

1257

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 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 an 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 Forest Lodge
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Carry Road, about 1.9 miles west of Middle Dam N/A not for publication
city or town Upton N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04261

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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] 11/13/08
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

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

Date of Action

Patrick Andrus 12/30/2008

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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	2	buildings
		sites
2		structures
		objects
6	2	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC / Secondary Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Camp

DOMESTIC / Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

OTHER / Camp

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD / Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other _____

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

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MATERIALS, continued.

Foundation	WOOD (Posts, Blocks) STONE
Walls	WOOD / Shingle WOOD METAL / Steel
Roof	ASBESTOS METAL / Steel

DESCRIPTION

Forest Lodge is a small historic district located in the Town of Upton, Oxford County, Maine. Upton is located along the Maine and New Hampshire border, and a small, triangular section of the town's land is located northeast of the Rapid River, and is inaccessible except from Magalloway Plantation to the north. The 5 1/4 mile long Rapid River flows from east to west, starting in Lower Richardson Lake (the location of Middle Dam). A second dam, Lower Dam (or Pondy Dam) then forms what is known as "the Pond-in-the River". After Lower Dam the river continues for another four miles before it empties into Umbagog Lake to the west. On the north side of the river an old dirt track, called the Carry Road roughly parallels the river's course between the two lakes. Forest Lodge is located along the Carry Road, approximately 1. 9 miles west of Middle Dam.

The wedge shaped property occupies 1. 83 acres and has 450 feet of river frontage and a width of just under two hundred feet along the east line and 150 feet, more or less, along the west line. Carry Road crosses through the property along a southeast to northwest line: approximately a third of the property is located northeast of the road. Forest Lodge contains four residential structures, two woodsheds, a work shop, and a small commercial tackle shop. Of these the small woodshed, tackle shop and Guide's House are located in a line from east to west on the north side of the road, and across the road from these buildings is the Winter House. A dirt driveway circles south from the Carry Road just past the Winter House, and provides access to the Summer House, Guest House, shop and large woodshed before rejoining the road.

The buildings are surrounded by mature coniferous forest, and the landscaping consists of natural growth limited clearings around the structures. The only expanse of open space is a grassy lawn which slopes down to the river from the southeast side of the Winter House. At the east end of this clearing are several small vegetable garden patches, each surrounded by sapling fences and chicken wire. Tucked into the woods between the Winter House and the river is a small deck and

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wood fired hot tub. To the south of the Summer House another small hot tub has been built onto a deck at the edge of the slope down to the river, next to a wooden staircase that leads to a low plateau along the river's edge.

There are two outhouses, a tent platform and a water tower associated with this complex, however, they are of recent vintage and are also located on adjacent pieces of land, and thus have not been included within this historic district.

1. Winter House. Contributing Building. By 1934.

The Winter House is located on the south side of Carry Road, and its front gable end faces east, over a grassy lawn and up river. The small house measures roughly twenty-five by twenty and sits low to the ground on posts and fieldstone piles. It is clad in clapboards and has an asbestos shingle roof. The brick chimney is centered on the lower center portion of the north side of the roof. The three bay façade consists of a pair of two-over-two windows on either side of a double thick batten door. A hip roof porch with trunk-like posts and an open wood deck are attached to the front of the house. The north elevation has two pairs of joined, two-over-two windows on either side of the chimney stack, and a small wooden door immediately in front of the stack that leads to a wood storage box. The west end of the building has one two-over-two window and a centered door, in front of which is an uncovered wood deck; this was formerly the location of a small addition long since collapsed. The south elevation has two windows, each with two-over-two double hung sash. The plain window and door frames, rake trim, corner boards and water table are painted green to contrast with the white clapboard walls.

The interior of the Winter House is divided by a center partition wall that runs the length of the house. To the south of the partition are two bedrooms, finished with rough sawn boards or fiber board panels on the walls and ceilings, and painted wide pine floors. The room to the north of the partition also has painted wide pine floors, and the exposed transverse ceiling joists are stained. The walls are clad with vertical board wainscot below a chair rail. Above this the partition wall is plastered with advertisements and covers from magazines dating to the 1930s and 1940s. The remainder of the room has plywood panels and battens above the chair rail. A free-standing brick fireplace is set near the north wall, and west of this is a wood stove. At the west end of the room is a short counter, gas stove and sink. The living areas and bedrooms have ceiling mounted gas lighting.

