, Samuel Calvin. These three men were the core of the University of Iowa's department of natural science. During the late 1890s, they made several trips to the lake district of northwest Iowa for the purpose of collecting specimens and learning more about the region's natural history. What they discovered was that the region comprised a remarkable diversity of natural features. The hills and lakes illustrated the special topographic characteristics of the Wisconsin moraine, both forest flora and prairie flora abounded within narrow limits, and habitats ranged from aquatic to semi-arid.

Struck by the area's beauty and rich educational possibilities, the three began to dream of establishing a field research station where they could bring students to study natural features in their natural surroundings. The opportunity came in 1908, when a five-acre parcel of land on West Lake Okoboji became available. Without hesitating, MacBride secured an option to buy the property. Then, to circumvent statutory provisions which prevented the university from establishing "branch" campuses, MacBride persuaded the University of Iowa Alumni

\* Part of the Conservation Movement in Iowa MPS

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Association to finance the purchase, made in 1909. To formalize arrangements, the Alumni Association formed a stock company known as the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Association (ILLA), which owned and controlled the property as a non-profit botanical and biological station for scientific research and education.

MacBride provided the laboratory's statement of purpose in an article he wrote for the *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science* in 1909. The plan, as he expressed it, was to offer classes in natural science that would be open to all students "competent to enjoy the laboratory method of instruction"; to instruct teachers in both academies of higher learning and in high schools so that they were better prepared to educate children in schools; and to provide a laboratory where graduate students and scholars could pursue advanced research. MacBride, Shimek, and Calvin never thought in terms of how the research and studies carried out at Lakeside Laboratory might directly be applied to conservation — those lines of distinction had not yet been drawn. Rather, they subscribed to a belief that educating students and the "common people" to the wonders of nature would somehow benefit the large, amorphous conservation movement. In a letter written to Shimek many years later, he recalled that the three men:

sought two or three things: a, To quicken our own intellectual life! to inspire some of our own pupils and promote science! but further b, to rouse the common people, to awaken in them interest in the natural world, and persuade them, if possible, to use it sensibly and rightly.

The first summer season indicated that the field laboratory would be highly successful. Twenty-six students enrolled, and six faculty members taught classes in mycology, Iowa physiography, field ecology, plant taxonomy, aquatic plant biology, mineralogy, and zoology. During the first few years of operation, MacBride served as the director, succeeded by Shimek. But after Calvin died in 1911 and MacBride retired from the university in 1916 and moved to Seattle, Washington, new leadership was needed, especially since Shimek was deeply involved in Czech-American political affairs throughout World War I. By 1920, Dr. Robert B. Wylie had assumed the directorship. Though out-of-state, MacBride's interest in the laboratory never faded, and Shimek provided him with occasional news updates in his letters.

Financial difficulties brought on by World War I forced changes. Enrollment declined during the war; and during the post-war period, the faculty was reduced, regular classes were

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suspended, and the laboratory became a research facility for experienced scholars and advanced graduate students. The shift created tension among faculty members. Shimek, in particular, could not support the change. In a 1920 letter to MacBride, he noted that zoologists had pretty much taken over the laboratory and, as a result, he no longer had much knowledge of what was going on. While the shift to research reduced the amount of money needed for summer salaries, it also created new pressure to upgrade research facilities. In addition, this type of operation eliminated the modest income which students paid for room and board. Throughout the 1920s, funds for maintenance were in short supply, and a two-year campaign to raise a \$10,000 endowment fell disappointingly short of the goal.

During the late 1920s, a new director, George W. Martin, reestablished the original structured curriculum which combined course instruction and research, hoping to revitalize the institution. Then, in 1928, two adjoining parcels of land totalling eighty-four acres came onto the real estate market for a total price of \$17,000. The opportunity to expand Lakeside Laboratory energized both Shimek and MacBride, and they spent the next few years trying to raise the purchase money. In the end they were successful, largely because MacBride donated \$5000 out of his own pocket, because Shimek skillfully exploited the respect and admiration which alumni felt for MacBride, and because they persuaded one of the sellers to reduce his price substantially.

