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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park, Colorado 80517

RECEIVED

JAN 18 2000

JAN 20 2000

CHS/OAHP

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18

Ms. Georgianna Contiguglia
State Historic Preservation Officer
Colorado Historical Society
1300 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

Reference: Determination of Eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places
for the Twin Owls Residence (HS-2)

Dear Ms. Contiguglia:

We are requesting your concurrence in a Determination of Eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places regarding the Twin Owls Residence, located in Rocky Mountain National Park. The residence is one of the oldest structures, designed and built by National Park Service personnel in the park. The structure reflects the National Park Service "Rustic" architectural style and blends sensitively within the rugged landscape around the Twin Owls rock formation. For much of its history, the building served as the Assistant Superintendent's residence for the park.

We have asked that Greg Kendrick, Historian with our Intermountain Support Office in Denver, deliver the Colorado State Inventory Form, including photographs and maps for the Twin Owls Residence to your office.

We appreciate your past and ongoing technical assistance in our efforts to continuously update our historic structure's inventory at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Sincerely

A. Durand Jones
Superintendent

cc: Dale Heckendorn

Mark Wolfe, Deputy SHPO
Concurrence, Colorado State
Historic Preservation Officer

3/17/2000
Date

Architectural Inventory Form

OAHP1403
Rev. 9/98

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

(page 1 of 4)

Official eligibility determination
(OAHP use only)

- Date _____ Initials _____
 Determined Eligible- NR
 Determined Not Eligible- NR
 Determined Eligible- SR
 Determined Not Eligible- SR
 Need Data
 Contributes to eligible NR District
 Noncontributing to eligible NR District

I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: _____
2. Temporary resource number: _____
3. County: Larimer
4. City: Estes Park
5. Historic building name: Twin Owls Ranger Station / Assistant Superintendent Residence (HS-2)
6. Current building name: Twin Owls Ranger Residence (HS-2)
7. Building address: Located within Rocky Mountain National Park, approximately 3 miles northeast of Estes Park, near the MacGregor Ranch.
8. Owner name and address: Rocky Mountain National Park

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. _____ Township 5 N Range 73W
SW ¼ of SW ¼ of SW ¼ of NE ¼ of section 13
10. UTM reference
Zone 1 3; 4 5 5 8 3 5 mE 4 4 7 2 3 0 0 mN
11. USGS quad name: Estes Park
Year: 1978 Map scale: 7.5' X 15' Attach photo copy of appropriate map section
12. Lot(s): _____ Block: _____
Addition: _____ Year of Addition: _____
13. Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary extends approximately 20' around the perimeter of the house and includes the circular driveway that extends to a "Y" in the road that leads to the Twin Owls Parking Lot.

III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan (footprint, shape): Roughly rectangular.
15. Dimensions in feet: Length 45 feet x Width 39 feet _____
16. Number of stories: two

Architectural Inventory Form

17. Primary external wall material(s) (enter no more than two): Frame, with shingle and horizontal lap siding, concrete foundation
18. Roof configuration: (enter no more than one): intersecting gables
19. Primary external roof material (enter no more than one): Wood; horizontal lap siding and shingle
20. Special features (enter all that apply): Large picture window, surrounded by paired 4/4 double hung windows facing Long's Peak, field stone fireplace along east wall of living room, knotty pine shelving surrounding the fireplace.
21. General architectural description: This one story frame cabin is situated beneath the Twin Owls Rock formation to capture a magnificent view of Longs Peak. The structure was built atop a full story garage/basement in order to provide the panoramic views from the main story. The structure is an early example of National Park Service (NPS) Rustic style, that attempted to use natural materials to blend within the surrounded forested landscape. The structure is stained dark brown. The basement or garage level and gable ends are finished with shingles, while the upper story consists of horizontal lap siding. The main story also features corner boards and slightly exposed purlins. A partially enclosed porch with wood deck and steps adorns the main entry. A three panel, four light solid wood door marks the main entry. A second, three panel, single light doors leads from the kitchen to the porch. The gable roof is coursed wood shingles. The cabin also is noteworthy for its impressive field stone fireplace and chimney. 4/4 double hung windows, including single, paired and tripled, predominate on the main elevation. The living room is noteworthy for a large picture window flanked by 4/4 double hung windows. The basement level includes paired sliding windows with six lights. Entry to the garage is through a paired swinging doors that are shingled. The interior has hard wood floors and several built-in cabinets and hardwood floors. The kitchen appears to have been remodeled during the 1950s, with wood cabinets painted white, and linoleum flooring. Interior walls are cellutex with wood battens throughout. The living room contains a large stone fireplace surrounded by knotty pine paneling.
22. Architectural style/building type: NPS Rustic
23. Landscaping or special setting features: Nestled at the base of the towering Twin Owls formation in RMNP, this rustic structure blends into the surrounding landscape. The circular gravel driveway leading to the residence was designed and constructed in 1936 and retains a high degree of integrity.
24. Associated buildings, features, or objects: Circular gravel driveway was constructed prior to 1936 with "Y" intersection leading west to Superintendent's Residence (no longer extent). A small (16'x23') one-story, board and batten garage (Bldg # 498) is located immediately southeast of the residence, along the circular driveway. The garage was constructed in 1958.

