

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAR 26 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association (SITPA) Buildings  
other names/site number 015338-015353

2. Location

street & number State Highway 55 N/A not for publication  
city, town Smiths Ferry N/A vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Valley code 085 zip code 83611

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>15</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
		<u>15</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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.

Thomas J. Aree 3-19-90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Idaho State Historic Preservation office  
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

5. 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:)

Patricia Andrews 5/2/90  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: organizational

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: administrative site

Domestic: single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood: log

roof wood: shingle

other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The buildings of the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association (SITPA) at Smiths Ferry are located to the west of Highway 55 and face a wide, calm stretch of the North Fork of the Payette River. The complex is situated on level ground in front of a steep hillside. The district consists of fifteen buildings, all of which are contributing. Nine buildings are constructed of logs; the remaining six, which are small sheds, are constructed of either round logs and concrete block or frame sheathed with siding. All are in good condition and have maintained a high degree of integrity. There have been few alterations, and recent additions are compatible with the buildings.

The residence is in close proximity to the other buildings, but because it is surrounded by a lawn and is separated from the highway and most of the outbuildings by gravel driveways, it is situated by itself. To the right is the main garage (building no. 5), which has a sign announcing that this is the "Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association." A driveway extends to the north, and on either side of this are several outbuildings. The most impressive of these are four log buildings (nos. 6-9), that have the same roofline and are of a similar size. The residence, the garage, and the four outbuildings are all visible from the road, and are striking in their construction, use of materials, and spatial relationship.

Contributing Buildings

1. The Residence

The residence, which originally housed SITPA's warden, faces east toward the highway. This two-story building is rectangular with a one-story shed roof addition on the west elevation. The main, original block is side gabled with a steeply pitched roof. The roof was once clad with wood shingles but has been altered by the application of standing seam metal. Log rafters and purlins are exposed. An exterior fieldstone chimney is located on the north facade and an interior concrete block chimney is situated on the west slope of the roof. The main block of the house is constructed of scribed logs, so that each log has a groove which enables it to fit snugly on the log beneath.

**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    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Conservation  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1927  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1927  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Heikkila, John  
Lapinoja, Gust

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

The Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association (SITPA) buildings at Smiths Ferry are eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C. They are significantly associated with the conservation of Idaho's timber resources for both the lumber industry and for recreational use. The buildings are architecturally significant as examples of the Rustic style, and the residence represents the traditional log construction techniques employed by Finnish settlers in the Long Valley.

Established early in this century, SITPA is a cooperative organization that protects timbered lands from fire and insect disease. Although fire hazards in Idaho's forests had always been high, owing to natural causes such as lightning, the activity generated by the state's nascent timber industry around the turn of the century increased the incidence of fires. Fire hazards were also exacerbated, beginning in the twenties and thirties, by the growing number of Americans who were discovering remote areas for recreational activities, and had better access to those area because of the automobile. Private landowners could not adequately protect their holdings, and the Forest Service, established in 1905, had such a meager budget that it was impossible for this agency to suppress fires and destructive insects on federal land.

Little technology for fire suppression was available until 1940's and 1950's, and even today, forest fire fighting is labor-intensive with the use of rudimentary tools still playing a major role. Since manpower was so crucial, forest rangers and lumber companies quickly recognized the benefit of a cooperative effort. Larger private entities pooled their woodsmen from 1905 to 1907, and in 1908, the crews of the Payette Lumber Company and the Payette National Forest worked together to suppress a fire in southern Idaho. Henry Shellworth, a land agent for the Payette Land Company and Guy Mains, Forest Supervisor, discussed the designation of areas of responsibilities and the use of state fire wardens. Organized in 1911, the Southern Idaho Cooperative Fire Protection Association, the third of its kind in the nation, was formed out of these discussions and successful joint ventures. The name was changed to the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association in 1919.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A  
 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:  
 State historic preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 9.2

UTM References

A 

1	1	5	7	2	6	6	5	4	9	0	5	4	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is based on the legally-recorded boundary lines of the property. The boundary includes the fifteen buildings described in this nomination, and it contains the area which has historically been associated with the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association in Smiths Ferry.

