

ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET
East Fork Quinault River Valley
Olympic National Park
Brinnon vicinity
Jefferson County
Washington

HABS WA-273
HABS WA-273

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
333 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET

HABS No. WA-273

- Location:** The Enchanted Valley Chalet is located within Olympic National Park in Jefferson County, Washington. It is in the East Fork Quinault River Valley, about 13 miles hike from the Graves Creek trailhead at the end of South Shore Road. The estimated coordinate at the structure's south corner is 47°40'16"N, 123°23'21"W. This coordinate was obtained on July 28, 2014 using Google Maps. The satellite image appears to be from summer, 2013 judging by the distance between the Chalet and riverbank.¹ There are no restrictions on releasing this location. The Chalet was moved 100 feet northeast in September 2014.
- Present Owner:** Olympic National Park, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. 600 East Park Avenue, Port Angeles, WA 98362.
- Present Use:** This structure most recently served as backcountry ranger station and emergency shelter for Olympic National Park, but it is presently closed.
- Significance:** The 2007 multiple property nomination describes the significance of the Enchanted Valley Chalet as a 2-1/2 story, hewn, dovetail-notched log structure is significant historically for its association with the recreational development of the wild and remote interior of the Olympic Mountains, a theme important in Olympic National Park history (Criterion A). It is unique in that it is one of only two public resort structures that was built and has remained distant from road access: this fact epitomizes the wilderness theme for which the chalet was promoted and operated. The chalet is the only structure originally built as a public resort that remains standing in the interior of the Olympic range. Architecturally, the chalet is an excellent example of a log cabin building type, and it displays skilled craftsmanship and possesses high artistic value (Criterion C). It is the only known log structure of its size and scale on the Olympic Peninsula today. The Enchanted Valley Chalet retains a high degree of integrity in its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
- Historians:** Charlotte Helmer, Engineering Technician (Architecture) at Olympic National Park. This draft report was completed in September 2014 by Helmer. The final report was completed January 2017 by Ellen Gage, OLYM Historical Architect.
- Project Information:** This project was supervised by Ellen Gage, Historic Architect at Olympic National Park [ONP]. Research and writing was completed during the summer of 2014 and headquartered at ONP. Editing was done by Ellen Gage; Dave Conca, Cultural Resources Program Manager; and Paul

¹ "Enchanted Valley." Satellite image. *Google Maps*. Google, n.d. Web. 28 July, 2014.

Gleeson, former Chief of Cultural Resources. Additional guidance came from Christine Avery, Historian for the National Park System [NPS] and regional HABS/HAER reviewer.

Historical report: ONP staff members who contributed to the archival, bibliographic, and primary research for this project are Gay Hunter, Curator; Jacilee Wray, Anthropologist; Larry Lack, Trail Supervisor; Jason Benson, Backcountry Carpenter; and Jonathan Schmitz and Daniel Leckie, both interns to the Historical Architect. The historian also consulted John Olson, son of Ignar and Jessie Olson; Ernie Vail, former ONP Trails Supervisor; Al Gregory, Historian of the Olympians; Duck Houk, former ONP Backcountry Carpenter; Daniel Pontbriand, former ONP Ranger; and Paul Gleeson, former Chief of Cultural Resources.

Photographs: Lani Doely, an independent photographer, took HABS standard photographs of the Chalet in May, 2014. She was assisted by Terry Doely, Jonathan Schmitz, and Charlotte Helmer.

Drawings: Charlotte Helmer prepared elevations, plans, and a section drawing based on photographs, two site visits, and previous drawings by The Olympians, Inc. and Leah Over. These drawings meet the requirements for Level II HABS documentation.

Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical History

1. Date of Erection: The Chalet was constructed during the summers of 1930 and 1931 and opened on August 6, 1931.
2. Architect: The Olympic Recreation Company and The United States Forest Service
3. Original and subsequent owners, uses:
 - a. The Olympic Recreation Company was granted a special use permit by the US Forest Service in 1928. The company constructed the Enchanted Valley Chalet on Lot 1 of the Enchanted Valley Recreation Unit in Mount Olympus National Monument in 1930 and 1931. It opened for business on August 6, 1931 under management of Elvin Olson.
 - b. The Olympic Recreation Company retained a special use permit and operated the Enchanted Valley Chalet as a backcountry resort for eleven years (1931-1942).
 - c. Mount Olympus National Monument was transferred from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service in 1933. At that time, Ignar and Jessie Olson replaced Elvin Olson as managers of the Enchanted Valley Chalet.
 - d. Olympic National Park was established in 1938. It included all of Mount Olympus National Monument and Enchanted Valley.
 - e. The Olympic Recreation Company was in negotiations to sell the Enchanted Valley Chalet to the NPS for twelve years (1939-1951).
 - f. During World War II the Aircraft Warning Service stationed two plane spotters at the Chalet for roughly a year and a half (1943-1944).

- g. The U.S. Congress authorized NPS to purchase all the Olympic Recreation Company's holdings in 1944. Price negotiations continued for several years.
 - h. After World War II Ignar and Jessie Olson used the Enchanted Valley Chalet without a special use permit for occasional trips over six years (1945-1950).
 - i. The building was sold to the National Park Service in 1951.
 - j. It was frequently used by hikers without formal management by ONP for three years (1951-1953).
 - k. ONP staff reopened the Enchanted Valley Chalet for the public to use as a shelter in 1953. It served as a shelter for sixty years (1953-2013).
 - l. The Enchanted Valley Chalet became a Backcountry Ranger Station when the first seasonal ranger was assigned to it in 1954. It served as a Ranger Station for fifty-nine years (1954-2013).
 - m. The Enchanted Valley Chalet became undercut by the East Fork Quinault River and was closed in spring of 2014.
4. Builder: Tom E. Criswell led the construction, assisted by his son Glenn Criswell in 1930. Roy Streater did most of the interior carpentry in 1931.
5. Original plans and construction: The original plan of the Enchanted Valley Chalet was a rectangle approximately 28' x 42'. On the ground floor there were two rooms: a kitchen in the southeast corner, and a large combined lobby and dining room. The second story had seven sleeping rooms of various sizes all opening onto a central hallway. The third story attic had an open plan under the gable roof. These three levels were connected by a single staircase oriented perpendicular to the northeast exterior wall and ascending from the large main room beside the kitchen.
6. Alterations and additions:
- a. In 1934 the Olympic Recreation Company converted the largest sleeping room into a bathroom. They ran pipes on the southwest wall exterior to the second level, raised the bathroom floor to accommodate plumbing, and installed a toilet and a claw-foot cast-iron bathtub.
 - b. Sometime between 1949 and 1985 an interior wall and doorway was constructed next to the kitchen. The wall formed a small bedroom for the ONP rangers.
 - c. In 1983 ONP and The Olympians restored the Enchanted Valley Chalet but changed several original features in the process. On the northwest wall several exterior wall logs were replaced with larger ones that now protrude on the interior. On the southwest wall several log sections were replaced and the floor joists were cut short. Also on the southwest wall there was a large rectangular hole where a fireplace originally was planned but never built—the boards filling it were replaced with non-original log sections. Below this gap in the wall logs there was originally a gap in the foundation; it was filled in. A new banister was constructed on the second flight of stairs.
 - d. Shortly before 1985 ONP constructed an interior wall around the staircase on the first floor. The wall changed the boundary between the ranger room and emergency shelter functions by limiting public access to one large room on the ground floor and making the upstairs accessible from the ranger rooms.