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction: Estimate _____ Actual 1920, addition in 1925, addition in 1936
Source of information: RMNP Superintendent's monthly report
26. Architect: unknown

Architectural Inventory Form

Source of information: _____

27. Builder/Contractor: unknown

Source of information: _____

28. Original owner: Rocky Mountain National Park

Source of information: _____

29. Construction history (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions): The earliest archival notation about the structure can be found in the Superintendent's monthly report (SMR), dated September 20, 1920: "The new ranger station, located in Sec 13, 75N, R73W is rapidly nearing completion. This building, known as the Owl Ranger Station is 20' X 24', 3 rooms, 8 foot walls, frame construction with drop siding." (the dimensions noted correspond with the 1936 floor plan). The Owl Ranger Station was mentioned in other SMRs. Dec 6, 1920 , Dec 31, 1920, Sep 30, 1922 all noted work continuing on the structure. The 1921 Annual Report noted that the building was painted. The Jan 31, 1925 SMR noted "An addition to the Assistant Superintendent residence was largely completed during January."¹ Although the building was no longer referred to as Owl Ranger Station, an October 6, 1924 photograph caption reads, " Ass't. Supt. Quarters. Formerly 'Owls Ranger Station'. Now, Twin Owls." A 1926 photograph indicates the new addition to the "Ass't Superintendent Residence."² In 1936 the structure received a second addition. Plans were drawn ("Improvements- Ass't Supt's Res") by the Branch of Plans and Design, under the leadership of Edward Nickel - deputy chief architect of the NPS. The addition to the Twin Owls #2 was an Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) project (part of the New Deal). The plans were signed off by Conrad Wirth, NPS Assistant Director.³

30. Original location yes Moved _____ Date of move(s): _____

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): ranger station

32. Intermediate use(s): assistant superintendent residence

33. Current use(s): ranger residence

34. Site type(s): Historic Structure

35. Historical background: The Twin Owl Ranger Residence constitutes of the two oldest surviving structures constructed by the NPS in Rocky Mountain National Park (McClaren Hall was built at the same time). The Twin Owls Ranger Residence illustrates one of the first attempts by the National Park Service to design and build within NPS rustic style as adapted to a mountainous environment. The historic structure also incorporates elements of the shingle style, later to become common both within and immediately outside Rocky Mountain National Park.

36. Sources of information: Monthly superintendents reports, RMNP Multiple resource NRHP nomination for RMNP

Architectural Inventory Form

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation: Yes _____ No X Date of designation: _____

Designating authority: _____

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

- X A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- _____ B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- X C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- _____ D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.
- _____ Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual)
- _____ Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria

39. Area(s) of significance: Architecture

40. Period of significance: 1920-1949

41. Level of significance: National _____ State X Local _____

42. Statement of significance: The Twin Owls Ranger Residence is one of the two oldest structures remaining in Rocky Mountain National, built by the National Park Service. The historic structure constitutes one of the oldest examples of the NPS rustic style in the park. The structure possesses a high degree of architectural integrity, on both the exterior and interior. The 1936 addition, was designed by landscape architects from the Branch of Plans and Designs, Western Division in San Francisco, California. The addition reflects the work of the Emergency Conservation Works of the New Deal and therefore represents the continuum of the NPS Rustic style until the mid1940s.⁴