2. Summer House. Contributing Building. By 1934.

The Summer House is the largest building at Forest Lodge. It is located south of the Carry Road, and between the slope down to the river and the southern terminus of the driveway loop. The building consists of two rectangular sections. The eastern section (main house) measures approximately twenty-five feet long by twenty-and-a-half feet wide under a one and one-half story

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side gable roof with a through wall dormer on the north elevation. The western section (ell) is approximately twenty-three feet by twenty-and-a-half feet wide, one story in height with an asymmetrical side gable roof. The north side of the building is constructed at grade, but due to the slope of the land, the south side contains a full concrete basement level under the ell. The foundation of the east section consists of wooden posts to concrete pads. A full-length attached porch under a hipped roof is attached to the south elevation main house and is supported on posts to the ground. A large, external stone chimney is positioned at the center of the east elevation, and another is centered on the west elevation. Each section of the building has an asphalt roof. The first floor of the main house and the entire ell have white painted clapboards. On the main house a wooden frieze marks the top of the first floor level. The second level is finished with painted shingles, which flair slightly above the frieze board. Green painted corner boards, rake trim, soffits, and window and door frames complete the trim.

The north elevation contains two widely spaced six-over-two wooden double-hung windows on the first floor of the main house and four closely grouped eight-over-eight double-hung windows in the through wall dormer at the center of the second floor. The ell is four bays wide, with three eight-over-eight windows and a cross-panel and glass door set in the second bay from the west. The east elevation is two bays wide with the six-over-two windows flanking the chimney stack. The west gable end has a two-over-two double hung window north of the chimney stack and a pair of eight-light awning sash south of the chimney stack. On either side of the chimney two long rows of glass bricks are set in the concrete foundation. The south elevation of the main house features a six-over-two window on either side of a five-panel and glass wood door. The porch has open rafters, and the porch supports are formed of de-barked tree trunks, some of which retain branches which form braces to the eaves. A railing of vertical and cross-hatched saplings stretch between the posts. A short staircase accesses the porch at the southeast corner of the house. The south elevation of the ell contains a row of four eight-light sash that are hinged at the top and tilt into the basement kitchen. On the first floor level are two eight-over-eight double hung windows towards the east end of the wall and a pair of eight light awning windows at the west end. An old, eight-panel wooden door into the basement kitchen is located at the west end of the foundation, in the foundation space under the main house; this space also contains various shelves, refrigerators, and cupboards and acts as a seasonal pantry.

The interior of the Summer House features four sections: the living room, first floor bedrooms and bath, second floor bedrooms, and the basement kitchen. The living room occupies the entire first level of the main house. This large space has douglas fir floors and exposed ceiling joists. The walls generally feature exposed studs, but the studs and back side of the external sheathing have all been painted yellow, and between many of the studs book shelves have been installed. The doors and windows all features painted or varnished stock molding with bulls-eye corner blocks. The fieldstone chimney against the east wall has a raised granite hearth and a concrete mantle. A partially enclosed two stage staircase to the second floor, and a straight-run staircase are positioned against the center of the north wall. The second floor of the main house contains three bedrooms, two are positioned west of a central corridor, while one large room is located to the east. This space

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was formerly divided into two rooms, and contains two doors into the hall. Each of the bedrooms have exposed rafters and match-board ceilings, douglas fir floors and exposed stud walls. The hallway is finished with bead-board paneling and the doors are trimmed with stock molding and bulls-eye corner blocks.

Batten and plank doors in the west wall of the living room lead to the bathroom in the southeast corner of the ell and a bedroom in the northeast corner. Another bedroom/living space spans the full width of the building at the western end. All three of these rooms have fiberboard and batten walls and ceilings and douglas fir floors. A wood burning stove is centered on the west wall of the back room.

The basement kitchen runs the entire length of the ell and has hardwood floors, and plaster board and batten walls and ceilings. A long counter extends down the south wall, under the windows, and part of the west wall. A large wood burning cookstove is positioned on the west wall, next to a wood closet in the northwest corner. The north wall of this room is lined with sets of floor to ceiling wooden cupboards. Ceiling mounted gas lights have been installed in the kitchen, but not in the rest of the house.