- e. In 1959 ONP and Student Conservation Association removed the inoperable second floor bathroom. The raised floor and toilet were taken out but the bathtub remained.
- f. In 1995 ONP removed the staircase walls and built two plywood walls to enclose a small room on the north corner of the building. These walls changed the boundary between the ranger room and emergency shelter functions by limiting public access to one small room.
- g. In 2010 ONP installed a metal door connecting the emergency shelter and ranger rooms, constructed a small privacy partition to make a small room in the west corner of the building, and reconstructed the porch. Up until this time the porch was rebuilt and redesigned many times, but the 2010 preservation effort was intended to restore it to its original configuration.
- h. In March, 2014 ONP removed the windows.
- i. In September, 2014 ONP contracted with Monroe House Moving Inc., who lifted the building off its foundation and moved it 100 feet northeast from its original location. The building rests on the steel I beams used in the move. The building is shuttered and not in use.

B. Historical Context

Introduction

In 2014 the Enchanted Valley Chalet looks much as it did when it first opened as a backcountry hotel 1930; however the landscape around it had changed. There is one trail through Enchanted Valley that follows the East Fork of the Quinault River through forests and over creeks— and which has roughly followed the same route since the earliest written records of this place. When first built, the Chalet shared a large meadow with outbuildings and seasonal tent camps. Local Quinault residents guided riding parties and pack strings through the valley. Today the river has changed course and the chalet has been moved 100 feet to the northeast to prevent it from falling into the river.

1890s/Explorers

The earliest reports of Enchanted Valley were written by Joseph P. O'Neil during a trans-Olympic expedition in 1890. O'Neil was a U.S. Army Second Lieutenant who became fascinated by the Olympics while he was stationed at Port Townsend. On his first trip into the Olympics, O'Neil began at Port Angeles and led his party south to explore what is now the Hurricane Ridge and Heart O' the Hills sub-districts of Olympic National Park. Five years later, he was ready to undertake a more ambitious route. The 1890 expedition was funded by the U.S. Army and the Oregon Alpine Club. O'Neil was chosen to lead a party across the Olympics starting on the east side and emerging on the west. The group began at Lake Cushman and proceeded up the North Fork of the Skokomish River to the East Fork of the Quinault River, then followed the Quinault through Enchanted Valley, Graves Creek, and the Quinault Valley to emerge at Hoquiam.² According to Quinault Ranger Raymond Geerdes, the town of Hoquiam constructed a wagon road to Humptulips in order to meet the party when they arrived at Lake Quinault.³ These events are significant in that the wagon road and trail continued to be used by settlers, the U.S. Forest Service, Chalet guests, and now visitors to Olympic National Park.

1890s/Olson Family

The Enchanted Valley Chalet has a significant connection to the Olsons, a pioneer family that settled, explored, and developed the Quinault Valley. Five Olson brothers were members of the Olympic Recreation Company and built the Chalet: Herbert (b.1884), Richard (b.1887), Ignar (b.1890), Teander (b.1897), and Elvin Olson (b.1899). These men came from a family of successful pioneers and knew how to thrive in the remote Olympic Mountains.

Their father, John August Olson transferred his homesteading rights from Minnesota to obtain 160 acres in the Quinault Valley and settled there in 1892. Their mother, Bothilda Olson followed the new wagon road and pack trail left by O'Neil's party when she brought the children to the homestead in 1894. There were seven sons and ten daughters in the family. The family worked hard

² Evans, Gail H. E. "Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park." NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

³ Geerdes, Raymond. "Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet." 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

to survive and be self-sufficient in the Olympic Mountains. Richard Olson later said that in the first year they “would have starved to death without the garden.”⁴ The family grew vegetables and fruit, raised cattle, grew and milled grains, hunted elk and deer, and traded with the Quinault Indians for blueback salmon.⁵ For additional income they captured wild elk and established a heard of hand-reared tame elk at the homestead. The homestead was 26 miles away from any road and eight miles from the closest settlement.

The brothers learned from many backcountry explorations and mishaps, beginning when they were very young. When the family settled in the Olympics Herbert Olson was ten, Richard was seven, and Ignar was only four years old. According to an interview with Ignar Olson’s son John, Ignar spent his first night alone in the wilderness when he was eight years old. On this occasion, Ignar and his father were in Fletcher Canyon when they found two elk calves. Since Ignar was too small to help carry the animals, John Olson carried one out that night and left his son to watch over the second elk until morning. When John returned and asked the boy if he had been scared, Ignar lied and said no. His father replied, “See there is nothing to hurt you in these woods if you are prepared to handle it.”⁶ The Olson brothers grew up wrangling elk; breaking horses; hunting cougar, elk, deer, and bear; fishing; trapping mink, martin, and fisher; camping; packing; and exploring the Olympics. When they later formed Olson Bros. and the Olympic Recreation Company, they were advertised as “men who have made the Olympic Mountains their lifelong home.”⁷

1910s/Olympic National Forest

In 1896 the Senate Committee of Forest Preservation and Protection of Game reviewed Lt. Joseph O’Neil’s report on the Olympic Mountains. In his report, O’Neil described the character of this undeveloped wilderness and concluded that the mountains were “absolutely unfit for any use except, perhaps, a national park, where elk and deer could be saved.”⁸ One year later his vision began to take shape—President Grover Cleveland set aside 2.2 million acres on the Olympic Peninsula by executive order in February, 1897. The Olympic Forest Reserve was formally established on March 1, 1898. In short order, President William McKinley reduced the acreage twice, until finally settling on just over one million acres in 1901.⁹ All Forest Reserves were renamed National Forests in 1907.