By the early 1930s, Lakeside Laboratory had expanded from five to eighty-nine acres, but it still lacked adequate facilities for research and teaching. New Deal programs to stimulate the economy and advance conservation work provided a timely solution, and J.N. (Ding) Darling helped to unlock the coffers. After Darling assumed the position of Chief of the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey in 1934, E.A. Gilmore, President of the University of Iowa, paid him a visit in Washington, D.C. Gilmore's purpose was to find money to build new facilities at Lakeside Laboratory. During late 1935 and early 1936 plans came together. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Emergency Conservation Work Director Robert Fechner agreed to reopen a State Park CCC camp at Milford (SP-9) and operate it under the auspices of the Biological Survey. The camp provided CCC labor for construction. State ECW director G.B. MacDonald agreed to allocate \$10,000 for materials and supplies, and this amount was augmented by a \$2500 contribution from the State Conservation Commission. Construction began in April 1936, and the new facilities were used for the first time during the 1937 summer session.

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No sooner had the facilities been finished than another controversy arose over the laboratory's research mission. Ding Darling, who had been a staunch supporter of the project, became an outspoken critic, and his correspondence provides most of the information concerning the turn of events. In return for using his influence to have Lakeside Laboratory's facilities completely rebuilt, Darling apparently received a verbal promise from Gilmore that the laboratory would be used, at least in part, to carry out a program of applied research in fresh water ecology for the purpose of restoring the state's lakes and waterways. Gilmore hinted as much to M.L. Hutton, Director of the State Conservation Commission in a letter of January 10, 1936, writing that "Lake Okoboji ought to become, in time, a real regional research center." In order to accept federal and state funding, the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Association had to transfer title to the State of Iowa, a legality required so that buildings could be constructed on public land. This was done in May of 1936, and a Board of Managers set up with members drawn from the University of Iowa, the State Conservation Commission, the U.S. Biological Survey, the State Board of Education, and the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Association. However, Dr. Robert Bodine, then laboratory director, continued to manage the facility more or less autonomously, as it had always been run. The Board of Managers, for its part, apparently made no attempt to force an applied research program on Bodine, although the State Conservation Commission did submit at least one research request in writing. Bodine's reasons for ignoring the Board of Managers require further inquiry, but in any case Darling interpreted his lack of response as ivory-tower arrogance.

Increasingly frustrated, Darling wrote to E.A. Gilmore in July of 1938 expressing his displeasure with Bodine. Six weeks later he received a cool reply in which Gilmore defended Bodine's management but stated that the university would be willing to share the cost of funding a full-time ecologist for the laboratory if the State Conservation Commission would put up the other half. This response represented a considerable shift in the bargain that Darling believed he had struck with Gilmore in 1935, but he nonetheless carried the proposal to the State Conservation Commission. The commission countered with a proposal to station one of its own biologists at the laboratory, but negotiations bogged down when Bodine insisted that he be allowed to select the researcher and, furthermore, to allocate all funds contributed by the SCC in any manner he saw fit. Considering that the biologist the State Conservation Commission intended to assign to the laboratory was openly hostile to Bodine, and that state contributions fell far short of supporting a research facility of the quality everyone desired, Bodine had sufficient reason to be cautious. No doubt he felt entirely justified in resisting any attempt by government agencies or outside organizations to set the research agenda. At this

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point, the commission declined to give any more money to the laboratory. Darling then contacted select conservation organizations around the state, including the Okoboji Protective Association, in order to enlist their aid in putting pressure on Bodine. During 1940, there was another attempt to institute a formal cooperative management agreement, based on the model devised for the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units. All parties, however, could not come to agreement. Cooperative management for applied research proved to be an elusive dream.

The controversy over management of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is instructive because it illuminates the complexities facing conservationists on the eve of World War II. During the first three decades of the century, conservation battles had been managed by a relatively small group of individuals, and many of the key players were university-based. Thus, it was comparatively easy to apply a body of knowledge to any given problem. When MacBride was appointed to the Drainage and Waterways Conservation Commission in 1909, for instance, he not only drew on his own research background, but invited the participation of his colleague, Bohumil Shimek, in order to articulate the problems and formulate recommendations for solving them. Similarly, Louis Pammel used his position as Chairman of the State Board of Conservation to influence the preservation of natural areas for scientific study as a policy guiding state park acquisition and development.