In 1942, after the sale of her first book, Louise and Ralph Richardson made several alterations to the Summer House. The chimney stack that was located in the center of the living room was removed and the new fieldstone fireplace erected. At the same time the staircase was re-oriented, and a new set of stairs installed to the basement. Historic photographs located in the house show that originally the ell was only half as wide as it is currently: the Rich's expanded it to the north (thus the asymmetrical roof line) and poured a full basement under the structure. The original kitchen for the Summer House had been located in the ell: this space was divided into the bathroom, and incorporated into the western bedroom. The new kitchen in the basement, as well as rudimentary plumbing, was also installed at this time. All of these changes were made within the period of significance. It is also important to note, that much of the furniture within the Summer House dates to the Rich's tenure including chairs, roll top desk, piano, and a typewriter as well as the books, photographs and ephemera.

3. Guest House "Raw Bar." Non-contributing Building. 1990s.

The Guest House, also known as the "Raw Bar" is the westernmost of the river-side buildings at Forest Lodge. It is located west of the driveway and south of the Shop. Constructed in the last decade of the twentieth century, this one-room, wood frame building has an asphalt, side-gable roof and sits on concrete piers and blocks. An irregularly shaped wooden deck with lattice work under the sills and a minimal wooden railing is attached to the south side of the building. The building measures approximately fourteen by eight feet and contains a single door and vinyl sliding window on the east elevation, and a one-over-one double-hung sash on the west elevation. The remaining clapboarded walls do not feature any windows or doors. On the interior the building has a wood

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floor, open stud walls, and exposed rafters, and is furnished with a bed, bunk bed, and chairs, and has a monitor heater. A table and sink are positioned on the exterior deck.

4. Shop. Contributing Building. Date unknown, c. 1942.

The Shop is located on the west side of the driveway, north of the Guest House (#3) and south of the Carry Road. The approximately eighteen by twenty-four foot wood frame building, is one-story in height, has an asphalt roof and clapboard siding, and sits on concrete piers on the ground. The building has narrow corner boards and the windows and doors are all set in plain trim. Exposed rafter tails are present on the north and south elevations. The front of the structure faces east and contain a six-panel exterior door to the south and a two-leaf, batten, vehicle door to the north. Another, smaller wooden batten loft door is centered in the gable peak. Both the north and south elevations contain three, equally spaced two-over-two double-hung sash windows, while the rear wall has a matching window in the northern portion of the wall and an eight-over-eight light double-hung wood sash in the gable peak.

The interior of the Shop has a douglas fir floors, and exposed studs on the walls. A single longitudinal carrying beam, supported by three wood posts, runs the length of th building under the exposed joists. An open flight of wood stairs are positioned against the west wall and a workbench is located under the westernmost two windows on the south wall. Several sets of shelves are installed between the studs against the side walls. The second level is open storage with exposed rafters and narrow, high tie beams.

The date this building was erected is unknown. Louise Dickinson Rich describes the extant shop in her 1942 book We Took To The Woods as a log building, but later mentions that they planned to build a new "shed for the rolling stock" (automobiles) with timber they salvaged from the hurricane blow downs. It is thus likely that the current shop replaced the log shop during the early 1940s.

5. Woodshed. Contributing Structure. By 1942.

Located on the inside of the driveway loop, the large Woodshed is north of the Summer House and east of the Shop. The Woodshed measures approximately fifteen by twenty-eight feet, and is oriented with its gable ridge running north to south. The structure has a three bay frame of braced wooden posts set on concrete sonotubes and concrete piers. Many of the structural connections are fabricated with lag bolts (versus joinery) and several gussets and repairs to structural elements are evident. The major rafter, minor purlin roof is covered with asphalt roll roofing. With the exception of the upper gable ends above the plate, which are enclosed with un-painted sheathing, the walls are essentially open on all four sides, (a piece of sheet metal and asphalt roll roofing are loosely tacked to the southern two bays on the east side of the building). Additional vertical posts and cross bracing set either on concrete pads or directly on the ground are present in the southern two bays, and to a lesser extent on the gable walls. There is no floor in this building. The northernmost bay

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functions as an equipment storage bay, and a high shelf in this bay provides for lumber storage. The southern two bays store firewood and some miscellaneous equipment.