Quinault residents continued to explore, hunt, and trap in the park. Hunting parties led by professional hunters roamed the Olympics, and elk in particular were killed for their teeth. Over time, the Olson brothers explored the Quinault Valley, the North Fork Quinault, and the East Fork, including Enchanted Valley. At this time, Enchanted Valley was known as the Valley of a Thousand Waterfalls. In 1899 Herbert and Ignar hiked up Howe Creek, the Wynoochee River, Duckabush-

⁴ Olson, Richard quoted by Dodge, John. “A Pioneer’s Memories.” The Daily World, Aberdeen, WA. 6 August 1983. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

⁵ Dodge, John. “A Pioneer’s Memories.” The Daily World, Aberdeen, WA. 6 August 1983. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

⁶ Beorse, Bryn. “Pioneer learned ways of wilderness, self-reliance.” The Daily World, Aberdeen, WA. 13 November 1983. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

⁷ The Olympic Recreation Company. “Enchanted Valley.” Advertising brochure. ca. 1935. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

⁸ O’Neil, Joseph quoted by Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁹ ONP. “Backcountry Historic Structures Report.” Page 2. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

Skokomish Divide, and down to upper O'Neil Creek. In 1903 Ignar and two brothers traveled thirty-eight miles through rainforests to reach Enchanted Valley and left their names carved into a tree, about four miles south of where they would later build the Chalet.¹⁰

Eventually the elk population was hunted to the edge of oblivion. Washington Representative Francis W. Cushman proposed a bill in the House of Representatives to establish the Olympic area as "Elk National Park;" however, this bill was not ratified. In 1905 the U.S. Forest Service banned elk hunting within the Olympic National Forest. It would remain closed until 1933. Meanwhile, the Olson brothers turned their wilderness skills and knowledge of the Quinault Valley into a marketable service. They worked as packers and guides for visiting groups. Although there were no more elk hunting parties, the Quinault Valley was still a popular destination for fishing parties, climbers, hikers, photographers, etc. In 1906, Ignar guided a group along the East Fork of the Quinault River and the party assigned names to several creeks along the way, including Ignar Creek. Three years later, Herbert led a group up the old O'Neil pass trail to Hart Lake and returned through Enchanted Valley.¹¹

Ignar, Teander, and possibly Fritz Olson built a trap shack in Enchanted Valley sometime between 1910 and 1915.¹² It is the earliest known building in the valley. According to John Olson, when it was first built the brothers would "go up in the wintertime and trap there all winter and then come out in the spring." After they married and had families, the brothers would go up for a month at a time. Like many other Quinault residents, the money they made from trapping marten and fisher was a vital source of income to get them through the winter. Martens brought in four or five dollars each. In later years, the Olson trap shack was part of operations at the Chalet.

1920s/Recreational Development

Under management by the U.S. Forest Service, the Quinault Valley and Enchanted Valley were soon developed to serve the Forest Service's emphasis on fire prevention. Central to this aim was a system of roads and trails that gave forest rangers access to all parts of the Olympic interior. The agency maintained trails from Lake Quinault to Enchanted Valley and constructed a building in the vicinity of the Olson trap shack and very near the future site of the Enchanted Valley Chalet.¹³

The shelter at Enchanted Valley was built sometime around 1925. According to Elvin Olson it was "a little log house," roughly twelve feet by fourteen feet, and built by one of the Olson brothers who was in charge of trail work for the Forest Service. Most of their shelters were three-sided but this one was four-sided and is alternatively called a patrol cabin. The Forest Service used it regularly but left it unlocked so it could serve the same purpose as the other shelters. It had several rough bunks. In the 1930s the cabin sat within 100 feet of the Chalet, closer to the river.¹⁴

¹⁰ Beorse, Bryn. "Pioneer learned ways of wilderness, self-reliance." The Daily World, Aberdeen, WA. 13 November 1983. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder "Enchanted Valley Chalet."

¹¹ Geerdes, Raymond. "Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet." 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹² Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

¹³ ONP. "Backcountry Historic Structures Report." Page 2. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹⁴ Olson, Elvin. Interviewed by Mike Dougherty in 1975. Oral Histories, ONP Archives.

Secondary to forest protection, the Forest Service also accommodated recreation activities within its boundaries. Local residents continued to freely fish, camp in undesignated sites, and hike on Forest Service trails. This unofficial use was well understood and gradually became a vital part of the Forest Service's management plans for Olympic. Recreational developments on the Olympic Peninsula were enabled by the Mineral Springs Act in 1899 (which allowed construction of public resorts at Sol Duck and Olympic Hot Springs), 1902 regulations (for camping and day use), 1905 regulations (allowing permits for hotels, sanitariums, and summer cabins), and the 1909 establishment of Mount Olympus National Monument at the heart of the Olympic National Forest. Lastly, the formation of the National Park Service in 1916, with its emphasis on outdoor recreation, further fueled the Forest Service's interest in recreation developments throughout the 1920s and 30s.¹⁵

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, recreational development of Olympic National Forest was led by the H.L. Plumb, Olympic National Forest Supervisor (1926-1935) and Fred W. Cleator, Forest Service Recreation Engineer (1919-43). By 1930 there were 300 miles of trails throughout the park and another 700 miles were planned. At various times the Forest Service pursued various plans to make the inner mountains accessible by road; these included a road from the Sol Duc River to Seven Lakes Basin, another from Sol Duc to the Olympic Hot Springs area, a road to the Elwha River Basin, and a road up the East Fork Quinault River to Dosewallips.¹⁶

Cleator was trained as a forester before he became recreation examiner for the North Pacific District, and his work endeavored to promote visitor use while maintaining healthy forests. In particular, he wanted to preserve the wilderness character of the Olympic interior. The concept of "primeval," "untrammelled," or "pristine" wilderness emerged in the early twentieth century and was gaining momentum during the 1920s.¹⁷ The plans he helped develop during the 1920s meant that the North Pacific District was ready to take full advantage when funding became available in the 1930s.

Simultaneously, private companies in the Grays Harbor communities examined the potential for backcountry tourism in the Olympics. For instance, the Hoquiam Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Chalet Committee to investigate the idea of building simple accommodations for hikers and horseback riders throughout the Olympic Mountains. In 1925 the committee made a five-day reconnaissance trip along the North Fork Quinault River (their report states that they did not have time to ride "the new trail" up the East Fork). They recommended that private companies accommodate average visitors by offering guides and various shelters at regular intervals, including a medium-sized Chalet at Low Divide, and a Chalet or shelter at the Graves Creek trailhead.¹⁸ Furthermore, this interest in opening the backcountry to tourists led to the formation of the Olympic Development League, an association of commercial organizations from Aberdeen, Olympia, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, and Shelton.¹⁹

1920s/Planning

¹⁵ ONP. "Backcountry Historic Structures Report." Page 3. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹⁶ Evans, Gail H. E. "Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park." Page 221. NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

¹⁷ ONP. "Backcountry Historic Structures Report." Page 5. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹⁸ ONP. "Backcountry Historic Structures Report." Page 32. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹⁹ ONP. "Backcountry Historic Structures Report." Page 28. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