One effect of New Deal federal funding was that it brought more players onto the field, and they were of a different generation. Many of the professionals entering careers in conservation-related areas were by then more highly trained and technically skilled. Their perspective on conservation issues and problems therefore tended to be more scientific. In addition, by 1930, scientists were well aware that the problems of resource conservation were more complex than the knowledge base available for devising solutions. Much of the work done by earlier conservationists had involved identifying areas that needed protection and then working to create vehicles for providing such protection. Once forests, lakes, preserves, and wildlife refuges had been set aside, though, conservationists were faced with the problem of how to restore ecological balance. Not surprisingly, then, conservation became more science-based; and as conservationists entered the laboratory and the field, activism declined.

To Ding Darling, a non-scientist who understood all too well the need for applying scientific knowledge to natural resource problems, the trend was alarming. Despite his efforts to transform the laboratory into an applied research facility, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory retained the dual educational-research focus established by MacBride, Shimek, and Calvin. A

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bibliography prepared on the occasion of the laboratory's fiftieth anniversary revealed more than 200 published works were the result of studies conducted in whole or in part at the laboratory between 1909 and 1961.

While the idea of cooperative management for applied research was never entirely abandoned, it slowly faded as financial support dwindled. In 1940, G.B. MacDonald, then President of the Board of Managers, proposed reorganizing the operation by expanding the list of cooperating entities and establishing an annual appropriation from each to cover expenses. All parties could agree to the operating plan in principal, but the funding angle thwarted implementation. As building maintenance and repair costs mounted, the Board of Managers decided that a permanent organization with dependable means of financing the laboratory had to be established. As a result, the Board of Managers was dissolved in 1947 and the Iowa State Board of Education assumed management as well as financial responsibility for operations. Today the laboratory is operated by the State Board of Regents, and the three state universities - the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa -- cooperatively manage the laboratory.

### *Criterion B*

From 1896, when he first issued a call for the preservation of Iowa's remaining woodlands until his death in 1934, Thomas H. MacBride remained a vital force in the conservation movement. Even after he retired in 1916 and moved his permanent residence to Seattle, Washington, he maintained an active involvement in Iowa affairs through correspondence and frequent trips back to his home state. The inspiration and guidance he provided for others earned him a reputation as the "father" of the conservation movement in Iowa, though MacBride himself had earlier applied that same moniker to U.S. Senator John F. Lacey.

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory was MacBride's special contribution. He was instrumental in founding the laboratory, and he articulated its goals and purposes. When the opportunity for expansion came during the late 1920s, he immediately threw his support behind the effort, assisting Bohumil Shimek in writing fund-raising letters and eventually contributing a sizable amount toward the purchase price. In a 1931 letter to his friend and colleague, he summed up the source of his energy for this task in this way:

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I see so much in the work to which we have set our hands, —so much that makes for the future well-being of the State of Iowa and the future progress of botanical and zoological science, and conservation generally of the resources of the commonwealth, that I do not intend to spare myself in the least in carrying the thing forward.

By then MacBride was in his eighties, and although he remained active in the movement until his death, he seems to have realized this might be the last great contribution he could make.

In promoting the expansion, Shimek proposed that the name be changed to MacBride Lakeside Laboratory, but MacBride simply would not hear of it, stating instead that he had always intended the laboratory to be a place for all Iowa — an educational facility available to faculty and students from all Iowa colleges and a research station open to all who wanted to study the ecology of Iowa's northern lakes region. Iowa Lakeside Laboratory was the only befitting name, as far as MacBride was concerned, and Iowa Lakeside Laboratory it remained.

### *Criterion C*

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is also significant under Criterion C. The site plan and building construction were entirely in keeping with architectural and landscape guidelines promulgated by the National Park Service and generally referred to as the Park Rustic style. The plan called for separating educational buildings from living quarters. Thus, four stone laboratories and a library/administration building were grouped around a knoll at the south end of the campus. Footpaths and footbridges crossed a shallow ravine in order to connect the laboratories with a level meadow area to the north, where the dining hall and sleeping cottages were laid out. In overall design, the structures were sited to respect natural topography, and the buildings themselves were designed to create a cozy, camp-like setting. The original concept had been to house all laboratories in one large institutional building. Architects at the Bureau of Biological Survey rejected this concept in favor of building four smaller labs and a separate library/administration building, all constructed of rough-cut native granite to blend with the natural setting. The boathouse, now considerably altered, was constructed of rounded lake boulders. The building's low profile and its materials indicate that the structure obviously was designed to blend in with the shoreline. Likewise, the stone bathhouse as well as the stone-and-wood sleeping cottages were designed to harmonize with the natural setting. Overall, the plan reflects a highly successful attempt to accommodate the physical requirements of a research and teaching institution within the Park Rustic architectural tradition.