6. Guide's House. By. 1934. Contributing Building.

The Guide's House is a vernacular building located on the north side of the Carry Road. It is a wood frame structure with a side gable, asphalt roof and novelty wood siding. The twenty by sixteen foot building sits on a poured concrete piers (the southeast corner rests on ledge). As with the Summer House, the Winter House and Shop the siding is painted white and the rake trim, corner boards, soffit, and window and door frames are painted green. The façade faces south and contains a two-leaf batten door at the center of the wall, east of which are a pair of horizontally aligned five-over-five wood awning windows. Each of the gable ends has a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows with a two light sash in the gable peak. A fieldstone chimney is affixed to the northeast corner of the rear wall.

On the interior the Guide's House contains a single room with exposed studs, rafters and collar ties. The random-width pine floors are painted. Two sets of bunk beds are positioned in the northwest and southwest corners and a wood burning stove is in the northeast corner. A table shares the middle of the room with a few old chairs, and dressers, and a small gas refrigerator is positioned against the east wall.

During the 1930s and 1940s the Guide's House was divided into two small bedrooms and a living space. However, it has never had a kitchen, electricity, or running water, nor does it now.

7. Fly Shop. (Aldro's Bare Bones Store). C. 1999. Non-contributing Structure.

This eight by ten foot one story frame structure is located on the north side of the Carry Road, between the Guides House (# 3) and the Small Woodshed (# 8). The shop sits directly on the ground, and is sided with horizontal tongue-and-groove board siding, and has a low pitched, side-gable roof. The southern third of this roof overhangs an engaged porch with a wood deck and tree-trunk corner posts. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A wooden, batten, two-leaf door is located on the south wall, at the back of the porch, and two wood frame, fixed sash windows are tucked under the peak of the roof. The interior of the Fly Shop is open to the rafters and has exposed stud framing and a wood floor. This building functions as an informal store, selling fishing gear and souvenirs.

8. Small Woodshed. By 1942. Contributing structure.

This is a two bay, open sided, wood frame structure with a corrugated metal shed roof over common rafters. The structure is comprised of front (south) and back (north) corner posts braced to

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the plates, and intermediary posts separating the two wood bays. The sides of the structure are defined by vertical posts and diagonal braces which both stabilize the end walls and retain the firewood. This structure has no floor and the posts are set directly on the ground. The yard immediately south of the Small Woodshed is utilized for chopping and splitting wood.

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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LITERATURE

Period of Significance

C. 1934 - 1955

Significant Dates

1942

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Rich, Louise Dickinson (1903 - 1991)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:

Maine Women Writers Collection, U. Of New England, Portland, Maine

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property About 1.83 acres

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

1	1 9	3 4 5 6 5 5	4 9 5 8 6 6 1
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 9		

3	1 9		
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 9		

See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 18 April 2008

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333-0065

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Forest Lodge is a compact historic district which is almost as isolated in time as it is geographically from the rest of the state. Technically part of the town of Upton, and located deep in the woods of northwestern Maine, the oldest buildings at Forest Lodge were originally built as a sporting camp in the later decades of the nineteenth century. The almost two acre property contains three residential structures and two woodsheds, all built by the 1940s or earlier, as well as several more recently constructed outbuildings. The site is perched on the edge of the Rapid River, an un-navigable river that drops 155 feet in 5.25 miles from the outlet of Lower Richardson Lake to Lake Umbagog on the Maine/New Hampshire border. The property is surrounded by logging company land, and is only accessible by company permission, or seasonally across the lakes. This was the year round home of the best selling author Louise Dickinson Rich and her family from 1933/4 through 1944, and her summer residence until 1955. It was while she lived at Forest Lodge that Rich developed her literary skills and published her first stories and books. Her subjects were as much the woods, lakes and wildlife that surrounded Forest Lodge as the few residents, visitors and seasonal workers who inhabited her area of the Maine woods. Although Rich published twenty-four books and at least fifty articles and short stories over a career that spanned almost forty years, Forest Lodge is the property most frequently and reverently associated with the author. Forest Lodge is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under Criterion B for its literary association with noted author Louise Dickinson Rich (1903 – 1991).