In the mid-1920s the Olsons wanted to expand their guide business. Several of the brothers led by Elvin Olson, applied to the US Forest Service for a special use permit to develop the North Fork of the Quinault River.²⁰ It is likely that they became incorporated as Olson Bros., Inc. in 1926 so that they could apply for the permit; however, it was granted to the Olympic Chalet Company of Hoquiam instead. That summer, the Olympic Chalet Company broke ground on a Chalet at Low Divide. When the U.S. Forest Service turned down the application from Elvin Olson, they informally discussed the possibility that soon there would be another area open for recreational development—the East Fork Quinault.²¹

While the U.S. Forest Service turned its attention to tourism projects on the North Fork, the Olson Bros. took action to make their next application stronger than the first. They made more reconnaissance trips along the East Fork and actually decided that it had more potential than the North Fork.²² They established trails along the Quinault River, including Pony Bridge, and housed guests in their trap shelter in Enchanted Valley. In a letter to Forest Supervisor H.L. Plumb on January 13, 1927 Elvin Olson outlined the company's plans.²³ He wrote:

“We hereby make definite application for three tracts of land to be developed for resort purposes, one to be located near the head of East Fork of Quinault River, one at fork of Graves Creek and East Fork of Quinault River, and the other at Lake Sundown. We desire to run pack outfits, furnishing saddle horses, and guiding tourists, using the above points as basis.”

Although the plans laid out in this document did not immediately produce a permit from the forest service, and parts of the scheme never came about, the letter is significant in that it includes the earliest suggestion of a Chalet in Enchanted Valley. At Graves Creek they planned to receive clients and offer accommodations at “a log cabin of sufficient size.” At the East Fork site (approximately the location of the Enchanted Valley Chalet) the company intended to build “developments similar to Graves Creek” which would be one of the “main stops on route across the Olympics by way of East Fork and Dosewalups rivers.” The Forest Service did not offer permits at this time.

In the meantime, Olson Bros. continued to conduct guided tours in the region. An advertisement ran in *The Daily Washingtonian* on June 30, 1927:

“ENJOY THE OLYMPICS at Camp South Fork with Olson Bros., Olympic Guides.
OPEN JULY 3. Rates \$4.50 a day at camp, everything furnished. Saddlehorses \$3 a day.
Special trips 3 to 5 persons, \$6 a day each; 6 to 9 persons, \$5 a day each; 10 or more, \$4 a

²⁰ Evans, Gail H. E. “Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park.” NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

²¹ Olson, Elvin. Message to H.L. Plumb. 13 January 1927. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

²² Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

²³ Olson, Elvin. Message to H.L. Plumb. 13 January 1927. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

day. Includes food, all camp equipment but blankets, and transportation for 35 pounds of baggage. Fifteen cents per pound for extra baggage. Trips to all parts of the Olympics”²⁴

The following day, Elvin Olson wrote to the U.S. Forest Service at the Portland, OR office. With this letter he reopened discussions about the East Fork described the company’s preparations:

“Dear Sirs: [...] We have been in the packing business since long before there were even any Forest Service trails built at all, and we have been to the heads of all these rivers with horses in those days when we had to make our own trails and have followed it right thru the pioneering stage and I believe we should be given a fair trial to prove what we can do and to reap some of the benefit of our time and troubles. We have fifteen first class horses on hand now and fell equipments which will be practically useless to us if we are turned down on our East Fork applications. We have had an application in on these sites ever since early last summer but have not yet gotten any real action. We are anxious to start work this spring and be ready for this year’s tourist season and we are ready to start construction soon as permit is granted.”²⁵

In summer of 1927 planning for the Enchanted Valley Chalet began in earnest. A surveying party consisting of Plumb; Cleator; Elvin Olson representing Olson Bros, Inc.; and W.C. Mumaw representative of both the Olympic Development League and the Olympic Chalet Company made a trip along the East Fork Quinault River to identify potential development sites. Plumb and Cleator were in the process of investigating the entire forest for recreational purposes and development plans.

This was Cleator’s first visit to the valley, and he was impressed. In his trip report, Cleator described the dramatic landscape:

At about the 21 mile post on the East Fork Quinault the trail suddenly breaks from continuous timber to a great open park extending along both sides of the river, flanked by rock walls but particularly on the north side by miles of imposing precipices, and rugged escarpments. Hundreds of small waterfalls in moister season, shoot, trickle, cascade, or otherwise pour over these cliffs into a scenic masterpiece. At a very rough estimate, some of the falls cascade down 1500 to 2000 feet, all in full sight of the observer. In dry season these give way to perhaps 20 to 30 small streams, still alive with spectacular cascades and falls. This, together with the wonderful background of snow peaks and glaciers, and immediate foreground of open, elk-trimmed, grass-floored, hardwood parks, makes a most wonderfully attractive scenic playground.²⁶

At some point during the trip Cleator suggested changing the name “Valley of a Thousand

²⁴ Unknown. “Enjoy the Olympics.” The Daily Washingtonian. Hoquiam, WA. 30 June 1927. Newspaper add. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

²⁵ Olson, Elvin. Message to US Forest Service. 31 June 1927. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

²⁶ Cleator, F.W. quoted in Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

Waterfalls” to Enchanted Valley, and the rest of the party agreed.²⁷ He spent most of August and early September doing field research for a comprehensive plan.

In 1929 Cleator completed his *Recreation Atlas* and accompanying map, a management plan for recreation in the Olympic National Forest and Mount Olympus National Monument. Better known as the Cleator Plan, this was significant in that it allowed for development projects such as the Enchanted Valley Chalet.

The Cleator plan established thirteen geographic units within Olympic National Forest for limited recreation use. The Olympic interior was divided into two districts. One was the “Olympic Primitive Area;” Cleator planned for this district to meet wilderness standards of the time, meaning that it would have minimal trails and no buildings other than rough shelters or necessary fire lookouts.²⁸ At that time the definition of wilderness considered emergency shelters to be necessary, as did Cleator who wrote that the Olympic wilderness should “not be left to itself as a menace to the storm-ridden traveler and a graveyard for the inexperienced.”²⁹ Adjacent to the Primitive Area was the 316,960 acre “Mount Olympus Snow Peaks Recreation Area” which included the East Fork Quinault Valley. Within this area, the Forest Service was able to grant special use permits to private development companies, such as the Olympic Chalet Company and Olson Bros., Inc.³⁰