See continuation sheet

**11: Form Prepared By**

name/title Elizabeth Egleston, State Architectural Historian  
organization Idaho State Historical Society date January 3, 1990  
street & number 210 Main St. telephone (208) 334-3861  
city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702

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The addition is of frame construction and is merely sheathed with "log cabin" siding. Dovetail notching was used on the original portion of the house, but the corners have been painted white so that until one looks closely, they appear to be simple box construction. The house has two stories and sits on a concrete raft foundation.

The primary (east) facade can be divided into three bays, and has a symmetrical appearance. The main entrance is located in the center and consists of double doors with six lights. Above is a fixed transom of two narrow, horizontal lights. Concrete steps lead up the porch, which is flanked by low fieldstone walls with concrete capping. Sheltering the porch is a front gabled log roof with a shallow pitch.

A set of triple-banked windows, one-over-one, double-hung sash, comprise the left and right bays. These windows are compatible with the fenestration of the door, as they have similar fixed transoms. All of the windows of the other elevations also have a one-over-one configuration, and are double-hung sash.

Four windows are located on the first story of the south elevation; two can be seen on the second story. A ladder, attached to the house, provides access to a window on the top floor. A secondary entrance -- a single door with four lights -- is also located on this facade. A deck has been built outside of the door.

On the west elevation of the addition is a single window; a double-banked set of windows is located on the main block. The first story of the north elevation has two single windows that flank the chimney and a single window that illuminates the enclosed porch. On the left of the chimney on the second floor is a double-banked set of windows. A single window can be seen on the north wall of the addition.

Like the SITPA residence in McCall, the house has an enclosed porch extending across the entire front of the building. It is demarcated by interior walls that are notched through to the exterior.

**2. Small Shed**

At the extreme south of the property are two small sheds. The smallest, on the left, is of simple frame construction and, in keeping with SITPA's rustic theme, has been clad with "log cabin siding." It has a shallow front gable, a door on the north elevation and windows under the eaves on the west facade.

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### 3. Log and Concrete Small Shed

Situated only ten feet west of the little shed, this concrete block and log building also faces north and is built back into the hill. Only the north facade is constructed of round logs; the other walls are of concrete block. A plank double door with strap hinges dominates the primary elevation.

### 4. Hipped Roof Building

This small shed is located between the garage and the residence, and is five feet southwest of the garage. It is one of only two hipped roof buildings in this SITPA complex. The roof is steeply pitched and is sheathed with wood shingles. The log rafter ends can be seen and have been painted white. Round logs were used for its construction and were saddle-notched. No exterior chinking is evident but pegs are visible. It is difficult to discern if the building has a foundation. A plank door provides access on the south elevation; a window is located on the north.

### 5. Log Garage

The garage is located approximately thirty feet to the northwest of the residence. It is made of round logs with saddle notching. The exterior interstices are filled with concrete, the interior with timber members cut in a wedge shape. The building is front-gabled with a medium-pitched roof, sheathed with composition shingles. Log rafters and purlins are exposed. An interior brick chimney is located on the south slope of the roof. The garage is two and a half stories and rests on a concrete foundation.

The primary elevation, which faces east, can be divided into three bays. The first story of the left and right bays consists of double bays (room for two vehicles), with folding wood doors that have multi-light windows and triangular hinges. The center bay is delineated by butt ends that indicate the presence of interior log walls, as they extend to the top of the second floor. Between these log ends, on the first floor, is a single door with four lights. A front-gabled roof, supported by log bracing, provides shelter over the shallow concrete slab in front of the door.

The second floor fenestration of the east facade consists of double-banked, three-over-three windows with a sliding sash in the left and right bay, and a three-over-three window directly above the apex of the porch roof in the center bay. A triple-banked, three-over-three window is located in the center bay of the third story.

The west elevation can be similarly divided into three bays. The left and center bay of the first story each contain a single door with four lights, and the right bay is comprised of a multi-pane window. The left and center bays of the second story have four-light windows; the window in the right bay is larger, as it is a double-banked window with three-over-three lights. The third story contains a triple-banked window

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of three-over-three lights. Each of the second and third story windows have simple wood balconies; ladders, attached to the building, provide access to both these windows from the ground. Butt-ends are also visible on this facade.

The north and south elevations contain little embellishment. The second story is supported by logs, spaced at intervals of about eighteen inches, and the ends are evident on these facades.