Sarah Louise Dickinson was born in 1903 in the town of Huntington, Massachusetts and was raised in Bridgewater. After graduating from the local high school Rich attended the Massachusetts State Teachers College in Bridgewater for three years before working as an English teacher in Lebanon, New Hampshire. She married, John Davis Bacon in 1926 and moved with him to Vermont. After she and Bacon divorced in 1931 she returned first to Bridgewater and then to New Jersey where she continued teaching. In the summer of 1933 she accompanied her sister, Alice Dickinson, on a canoe trip through the Rangeley Lakes region. During a long portage between Lake Umbagog and Lower Richardson Lake, along the aptly named Carry Road, the party stopped for a visit at a small cluster of buildings owned by Ralph Eugene Rich.

Ralph Rich had just moved into Forest Lodge. Formerly an engineer working in the automotive industry, Ralph had first visited the Lodge thirty years earlier, when the Winter House was the property of the Oxford Club Camp, a sportsman's group from Cambridge, Massachusetts. Rich returned to the Richardson Lakes area repeatedly during his youth, and in 1924 bought the Lodge from Robert Davis, who had obtained it in 1903 from Edwin Abbott of the Oxford Club. In 1933, after Ralph's own marriage dissolved and he tired of the corporate world, he relocated permanently to Forest Lodge. Rich courted Dickinson for half a year before the teacher moved to Forest Lodge in the winter of 1933/34. Although it is unclear whether the two ever legally married, Louise Dickinson took the surname Rich by the time her first story was published in 1937.

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When Louise Dickinson Rich arrived at Forest Lodge the property contained the Winter House, the Summer House and the Guide's Camp, as well as woodsheds, a privy, and an old log shop. The Winter House and Summer House were on the narrow strip of land between the Carry Road and the river; the Guide's Camp was across the road from the Winter House. Little is known about when these buildings were erected. In her first book We Took To The Woods, Rich states that the Winter House was "the original Forest Lodge, built for a fishing camp". The Carry Road was laid out as early as 1878, to provide a portage between the two lakes, and the map of Oxford County in Colby's Atlas of Maine (1884) locates the Oxford Club Camp on the road. The Winter House was a small structure with two compact bedrooms along the south wall, a long common room with a fireplace on the north, and a porch facing up river on the east gable end. Never designed to house a family year round, the Winter House was cramped, but it was warm. As described by Louise Dickinson Rich in We Took to The Woods:

It is a low building with a porch and an ell, set on a knoll with a view up the river to the Pond-in-the-River. From the outside, it's not a bad little house, but everything that could possibly be wrong with it inside is wrong. The ceilings are too high, and the windows are too small, although Ralph, my husband, ripped out the old ones and doubled the window space the first year we were here. The living-room, where we spend much of the time in winter is on the north side, toward the woods, while the bedrooms, which we use only at night, are on the sunny, open side toward the river. The reason for this irritates me. In the country, the living quarters are always on the road side of a house, so that the inhabitants can keep tabs on the passers-by. In winter there are normally about three passers-by in seven months, here, but still the old rule holds. Apparently it's preferable to sit forever in sunless gloom than to lose one opportunity to speculate about someone's identity, starting point, destination, family connections, and probably discreditable purpose. We can't do anything about the arrangement, because the chimney is in the living-room, and that's where we have to have the stove... That chimney is another wrong thing. It rises out of a fire-place – which is too shallow to draw properly – and instead of being in the wall, it is set out into the room about four feet. This splits the room into two parts, making the attractive and comfortable arrangement of furniture impossible... Why don't we just burn the Winter House down and forget about it? Because it's the only house that can be heated in really cold weather (p. 17, 18, 19.)

The Winter House did not have a kitchen, so the family used the kitchen at the Summer House year round. According to Rich, the Summer House "was built at a later date for a summer camp," (page 19). In contrast to the tight quarters next door the Summer House was big and airy, with a long attached porch overlooking the river. There were three bedrooms upstairs, and a large stone fireplace in the living room. While the family annually prolonged leaving the Summer House to move to the Winter House, it was inevitable, as the Summer House had no insulation or central heat.