The U.S. Forest Service released its Prospectus for development of the East Fork on March 13, 1928. They offered two sites: one at Graves Creek, ten miles by road and then eight miles by trail above Lake Quinault; and another at Enchanted Valley, “on the headwaters of the East Fork Quinault River in the open park bottom lands adjacent to the river [...] approximately 21 miles by good horse trail from the end of the road near the forks of the Quinault River, or 31 miles in all from Quinault Lake.”³¹ Terms of the permit required the builders to expend, at minimum, \$7,500 (later changed to \$8,000) in permanent improvements on the sites within three years.³² This included two buildings each with combined lobby and dining area, kitchen, and storeroom— at least 800 square feet in total. In order to be considered, applicants needed to submit architect’s plans for a “harmonious design” in “rustic, Swiss Chalet,” or “other suitable style.”³³ The granted permit would be for a period of 10 years and cost the developer \$50 per year beginning in 1928. The U.S. Forest service opened the bidding period for this Prospectus on April 18, 1928.³⁴

²⁷ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

²⁸ ONP. “Backcountry Historic Structures Report.” Page 7. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

²⁹ Cleator quoted in Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. Page 14. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

³⁰ Evans, Gail H. E. “Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park.” NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

³¹ United States Forest Service. “Prospectus: Resort East Fork Quinault River, Olympic National Forest.” 13 March 1928. Letter and attached document. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

³² Plumb, H.L. Message to Forest Supervisor, Olympia WA. 24 February 1931. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

³³ United States Forest Service. “Prospectus: Resort East Fork Quinault River, Olympic National Forest.” 13 March 1928. Letter and attached document. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

³⁴ Unknown. “Bids Called for Building at New Resort in Forest.” *The Oregonian*. 19 March 1928. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

Elvin Olson was certain that the Olson brothers “were to have the East Fork;” however, the Forest Service also considered a bid from the Olympic Chalet Company.³⁵ The U.S. Forest Service planned to develop a trans-Olympic route along the East Fork and for that reason both Olson Bros. and the Olympic Chalet Company wanted to secure the bid. A major trans-Olympic route seemed guaranteed from the Prospectus, which stated that the Enchanted Valley site, ideally placed two days ride into the forest, was on “what will be the main horse trail between Quinault Lake and Hoods Canal.”³⁶

The directors of the Olympic Chalet Company were already in business with the U.S. Forest Service, and furthermore, were well connected to organizations promoting development throughout the Olympic Peninsula. They served as leaders of the Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce and the Olympic Development League.³⁷ Olson Bros., Inc. did not have any of these advantages, so they prepared for the bid by establishing a new company and seeking support from other local businesses in the Quinault area.

On April 9, 1928 the partners of Olson Bros. Inc. formed the Olympic Recreation Company. The new company consisted of five Olsons and two additional investors: Elvin Olson had twenty shares in the company, and Ignar Olson, Teander Olson, Richard Olson, Herbert Olson, M.H. Mulkey, and Charles Thomas each had ten shares. The investors paid \$100 for each share of non-assessable common stock. At its establishment, the company’s capital stock was to the sum of \$15,000.³⁸ Likely this figure includes the value of additional assets such as the Olson Bros. stock animals, equipment, and skills. Evidently, the company was formed for the exact purpose of acquiring the East Fork permit. The founding members signed a subscription agreement stipulating that “in the event the permit from the Forest Service above mentioned shall not be issued to the said proposed corporation the agreement shall be null and void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.”³⁹

The U.S. Forest Service’s plans and selection process were of great interest throughout the region. On April 20, 1928, the Quinault Commercial Club wrote to Superintendent Plum describing their concerns: “It [is] quite plain that a movement is on foot to create a monopoly on development of the Olympics, either having the National Park Association take it over, or having the Forest Service change its policy regarding these concessions.”⁴⁰ “Several influential citizens” did not want the Olympic Chalet Company to be the only private recreation developer in the region, nor did they

³⁵ Olson, Elvin. Message to H.L. Plumb. 13 January 1927. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

³⁶ United States Forest Service. “Prospectus: Resort East Fork Quinault River, Olympic National Forest.” 13 March 1928. Letter and attached document. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

³⁷ Evans, Gail H. E. “Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park.” Page 295. NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

³⁸ Jones, N.A. “Subscription Agreement.” 9 April 1928. Legal document prepared for Olympic Recreation Company by Amanda Park Mercantile Co. of Quinault Lake, WA. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

³⁹ Jones, N.A. “Subscription Agreement.” 9 April 1928. Legal document prepared for Olympic Recreation Company by Amanda Park Mercantile Co. of Quinault Lake, WA. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁴⁰ Quinault Commercial Club. Message to H.L. Plumb. 20 April 1928. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

want one company to control both ends of the trans-Olympic trail.⁴¹ Furthermore, the Quinault Commercial Club explicitly told Plumb to choose the Olympic Recreation Company. They wrote: “Olson Bros. not only have the required financial backing to make good their proposal, but can secure more as the money is needed. They have also the full moral support of this community and of Grey’s Harbor County, and the Harbor Cities to a great extent.”⁴²

On May 3, 1928 Plumb wrote to the Forest Supervisor in Olympia, WA, to announce: “the application of Olson Bros. et al, was accepted.” Plumb went on to give instructions for how the project should proceed. He wanted to ensure that the two sites would be “clean, comfortable, and practical,” and that the buildings at Graves Creek and Enchanted Valley would be in “harmony with the wonderful scenery on the East Fork Quinault River.”⁴³ A second survey party was sent to Enchanted Valley to study the Chalet site, “Lot 1 of the Enchanted Valley Recreation Unit,” in May, 1928.⁴⁴

The term permit was finalized on January 1, 1929 and signed by M.H. Mulkey (president) and Charles Thomas (secretary) on behalf of the Olympic Recreation Company. The document reads: “permission is hereby given to Olympic Recreation Company of Quinault, Washington hereinafter called permittee, to use the following-described lands for a period of 2 years from date hereof, and in case the construction of improvements is completed [...] for a further period of 8 years.” The permit grants 5 acres in Enchanted Valley where the company would build “all necessary structures for maintaining a summer resort.” Construction of the Grave Creek Inn and Enchanted Valley Chalet had to begin within five months and finish within two years.⁴⁵ The Olympic Recreation Company began construction on Graves Creek Inn immediately.

1930s/Construction

In June, 1930 the Olympic Recreation Company began building the Enchanted Valley Chalet. The Olson brothers used their stock animals and equipment to pack in materials, and worked on the construction site as well. Throughout the summer season they also ran guided trips using Graves Creek Inn, a tent camp at Enchanted Valley, and possibly the South Fork tent camp.

The company hired a carpenter from Montesano to supervise construction and do much of the carpentry work. Tom E. Criswell (b. 1871) and his son Glenn Criswell (b. 1900) were on-site throughout the summer while the Olsons traveled through. According to a 1975 interview with

⁴¹ Plumb, H.L. Message to Forest Supervisor, Olympia WA. 3 May 1928. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁴² Quinault Commercial Club. Message to H.L. Plumb. 20 April 1928. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10. The Quinault Commercial Club mistakenly refers to the Olson Bros., meaning the Olympic Recreation Company which was just eleven days old.