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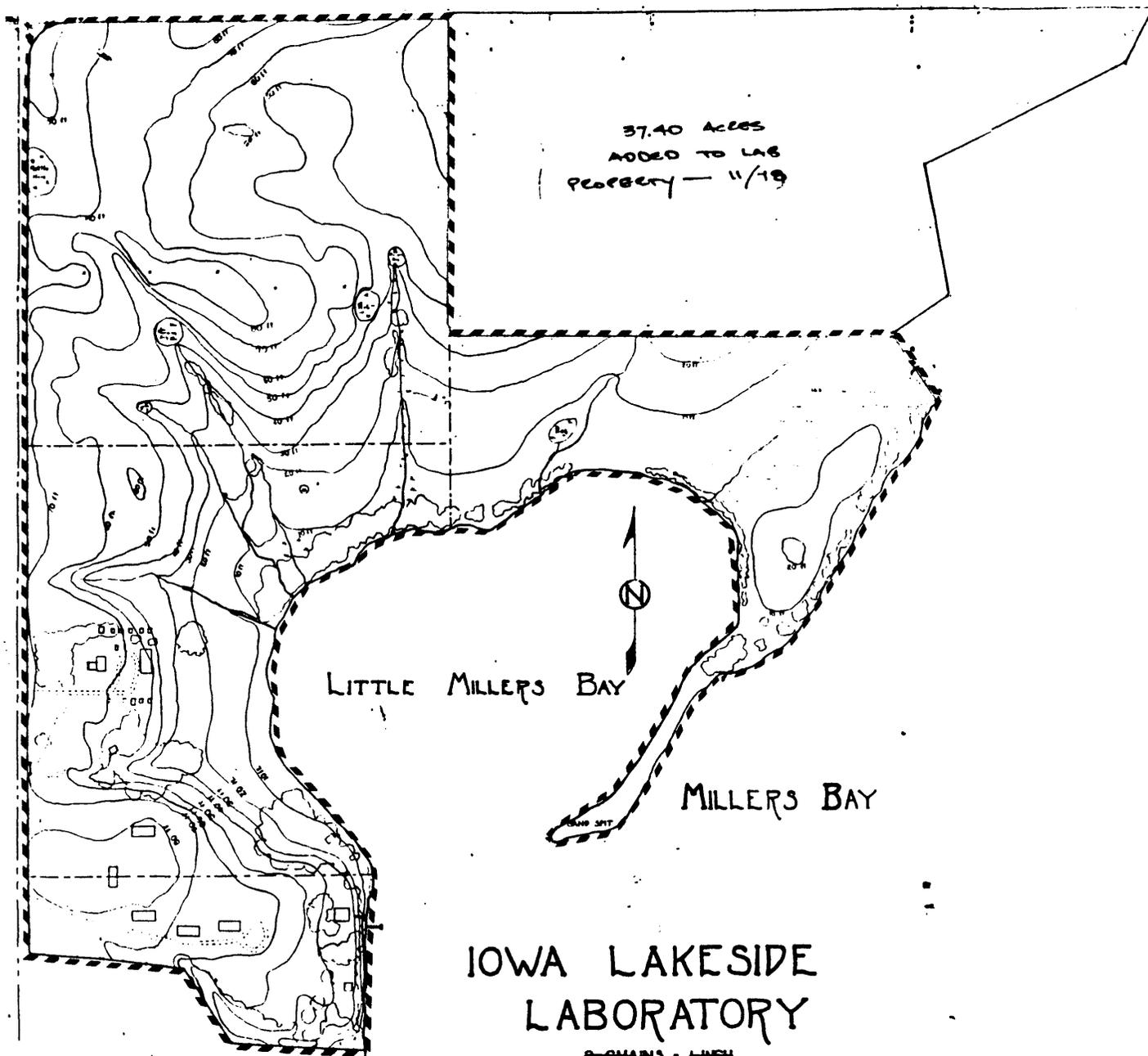
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## Section 10: Geographical Data

**Boundary Description:** Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is an irregular tract of 89 acres located in Section 23, T-99N, R-37W. It is roughly bounded by State Highway 86 on the west, a section line road on the north, Little Millers Bay and Millers Bay of West Lake Okoboji on the east, and a Presbyterian church camp ground on the south.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundaries represent the geographical extent of facility as of 1942 and exclude 37.4 acres of land purchased in 1978.