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Across the street from the Winter House was a small, side-gable cabin that the family referred to as the Guide's Camp, in reference to the Maine Guides that are still to this day licensed to lead hunting and fishing trips in the Maine woods. The Rich's did not run a sporting camp (although they were both licensed guides), but they used the Guide's Camp to house the men they hired to work with them, some of whom stayed for multiple seasons or years. The property also had an old log cabin "shop" that was "the one building here that looks as though it belonged in the deep woods" (page 21), as well as woodsheds and a privy. After the hurricane of 1938 Ralph erected a woodshed in which he also housed a portable sawmill. He used this saw to mill the lumber that the family eventually used to update and expand the Summer House in 1942. None of the houses had electricity or running water (baths were taken in tubs in front of the stove), but a trunk line provided rudimentary communication to the outside. (Rich relates that she spoke to, and passed calls through, the caretaker at the Brown Farm, a lumber supply depot, for numerous years without ever meeting the man.) Although Forest Lodge was fairly isolated, there were neighbors. Colburn's Camps a couple of miles away on Richardson Lake were occupied by a caretaker's family year round, and the dam-keeper and his family lived at Middle Dam at the outlet of the Lake. Seasonally lumbermen would descend upon the region and set up their camps or 'wangans' on or near the Carry Road. However, for several weeks in the early winter and late spring everyone was cut off from the 'outside' while waiting for the ice on the lakes to thicken or melt.

Louise Dickinson Rich started writing in 1937 as a way to provide income above and beyond the small amounts the family received for transporting boaters down the Carry Road, making syrup, surveying the forest or working in the woods. In 1937 she and Ralph co-wrote a piece that was published in *Outdoor Life* (under Ralph's name) entitled "Why Guides Turn Gray." After winning a short story contest in *Scribner's* magazine, Rich hired a literary agent from New York, Willis Wing. In the summer of 1940, after publishing six more pieces Rich entered into an agreement with Wing whereby she would send him a story a month in exchange for a stipend; they also started talking about preparing a full length book. In February of 1942 she finished writing We Took To The Woods, and in April the *Atlantic Monthly* decided to serialize it. In May the book was selected by the Book of the Month Club in an initial order of 250,000 copies, and was later re-issued by the Council on Books in Wartime, Inc. in a full-length Armed Services Edition.

We Took to The Woods was essentially an autobiography that focused on the challenges and triumphs of living off the land in the Maine woods. Rich wrote with humor and insight about becoming 'woods queer', log drives, gathering berries, fishing and smelting the lakes, and struggling to plan and cook meals while waiting for ice-out. The book featured portraits of her neighbors and friends, delicate descriptions of wildlife, and harrowing accounts of wildfire, sickness and do-it-yourself-childbirth. It was an instant success, both with the press and the public, and the income it generated provided the Richs with the means to add a full basement and new kitchen under the Summer House. Its lasting value, and the reason it has joined the canon of classic Maine regional writing has been in part its folkloric nature as an un-romanticized, almost documentary account of nature and humanity in the years immediately before World War II.

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Between the time We Took to The Woods was published in 1942 and the end of 1944 Rich published no less than twenty stories, many for *Woman's Home Companion* or *Reader's Digest*. In late December of 1944 Ralph Rich died at home, in mid-sentence, of a cerebral hemorrhage. With two young children (Rufus, born in 1936 and Dinah in 1942) to care for and school, the death of her husband essentially marked the end of her year round residence at Forest Lodge. Over the next decade Rich split her time between Forest Lodge and town (Rumford Point), with occasional winters in Bridgewater. During this time she wrote Happy the Land (1946), a second book about Forest Lodge, Start of the Trail (1949), a young-adult book also set in the woods that won the *New York Herald Tribune* Children's Festival Award, and My Neck of the Woods, (1950) a series of character sketches of her neighbors and friends. Through the 1950s she continued to write, but shifted much of her attention to her own childhood in Bridgewater, and to the down east Maine community of Corea where she started to spend her summers. In 1955 she sold Forest Lodge to Catherine Luce, a close family friend and the daughter of Gerrish, one of the long term employees of Forest Lodge. When Rich sold the property to Luce, who was like a daughter to her, she included all the furnishings and possessions (including her typewriter, and desk) that were located in the property, feeling, as her biographer Alice Arlen states, that the property "would be in knowledgeable and loving hands".