⁴³ Plumb, H.L. Message to Forest Supervisor, Olympia WA. 3 May 1928. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁴⁴ Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁴⁵ United States Forest Service. “Term Permit.” 1 January 1929. Legal document prepared for Olympic Recreation Company. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

Elvin Olson,⁴⁶ Tom Criswell's skilled carpentry and his strategies for conserving materials were impressive.

The Criswells and Olsons built a rectangular foundation that was 14 inches wide under each wall with a section 12 inches wide through the center. It was primarily made of rocks from the East Fork riverbed surrounded in concrete so that Elvin Olson only had to pack in "20 to 30 sets of cement."⁴⁷ They inscribed "1930" into the wet foundation.

The Chalet's first story was built of 12 inch silver fir logs harvested from the upper end of Enchanted Valley. Elvin Olson later described how the father-son team prepared logs and boards by hand:

"One of my brothers, Teander was up there with his team and hauled the logs in getting them off the hill [...] Criswell was quite an old man. But his son did the scoring and then Criswell would come in and he would just [...] knock off these slabs. He had a broad axe, but the darn thing must have weighed fifteen pounds[...] He started right down that score line and just drove from one end to another and when he was through he would have a board that would run anywhere from a half an inch to maybe three quarters of an inch."⁴⁸

The second story logs were smaller, just eight inches wide. Many were cut from the upper end of the first story logs. This allowed for space to tie the walls together. Rather than build the walls first and cut openings later, Criswell planned out the window and door openings so that the logs could be cut short before they were installed. This was done to conserve materials and make it possible to lift the logs with a small crew.

Throughout the summer the Olson brothers made Enchanted Valley their headquarters while they guided visitors along the East Fork. According to Elvin Olson, every time they stopped in the valley the Criswells would have a "whole bunch of logs laid out and numbered." None of these were bigger than what the group could rise up by hand using two Gin poles and several skids, because the second story logs were cut small and short. The crew would "sometimes rise up as much as three or four feet in the one evening."⁴⁹ In this manner, the Chalet walls were completed within a few weeks.

Criswell selected green timber and anticipated how the logs would shrink as they dried. When the building was complete and dried out all its pieces fit together tightly, there were very few places where daylight showed in between the logs, and they required no chinking of any kind—"just one log laying right on top of the other."⁵⁰

By September, 1930 the Enchanted Valley Chalet also had a cedar shake roof. In a 1976 interview Teander Olson described felling a cedar on the hill just above the Chalet, but said that most of the shake material came from "a windfall lying about a quarter of a mile below the Enchanted Valley."

⁴⁶Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁴⁷ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁴⁸ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁴⁹ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁵⁰ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

He retrieved these with a sled.⁵¹ Elvin Olson recalls that the builders found only one large cedar roughly one mile from the build site and that it produced enough material for a staircase and all the shakes they needed.⁵²

In addition to constructing the main building, Criswell built some furniture for the Chalet, including a large bench. According to his relatives who stayed at the Chalet in 1944, “all the furniture” including chairs, bunk beds, tables, and reception desk were handmade by Criswell with the initials “TEC carved on many things;”⁵³ However, John Olson and Elvin Olson both give credit to carpenter Roy Streator who replaced Criswell the following year.⁵⁴ All agree that Criswell planned to build a fireplace in the main room, and cut a hole for it, but then decided to wait until roof was finished. The fireplace was never built.⁵⁵

In 1929 and 1930 the company did not earn enough money by guiding and packing to pay for its building projects. The Olsons had “practically no business” at their tent camp and Superintendent Plumb reported that “resorts in the Olympics suffered considerably” during the financial depression. In 1930 the Olympic Chalet Company’s operation at Low Divide did not earn enough to cover expenses and its manager, Ernest Voorhies, was “practically broke.”⁵⁶ When the 1930 building season ended the Olympic Recreation Company reported to Superintendent Plumb that Graves Creek Inn cost \$5054.60 and the Enchanted Valley Chalet so far cost \$2675.85. The company fell short of the \$8,000 they were supposed to have invested in both East Fork properties by this time. In February 1931, Charles Thomas (secretary-treasurer) requested a 6-month extension from the U.S. Forest Service, arguing that once the Forest Service road was completed up to Graves Creek Inn the Olsons would be able to pack building material into Enchanted Valley “at a much better advantage.”⁵⁷

In May 1931 construction resumed at the Chalet. The Criswells had planned on coming back to complete the work, but Tom Criswell was seriously ill and they did not return. Roy Streator was the new carpenter. He built the interior walls, ceilings, and floors. The interior of the building had tongue and groove wooden flooring on the first, second, and attic floors. Six bedrooms on the second floor had tongue and groove wall partitions. The floor boards and doors were packed in by the Olson brothers. Window casings and panes were constructed by Roy Knack of Knack Manufacturing in Hoquiam and packed in as well.

1930s/Management

In late summer, 1931 construction was complete and the Enchanted Valley Chalet opened for business. Elvin Olson worked as manager for the first two years. The first party of guests arrived on August 6: Mrs. J.R. Douglas, Mrs. R.D. Coons, Mrs. Carl T. Nelson, Mrs. Donald R. Charleston, Mrs. F. Frederic Wuenschel, Mrs. Helen Habi, and Mrs. Charles A. Middleton— all from Aberdeen,

⁵¹ Olson, Teander. Interviewed by Mike Dougherty in 1976. Oral Histories, Olympic National Park Archives.

⁵² Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁵³ Schwab, Mr. and Mrs. William. Message to Quinalt Ranger Station. 14 July 1977. Olympic National Park Archives.

⁵⁴ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁵⁵ Olson, John. Interviewed by Paul Gleeson. 20 August 2003. Oral Histories, Olympic National Park Archives.

⁵⁶ Plumb, H.L. Message to Forest Supervisor, Olympia WA. 24 February 1931. Letter. Olympic National Park Archives.

⁵⁷ Olympic Recreation Company. Message to H.L. Plumb. 20 February 1931. Olympic National Park Archives.

Washington— and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dumett of Seattle, Washington.⁵⁸ Also that year, the U.S. Forest Service completed the road to Graves Creek Inn.