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance: A discussion of NPS Rustic Architecture is noted in the Multiple Resource Nomination Form for RMNP dated June 1987. " The intent of the NPS Rustic architectural style was to design buildings which blended with their surroundings by a use of natural building materials and massing similar to the terrain found in the park. The salient characteristics of the style were an attention to hand-crafted details [the stone fireplace and the knotty pine woodwork in the living room of the building under consideration], such as hewn logs, carefully detailed masonry, and wood shingle roofs [found on the building], and a use of generally over-scaled elements, such as massive rock wall which seemingly grew 'out of the earth.' Most important the individual building or structure was always subordinate to its surroundings [this is clearly the situation with the Twin Owls Residence]."⁵ The

Architectural Inventory Form

definition of the NPS Rustic style was formally noted in the National Park Service *Statement of Policy*, dated May 13, 1918. It noted, "Successfully handled, it is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and oversophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past." ⁶ Clearly, in the case of the Twin Owls Residence, hand crafting occurred. The SMR of December 6, 1920, noted, " Work has progressed on the new Owl Ranger Station, and will be continued by Ranger McDaniel, at odd times, until completed. The gable ends and foundation still need to be shingled, and the kitchen and dining alcove have to be built. . . Wall board has been put on only one room. The other rooms will be finished with wall board, probably during the next month." ⁷ Additionally, it was noted in the Multiple Nomination Form, "Brown was the predominant exterior color, enlivened with accents of green, gray, and buff."⁸ Further historic significance is noted because the Architect Edward Nickel signed off on the building plans for the 1936 addition. Mr. Nickel joined the NPS after 1928. The Multiple Nomination Form states, Edward Nickel "would prove to be indispensable in the building program at Rocky Mountain National Park. Nickel designed several of the buildings found in the Utility Area Historic District, including the old blacksmith, now serving as the paint shop, and the vehicle and the carpenter shop. In addition, Nickel designed the buildings and layout of the Fall River Entrance in 1936." ⁹

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:

Eligible _____ Not Eligible _____ Need Data _____

45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes _____ No x

Discuss: _____

If there is National Register district potential, is this building: Contributing _____ Noncontributing _____

46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it: Contributing _____ Noncontributing _____

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph numbers: NP9952 Negatives filed at: Rocky Mountain National Park, Maintenance Files, Historic Building Files