#### 6-9. Outbuildings: Two Bunkhouses and Two Garages

North of the garage are four round-log buildings that are arranged in a linear pattern. They are all one and a half stories. The roof ridge of the buildings all run north and south. The buildings are identical in scale and massing, varying only in fenestration and doorways. Building no. 6 was used as a washroom; building no. 7 was a mess hall. Both of these buildings still serve as bunkhouses. Buildings 8 and 9 north now serve as garages, and the openings for the vehicles have been altered. All four are in good condition, but the chimneys are deteriorating.

Similar characteristics and construction methods include saddle notching with concrete chinking, exposed log rafters and purlins whose ends have been painted, gabled roofs of a moderate pitch that are clad with shingles, and interior brick chimneys that are evident on the east roof slope. All the buildings rest on concrete foundations. Almost all of the windows are three-over-three lights with a sliding sash. The buildings have ladders attached that provide access to the upper story window on the south elevation.

#### 10. Truncated Hipped Roof Shed

North of building no. 9 is a round-log shed. It has a truncated hipped roof with exposed log rafters and is sheathed with wood shingles. This building faces west; a single, panelled door is located on this facade. Although the building itself does not have a foundation, it rests on a platform with a stone veneer. It is located in a corner bounded on two sides by a stone wall.

#### 11. North Garage

Constructed of round logs with saddle notching, this building is front-gabled, with exposed log purlins and rafters. The interstices are filled with concrete. It faces east, and is one and a half stories. On the primary elevation is a double door, that swings open; to the right of this is a single panelled door.

In the upper story of the building is a double-banked set of six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. On the south and north facades are two and three (respectively) windows. These have a sliding sash and a two-over-two light configuration.

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12-13. Sheds for Split Logs

Located at the extreme northwest corner of the property, behind the north garage, are two small sheds that are currently used for split wood. They are about twenty feet apart; one faces west and one east. Like the little shed (building no. 2), they are similarly sheathed with log siding. They are front-gabled with exposed rafters and brackets. Both have doors centered in the primary facades.

14. Fire Shed No. One

This building is one of the most unusual of the buildings at Smiths Ferry, as it is constructed of concrete block, with the upper portion built of round logs with dovetail notching. It faces east, has a front gable with a moderate-to-steep pitch, and has exposed log purlins and rafters. It is flanked by the low stone retaining wall and is partially embanked into the hillside. It has a small, concrete interior stovepipe or chimney. The east elevation is dominated by a single, panelled door; in the gable is a window with a wood frame. Both the north and south elevations have windows. All three windows, however, have been boarded.

15. Concrete Building with Cupola

This building, which is almost completely embanked into the hill behind it, faces east, and is situated just south of Fire Shed No. 1. It is constructed of concrete block and shows signs of severe structural instability, as it has a substantial horizontal crack. It rests on a shallow concrete platform. The building has a side-gabled roof with a simple, roughly constructed cupola. Centered on the east facade is a hinged single door that does not extend the full length of the doorway. The building is slightly set back from the stone retaining wall. To the left is a propane tank.

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SITPA protected timbered areas by building roads, trails, installing telephone lines and buying and maintaining equipment. The association built three lookouts in 1914 -- at this time few existed. In 1927 the number of lookouts had increased to six, but only three are still standing. By this time, lands under SITPA's protection encompassed timbered areas in Adams, Boise, Elmore, Idaho, Valley, Ada, Camas, Gem and Washington counties. A central location was needed by the organization for the housing and feeding of crews, and the storage and maintenance of equipment.

Most of the SITPA buildings date from 1927, and all were constructed prior to 1940. More definite dates have not yet come to light. Smiths Ferry was chosen as the location as it would provide the best access to the largest area of lands under SITPA subscription, especially those that were the most remote. With the inception of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933, SITPA had an influx of workers. More infrastructure -- trails, roads and telephone lines -- could be installed, and the organization established a second headquarters in McCall in 1937. The McCall site was chosen because the area was attracting an influx of tourists, making fire incidence more likely, which would in turn necessitate the services of SITPA. At that location CCC crews constructed nine buildings for housing and storing equipment.