By June 1933, the Bureau of Public Roads was in the process of surveying for a trans-Olympic highway from Graves Creek to Dosewallips by way of Enchanted Valley. Directors of Olympic Recreation Company had advocated having the road built and expected to receive motorists at the Enchanted Valley Chalet within a year. According to Ranger Geerdes, the route was flagged from Graves Creek to O'Neil Creek when plans changed.⁵⁹ However, according to Elvin Olson, the surveyors had reached Enchanted Valley.⁶⁰

On June 10 1933, jurisdiction of all National Monuments was turned over to the National Park Service from the U.S. Forest Service by an executive order from President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Olympic Recreation Company was notified that its contract with the U.S. Forest Service would be sustained by the National Park System. At the same time, the National Park Service had a new channel of public works funding and labor from the Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC]. This meant that private companies such as the Olympic Recreation Company had a strong partner in the National Park Service, because their roads, trails, signs, and telephone lines were impeccably maintained by CCC crews.⁶¹ Elvin Olson left the company and went to work as a CCC foreman. Ignar Olson had been packing supplies to the Bureau of Public Roads survey crew, and took over management of the Olympic Recreation Company and the Enchanted Valley Chalet when the trans-Olympic road project was terminated.

The Olympic Chalet Company ran the Inn and Chalet from 1931 to 1942. Each year the season opened in June and closed after Labor Day.⁶² According to a brochure produced by the company around 1935, guests drove fifteen miles above Lake Quinault to stay at Grave Creek Inn (a “headquarters for splendid fishing”) then were picked up by a representative of the company with a train of saddle horses and pack horses.⁶³ When Ignar Olson was manager he would hitch the horses up around four o'clock in the morning and arrive at the Inn by seven thirty.⁶⁴ The saddle trail to the Enchanted Valley Chalet was an easy thirteen mile ride upstream along the East Fork.

The trail into Enchanted Valley was described in detail by ONP Ranger Raymond Geerdes twenty years later, and it has hardly changed since the Chalet opened. Geerdes wrote:

There are essentially two approaches to the valley that are feasible for most civilization adjusted mortals. [...] From the Dose Forks with its elevation of 1,817 feet, the hiker climbs for 5 miles steadily to 2,814 feet elevation at the Diamond Meadow shelter; on upwards for four more miles to Anderson pass shelter at 4,464 feet elevation, and then drops some 2,300 feet in six miles

⁵⁸ Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁵⁹ Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁶⁰ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁶¹ ONP. “Backcountry Historic Structures Report.” ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

⁶² Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁶³ The Olympic Recreation Company. “Enchanted Valley.” Advertising brochure. ca. 1935. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

⁶⁴ Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

before reaching the Chalet at the lower end of Enchanted Valley. [...] What makes this approach the less feasible is the abundance of snow that covers the trail for several miles on either side of Anderson Pass until very late in July or even late into August some years.

The more likely approach to Enchanted Valley is from the reverse direction. [...] From the Ranger Station at Graves Creek to the end of the road is about 3 miles; and from there by trail to the Enchanted Valley Chalet is 10.9 miles.⁶⁵ O'Neil Creek Shelter is about the half-way point, and many hikers spend the night there, hiking the remaining distance the next day. The trail is a gentle one, following the left bank of the Quinault to Pony Bridge where it crosses a box canyon. It then follows the other bank of the Quinault until it recrosses the river just below the Chalet. Along this trail the hiker will ascend from about 700 feet at the end of the road to about 2,000 feet at the lower end of Enchanted Valley. The grade this far is about 5%. The trail above the Chalet rises rapidly in the next five miles to about 4,500 feet, or a grade of 10%. The trail into the Chalet is virtually free from snow the biggest share of the year. This is the trail taken by the majority of hikers and wilderness enthusiasts who visit Enchanted Valley.⁶⁶

Living conditions at the Chalet were determined by the conditions of the wild mountains around it. Although the building served as a small island of civilization in the Olympics it was always rustic and remote. Tourists enjoyed the safety and comfort of the Chalet as much as they enjoyed the challenges, adventures, and discomforts of exploring the backcountry.

Arriving at the valley, tourists would “find nature at her very best, with streams coursing through banks covered with snow through most of the year, and with flowers and green grass in the same vicinity.” The company advertised magnificent waterfalls, views of Mount Anderson, and day trips to Anderson Glacier. Guides cost \$6.00 per day; saddle horses and pack horses were \$3.00 per day. A longer five day “feature trip” from Graves Creek to Brinnon on Hood Canal cost \$45.00 per person, including all guides and equipment. The Olympic Chalet Company and Olympic Recreation Company occasionally shared saddle and pack horses when arranging large trips.⁶⁷

The Chalet had six rooms on the second floor which could be rented for \$4.50 per day, or \$4.00 if two guests shared one room.⁶⁸ The weekly rate was \$27.00 for one person or \$24.00 for two people. The company brochure describes both Graves Creek Inn and the Enchanted Valley Chalet as “surprisingly modern rustic mountain lodgings.” The building contained a kitchen and combined lobby/dining room on the ground floor.⁶⁹ An impressive reception desk made of peeled hemlock with a cedar top sat in the lobby. Guests could purchase simple camping supplies and small grocery

⁶⁵ As of 2014, the trail from Graves Creek trailhead to Enchanted Valley is 13.5 miles. Two miles of gravel road were returned to trail, and the trail has been gradually rerouted over time.

⁶⁶ Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁶⁷ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁶⁸ Masters, D.A. “Certificate of Appraisal for Graves Creek Inn and Enchanted Valley Chalet”. 20 September 1949. Document prepared for National Park Service. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁶⁹ Masters, D.A. “Certificate of Appraisal for Graves Creek Inn and Enchanted Valley Chalet”. 20 September 1949. Document prepared for National Park Service. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

items such as candy bars.⁷⁰ There were at least fifteen Adirondack-style chairs in the first floor lobby and living room, all pointed out the Chalet windows and furnished with moss-filled cushions hand-made by Jessie Olson. Salt licks installed outside the windows attracted deer for the guests to watch.⁷¹ Visitors often gathered in the lobby to share stories and enjoy the scenery.

The waterfalls in Enchanted Valley have a variable character depending on the time of year. In winter heavy rainstorms enlarge the falls or freeze them. In early spring, snow caves form at the base of the largest falls, and through a process of thawing and freezing the water famously puts on a show. In an oral history interview Ernie Vail, former ONP Trail's Supervisor, gave a vivid description of the spring melt-outs that usually occur in late April and early May:

You're watching a waterfall and suddenly it just stops. It'll plug up with fresh snow up above and for about twenty minutes it'll build up a lake behind that. When it blows it'll blow your mind, because it's like thunder. When it breaks, that snow comes down and the impact on the valley floor just shakes. I get goose bumps telling you about it. [...] Sometimes that whole bank up there, which is about three-thousand feet elevation— a wall of snow [...] will come down, I mean its huge and the impact is so drastic. [...] It turns it right into ice—it's incredible. [...] When the snow caves crash in, you can see the water go backwards up the waterfall like four hundred feet. [...] When it hits and caves right in and the stream goes—you see water shoot up about four-hundred feet high and then come back down.⁷²

In spring the Olympic Recreation Company's guests could observe the cliffs and falls from the Chalet windows, and by summer the waterfalls were sometimes warm enough to play in. According to Ernie Vail, even though the run-off is snow-melt, it warms up as it falls several thousand feet over warm cliff faces in the sunlight. The waterfalls soak people in the summer, variously pulsing, misting, or blasting with warm water.