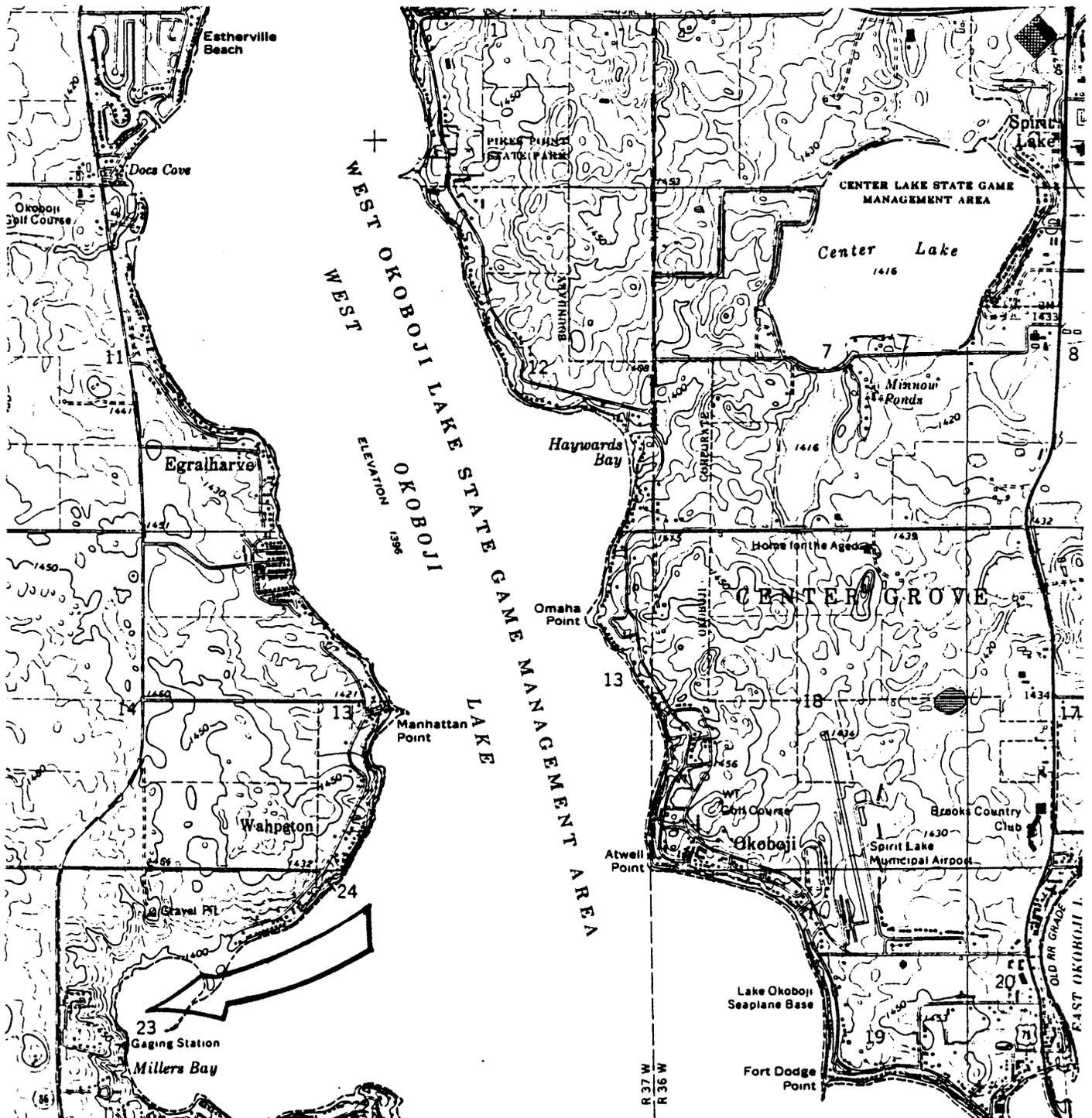
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Vicinity Map  
Source: Okoboji Quadrangle, 7.5', 1970 photorevised 1982



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