In 1968 SITPA's protection was scaled back, so that it accepts subscriptions from residents, the state and the Forest Service in only three counties: Valley, Idaho and Adams. Subscribers to SITPA's services pay by the acre. In 1937 the association charged three cents per acre; by 1989 the fee had been raised to twenty-five cents per acre. In the late 1980's, SITPA made plans with the Idaho State Department of Lands to construct a new, jointly occupied shop. In order to move ahead with these plans, it was necessary for SITPA to sign over the McCall complex to the state. A local group has expressed an interest in buying the McCall buildings and establishing the complex as an interpretive site emphasizing balanced multiple resource management.

Today SITPA works to protect the forested areas of its subscribers by initial attack -- almost all of their crews can drive to within one-quarter mile to a fire -- and although SITPA has access to such sophisticated techniques as infrared detection and smoke jumpers, it does not maintain these services or offer them on an ongoing basis. The lands under their protection are not as vast nor as remote as those of the Forest Service. SITPA crews still fight an average of forty-five fires a year, however, and provide a valuable service.

Architecturally, the residence is significant as an example of Finnish construction techniques seen in Idaho's Long Valley. These methods included using scribed logs, full-dovetail notches and log partitions that are framed into outside walls in a way that matches the building's corners. Although hewn logs are also characteristic of Finnish construction, the logs were left round for the residence. Idaho's Finnish settlers moved from Pendleton, Oregon to the Long Valley in the late 1890's, and farmed the area on the southeast side of the valley. Finns from other parts of the country soon joined them. Many of these settlers were from Wyoming mining towns, and

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a large influx to Idaho occurred after a disastrous explosion in Hanna, Wyoming, in 1903. Ninety-six of the 269 miners who were killed were Finnish, and their countrymen in the vicinity were motivated to seek a less dangerous occupation. Local Finnish craftsmen, Gust Lapinoja and John Heikkila cut and shaped the logs for the house and the woodwork. Although simple saddle notches and chinking were employed in the construction of the garage and other buildings at the complex, the two Finns used the more complicated building method of scribed logs and dovetail notches for the residence.

The Smiths Ferry buildings are also architecturally significant because they are examples of the Rustic style. They represent a self-conscious attempt to evoke a simple, utilitarian approach to building, employing native materials and traditional construction techniques for functional purposes. The style received a major impetus through the efforts of both the National Park Service and railroad companies -- the former wanted the architecture in the parks to harmonize with the environment, the latter supported these efforts because any enhancement to the parks would be an inducement for travel. It reached its zenith during the 1920's and 1930's, and spread throughout the country during the work relief programs of the Depression. The Rustic style was prevalent in all regions of Idaho, but the Smiths Ferry buildings show a much higher degree of refinement than other examples of the style in the state. The complex is expressive of both the setting and the interests of the organization.

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Annual Report of the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, 1927

Annual Report of the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, 1929

Annual Report of the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, 1931

Annual Report of the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, 1937

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Curtis, A. B. White Pines and Fires: Cooperative Forestry in Idaho. Moscow: University Press of Idaho, 1983.

Harrison, Laura Souilliere. Architecture in the Parks National Historic Landmark Theme Study. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1986.

Kirk, Bob. Director, Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, McCall, Idaho. Interview, 4 October 1989.

Koskela, Alice. "Finnish Log Homestead Buildings in Long Valley." Louie W. Attebery, editor, Idaho Folklife: Homesteads to Headstones. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1985.

Koskela, Alice. "Finnish Structures in Idaho", MS 477, 1979. In the collection of the Idaho State Historical Society.

Kresek, Ray. Fire Lookouts of the Northwest. Fairfield, Washington: Ye Galleon Press, 1984.

Smith, Elizabeth M. History of the Boise National Forest. Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 1983.

Zornes, Charles M. "Report of Activities and Accomplishments of Southern Idaho CCC Camps from October 1, 1936 to March 31, 1937." MS 269. In the collection of the Idaho State Historical Society.