48. Report title: _____

49. Date(s): _____ 50. Recorder(s): Darcy Schlichting

51. Organization: _____

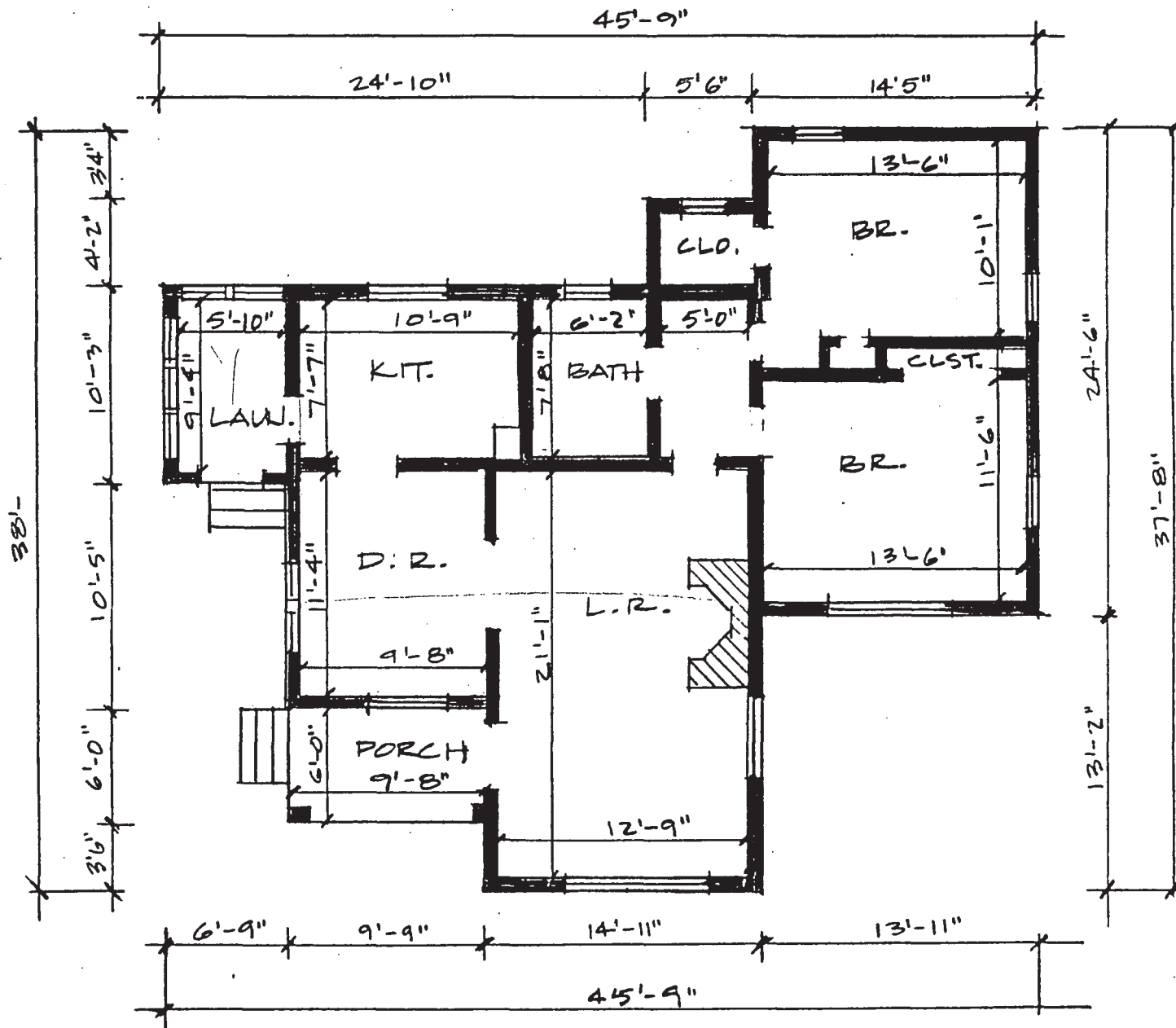
52. Address: Denver, Colorado

53. Phone number(s): 303 355-5901

Architectural Inventory Form

Endnotes

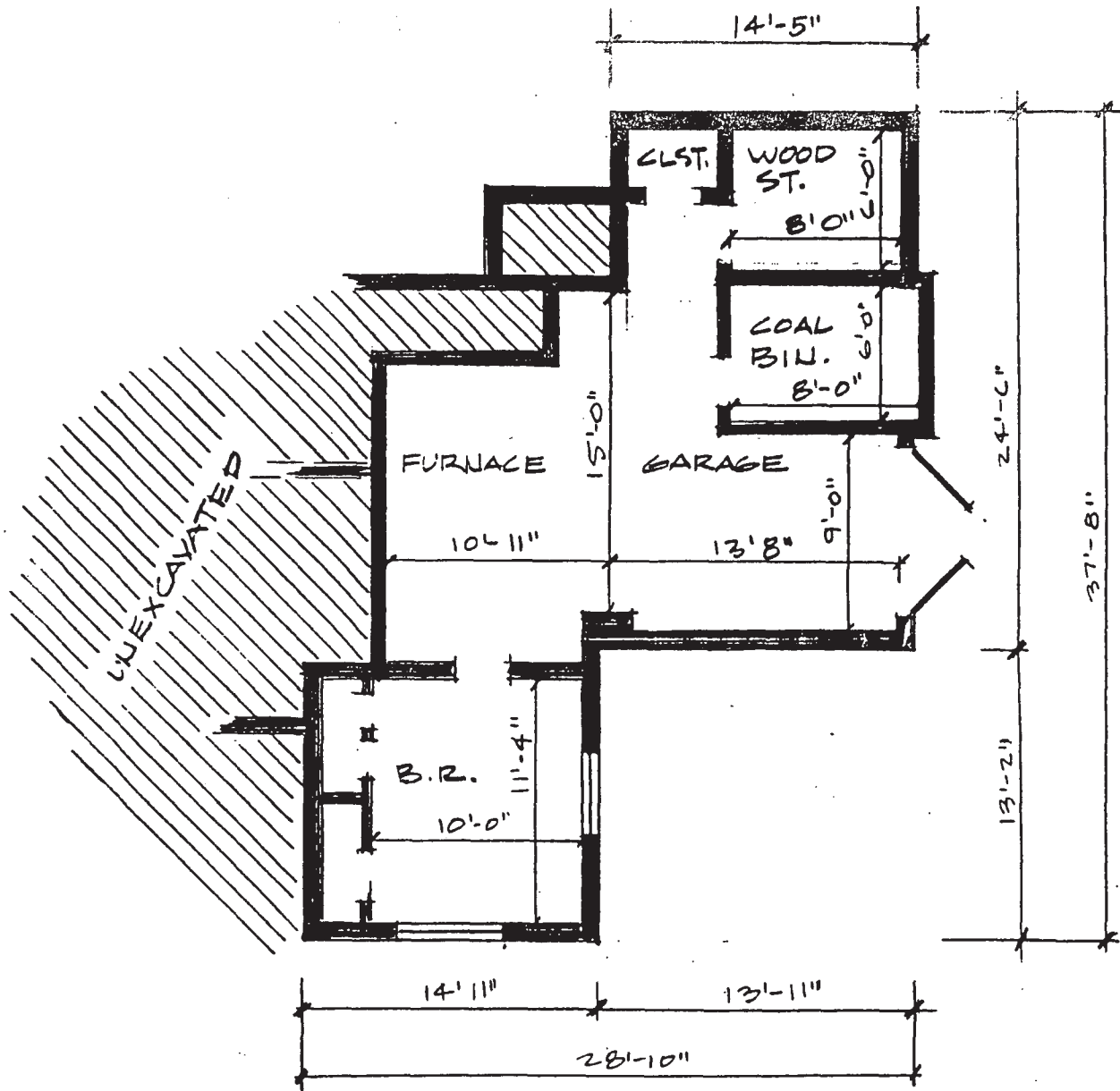
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- ¹ Superintendent's Monthly Reports , Rocky Mountain National Park. September 20, 1920, December 6, 1920, December 31, 1920, September 30, 1922, January 31, 1925.
 - ² Rocky Mountain National Park photographic file, building # 002.
 - ³ Architectural Drawings: "Improvements, Ass't Supt's Res." 1-8-36. On file National Park Service Regional Office, Lakewood, CO.
 - ⁴ Multiple Resource Nomination for Rocky Mountain National Park, National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, June 5, 1987, p. 7-3.
 - ⁵ Multiple Resource Nomination, p. 8-34.
 - ⁶ Good, Albert H. Park Structures and Facilities, San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, 1935, p. 4. (noted in Multiple Resource Nomination p. 8-41).
 - ⁷ Superintendent's Monthly Reports, December 6, 1920, p. 3.
 - ⁸ Multiple Resource Nomination, p. 8-35.
 - ⁹ Multiple Resource Nomination, p. 8-37.



BLD # 2 SEASONAL RESIDENCE (TWIN OWLS)

FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1/8" = 1'-0"

TOTAL GROSS LIVING SPACE 1087.9 #



BLD. #2 SEASONAL RESIDENCE (TWIN OWLS)