Between 1953 and 1960 Rich spent her summers either on Islesboro or Corea, and during this period she produced several works that revolved around coastal communities, including The Coast of Maine (1956), which she characterized as a "informal history and practical guide," and The Peninsula (1958), which although it received critical acclaim, its sales never matched those of We Took To The Woods. During this period she also started writing scholastic volumes as part of a series called "The First Book(s)." Her initial contribution, The First Book of New England was published in 1957, and five more followed through 1965. In 1959 her children's book Mindy was chosen as the runner up for the Austrian State Prize for Children's and Juvenile Literature. In 1968 another book she penned for young readers, Star Island Boy, won the Child Study Association of America Children's Book of the Year award, as did King Philip's War, in 1972. Between 1961 and 1973 she wrote from the house she purchased in Prospect Harbor and later, after living with her daughter in Massachusetts, returned to the area between 1977 and 1980, after which she moved to Mattapoisett, near or with her daughter, for the remainder of her life. Her last published work was a story for Yankee Magazine (co-written with Thomas Hopkins) The Perfectly Proper Pig, in 1976.

Forest Lodge was sold by Catherine Luce to Edgar A. French in 1966, and is now owned by his son Aldro French. The Frenchs use the property seasonally, periodically hosting fishermen, campers and literary pilgrims in the Winter House, Summer House and Guide's House. Although they erected a small guest house ("the Raw Bar") at the edge of the property, and updated the shop and the privies, French has been a respectful caretaker and the property, including most of the interior spaces, reflect the period during which the Richs occupied the Lodge. In 2003, the journalist Elizabeth Peavy wrote the following about her pilgrimage to forest Lodge in 2003 for *Down East Magazine*.

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The Summer House continues to be balanced on poles. Ralph's shop matches the book's rendering, right down to his workbench, complete with narrow drawers holding rusted screws and hardware. Gerrish's shack...retains its rustic feel. The Carry Road is little changed. While Forest Lodge is no longer the "sole address" here, only two additional private camps have been built since WTTTW [We Took To The Woods], thanks to French's preservation efforts and the Rapid River Conservation Easement...Ghosts hover, too: traces of Louise's vegetable garden on the knoll in front of the Winter House; the rusted husk of the 1924 Marmon (one of their work horse cars), which is beached in the woods behind the Summer House; and, tucked amid the trees on the shore at Pondy, the skeletal remains - two curled, sled-like runners; a tall, crooked chimney pot; and a base - from which the winch boat *Alligator*, a sort of barge used for booming (or herding up) logs. And ... trips to the privy behind Gerrish's...are still the "character building" experience Louise claimed them to be. In fact, it's clear that most every action here - from making a shopping list to clearing the Carry Road of snow - required character-building effort. This was no easy life. (Peavy, p. 117.)

While there have been minor changes to the property, the ability of this complex to reflect its association with Rich remains intact and quite palpable.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are described in the deed from Richard Connelly to Aldro S. French and recorded in the Oxford County Registry of Deeds in book 2410 page 241. See sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes all the resources associated with Forest Lodge during its period of significance. The boundary is drawn to exclude several resources, including a water tower and two outhouses, that are located on adjacent property and, while functionally associated with the property in the modern context, were not known to be present during the period of significance.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

ME_OxfordCounty_Forest Lodge_001
Photograph 1 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
19 September 2007
Summer House (#1). North elevation; facing southwest.

ME_OxfordCounty_Forest Lodge_006
Photograph 6 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
19 September 2007
Summer House (#1). Interior, living room with Rich's typewriter. Facing southwest.

ME_OxfordCounty_Forest Lodge_002
Photograph 2 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
19 September 2007
Summer House (#1). South elevation; facing east.

ME_OxfordCounty_Forest Lodge_007
Photograph 7 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
19 September 2007
Summer House (#1). Interior, living room; facing southeast.

ME_OxfordCounty_Forest Lodge_003
Photograph 3 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
19 September 2007
Winter House (#2). East elevation and lawn; facing northwest.

ME_OxfordCounty_Forest Lodge_004
Photograph 4 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
19 September 2007
Shop (#4) and Large Woodshed (#5). Facing north.

ME_OxfordCounty_Forest Lodge_005
Photograph 5 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
19 September 2007
Guide's House (#6) and Tackle Shop (37). Facing northwest. Carry Road in foreground.