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Verbal Boundary Description

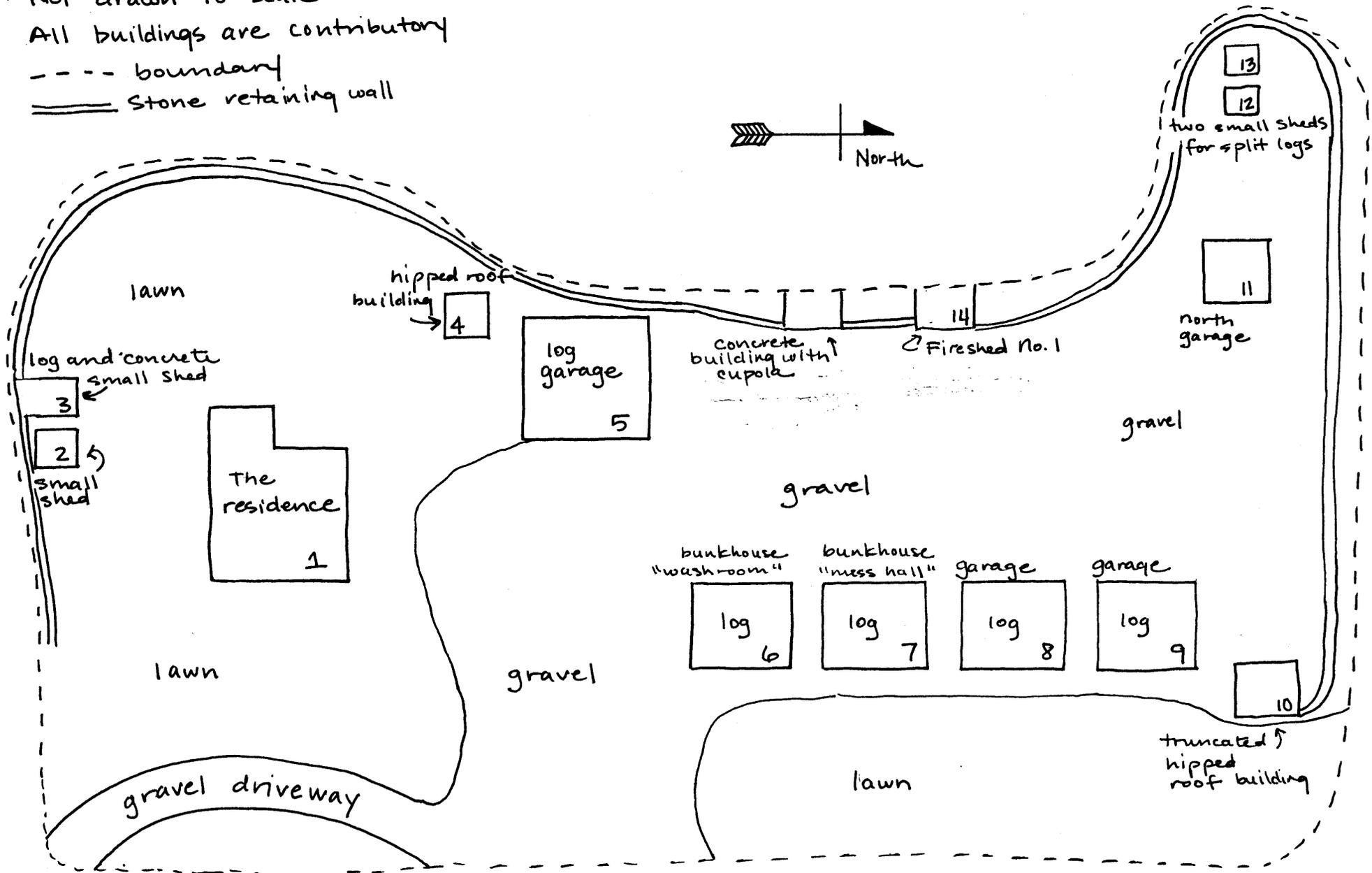
From W. 1/4 cor. Sec. 10, T11N, R3E. B.M. East 2060 feet more or less to a point on W. line R/W of Boise-Payette Lake Highway, which point is 50 feet W. from Sta. 1178 + 10 F.A.P. 130-1 and is the Real Point of Beginning: Thence running 252.1 feet Southerly, on a curve with a radius of 1005.4 feet to a point of Tangent; thence S. 01 - 17' E. 550 feet; thence West 500 feet; thence North 800 feet; thence East 515 feet to the point of beginning and containing 9.20 acres.

Not drawn to scale

All buildings are contributory

--- boundary

=== Stone retaining wall



Highway 55