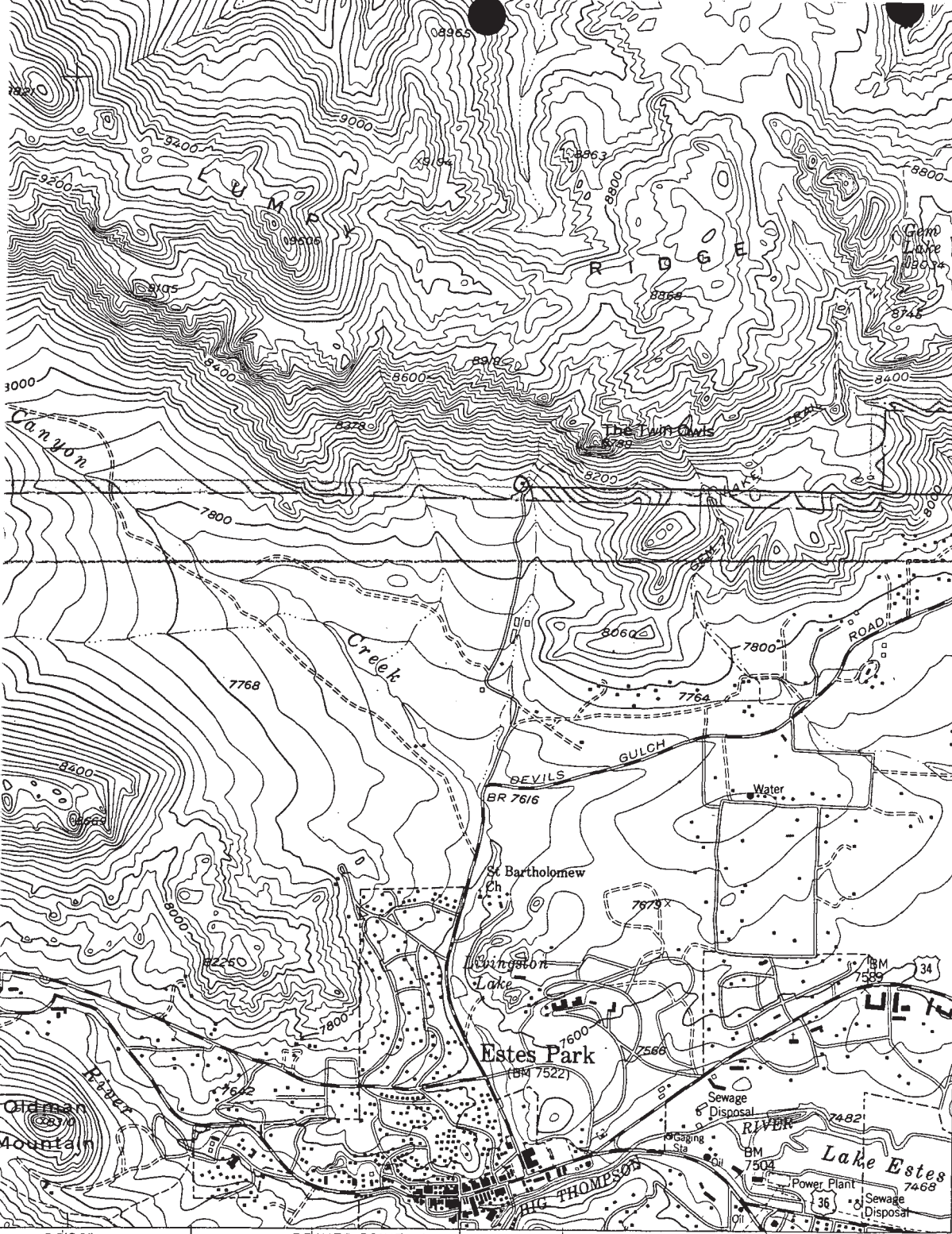
BASEMENT PLAN 1/8" = 1'-0"

BASEMENT FLOOR AREA -- 702.2 呎

BEDROOM - - - - 196.2 呎

TWIN OWLS RESIDENCE

<u>Negative Sheet</u>	<u>Frame Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
NP9952	2	south
NP9952	5	east
NP9953	7	west and south
NP9952	8	west
NP9952	9	north
NP9952	11	living room window
NP9952	12	fireplace in living room
NP9952	13	kitchen
NP9952	14	bathroom from hallway
NP9952	19	living room ceiling detail
NP9952	22	east, garage addition

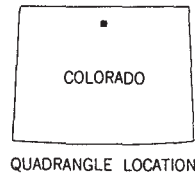


4474
2
4473
4471
4470000m N
40°22'30"

*Twin Owls Residence
(HS-0002)
Zone 13; 455835m E
4472300m N*

32°30' BEAVER POINT 1.4 MI. 456000m E INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978, 88 ALLENS PARK 16 MI. LYONS 37 MI. 105°30'

1 MILE



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty _____ Light-duty _____
Unimproved dirt =====

U.S. Route State Route

ESTES PARK, COLO.
N4022.5—W10530/7.5

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1977
AMS 4864 1 NE—SERIES V877

*IPANDRAMA PEAK
4864.1N SW*