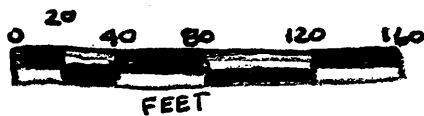
Sketch Map

FOREST LODGE
Upton, Oxford County, Maine

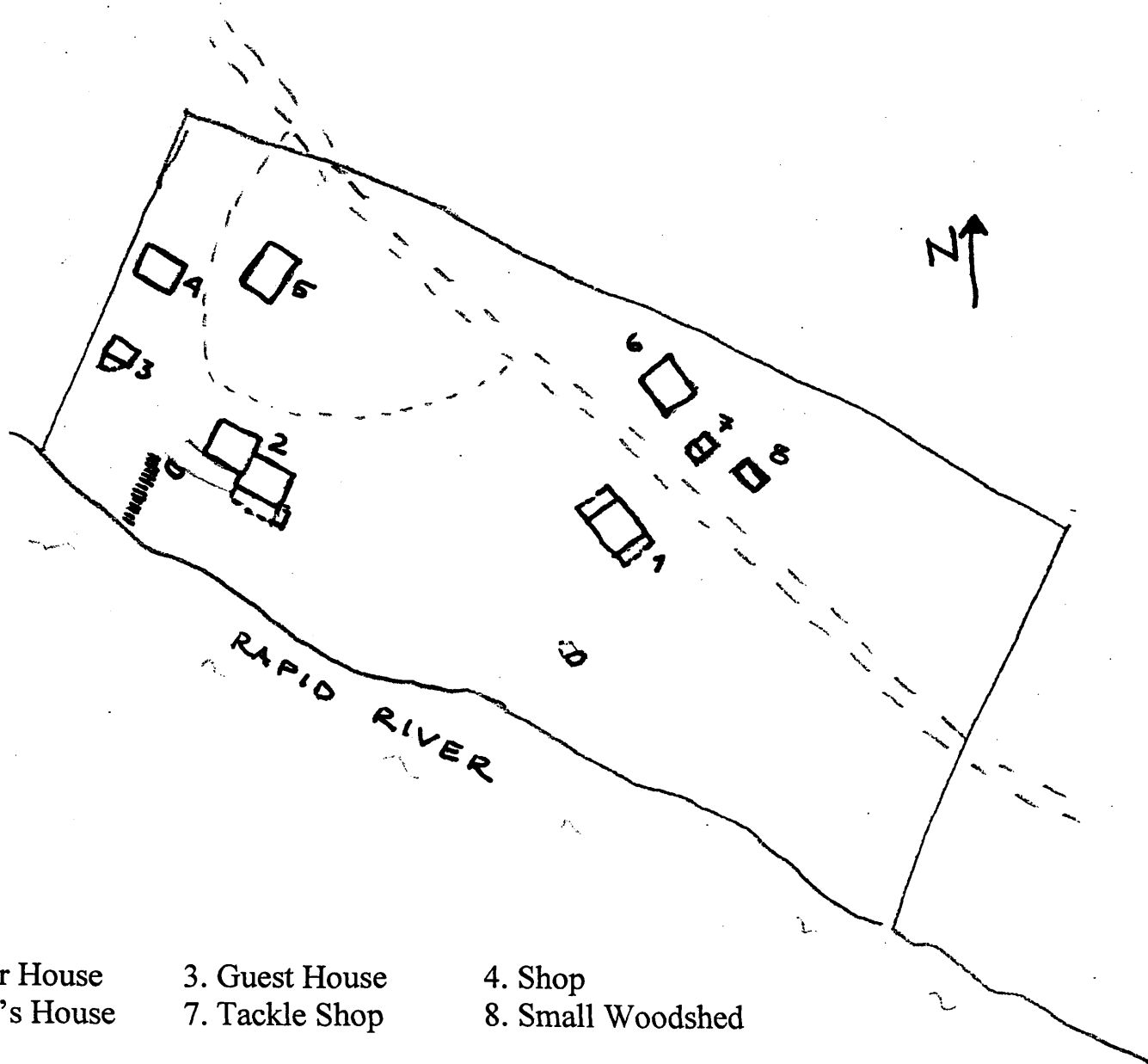
18 April 2008

== Carry Road
-- Driveway

C. Mitchell, Augusta, Maine



- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Summer House | 2. Winter House | 3. Guest House | 4. Shop |
| 5. Large Woodshed | 6. Guide's House | 7. Tackle Shop | 8. Small Woodshed |



Key to Photographs

FOREST LODGE
Upton, Oxford County, Maine

18 April 2008

- == Carry Road
- Driveway

C. Mitchell, Augusta, Maine