In 1934, Ignar Olson installed a water system and phone line. According to his son John Olson, it was possible to make a call from Enchanted Valley to New York in those days.⁷³ During winter the phone line usually fell down and had to be restrung along the trail at the start of every tourist season.

The water system quickly became a celebrated feature at the Chalet. Chalet guests in the 1930s and 1940s enjoyed the luxury of an indoor bathroom with warm water piped up from the kitchen wood stove. A second story bedroom across from the staircase was converted, its floor raised to accommodate plumbing, and a partition installed to separate the water closet (sink and toilet) and bathing area. To this day, the arrival of an iron bathtub to Enchanted Valley is by far the most popular story associated with the Chalet. Ranger Geerdes included described the event in *Enchanted Valley and its Chalet*:

Packing in such an awkward fixture as a bathtub has never stopped amazing visitors to the Chalet. [...] The feat was accomplished by harnessing a horse and a single-tree to a wedge mechanism that skidded along the trail on two runners. Behind were two v-shaped poles to guide it. One of the brothers led the horse and the other attempted to guide the tub. It

⁷⁰ Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁷¹ Olson, Teander. Oral History Interview. 1976. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁷² Vail, Ernie. Oral History Interview. 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

⁷³ Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

seems that the whole procedure was quite a strain on the arm muscles and the bathtub was deposited besides Pyrites Creek for the night while the two men went on to the Chalet. It must have been a rather incongruous sight to trail hikers suddenly coming upon a bathtub beside a turbulent little wilderness stream.⁷⁴

Ignar and Jessie Olson's son John, then approximately eight years, rode in the tub along the way.⁷⁵ At the end of each season the plumbing was disassembled, drained, and stored. The Chalet staff and guests ate together around one large table.⁷⁶

Generally the company employed a cook who served regular meals, family style, with large bowls shared between diners. A woman named Francis was cook for the first year, followed by Geneva Chase in 1932. Thereafter, Jessie Olson and Ignar Olson were cooks, housekeepers, and co-managers of the Chalet. Ignar split his time between the managing the business and packing for the U.S. Geologic Survey. Jessie usually managed the business from Graves Creek Inn and ran their farm when Ignar was away.

By necessity, the cooks mostly prepared meals from canned and dry goods. There was never a garden in Enchanted Valley; however, the cooks often foraged for fresh ingredients that grew nearby, such as blackcap mushrooms, onions, wild strawberries, and salmonberries. For only one year the company provided fresh milk by keeping a cow turned out to pasture with the pack and saddle horses. Frozen meat and other perishable goods were stored inside snow caves at the valley's upper end.⁷⁷

A few outbuildings contributed to the Chalet operation: a privy, a woodshed, the Olson family trap shack, and the US Forest Service cabin. According to John Olson, the woodshed had split cedar siding "like most everything was in those days."⁷⁸ The wood was primarily used in summer for cooking because no one lived at the Chalet in winter. It had a steep gable roof designed to shed snow and high enough to comfortably stand under. The privy also has a steep gable roof to shed snow.

When the Chalet opened in 1931 the trap shack roof was extended to create a four-six foot overhang. This was originally done to keep supplies dry during construction, but in later years it enabled the Olsons to bring their stock up to Enchanted Valley earlier in the season. It acted as an emergency shelter for horses. Inside they kept a stash of cooking equipment and food. There was a woodstove against the back wall, two bunks to one side and a third on the other side. Originally the building had a split cedar puncheon floor; it may have been a dirt floor shortly before it was removed. It was probably torn down in the 1940s, but it is unknown whether this was initiated by the National Park Service or the Olsons.⁷⁹

⁷⁴ Geerdes, Raymond. "Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet." 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁷⁵ Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁷⁶ Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁷⁷ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁷⁸ Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁷⁹ Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

Evidently, the Enchanted Valley Chalet's best years of operation were 1932-36.⁸⁰ Between 1929 and 1933 the U.S. economy shrank dramatically and tourism industries across the country were affected. Recreation companies in the Olympics offered a relatively inexpensive way for people to escape economic hardships in the front country, so businesses such as the Enchanted Valley Chalet were not immediately hit by the depression. According to Ignar Olson, when all accommodations at the Chalet were filled in peak season, the company erected tents to lodge additional guests.⁸¹ However, in 1937 and 1938 the U.S. economy took a second severe downturn. This period coincided with several lean years for the Olympic Recreation Company.

1930s/Olympic Chalet Company

The Olympic Chalet Company was always the Olympic Recreation Company's closest counterpart. At its inception, the Olympic Chalet Company was politically and financially more powerful than the Olympic Recreation Company, yet neither their business nor their buildings lasted as long.

Originally the company directors had ambitious plans to build three Chalets and twelve shelter camps along the North Fork; at various times they also considered constructing an airfield at Low Divide, a reservoir for hydroplanes, and even an aerial tramway from Lake Quinault to Mount Baldy. In fact, their operation remained very similar to that of the Olympic Recreation Company. The Olympic Chalet Company ran trips between the North Fork trailhead, a shelter nine miles into the backcountry which was appropriately called Nine Mile Shelter or "the Halfway House," and a Chalet eleven miles further at Low Divide.

The Low Divide Chalet was a rustic log structure built in the summers of 1926 and 1927 at the headwaters of the North Fork. With a 35' x 50' footprint and 1 ½ stories under a gable roof, the Low Divide Chalet was slightly smaller than the Enchanted Valley Chalet. In 1929 and 1930 five cabins and a bathhouse were built to increase the resort's capacity; however, by all accounts the company never made a profit from the Chalet. While the Olympic Recreation Company was pitching tent camps to accommodate extra visitors, in the early 1930s the Olympic Chalet Company twice failed to pay the U.S. Forest Service for its special use permit. In 1936, as business at the Enchanted Valley Chalet began to decline, the Olympic Chalet Company was automatically dissolved by the state of Washington for failing to pay its corporate license fee.⁸² Finally, the Low Divide Chalet building was destroyed by an avalanche in 1944.⁸³

1940s/WWII

In 1938 Enchanted Valley and a substantial portion of the interior Olympic Peninsula became Olympic National Park [ONP]. The Chalet's managers were not optimistic when advised that the

⁸⁰ Evans, Gail H. E. "Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park." NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

⁸¹ Olson, Ignar. 1933. Quoted in Geerdes, Raymond. "Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet." 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁸² Evans, Gail H. E. "Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park." Page 303. NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

⁸³ Evans, Gail H. E. "Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park." Page 303. NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

National Park Service would “continue the privileges granted by the Forest Service which do not conflict with the National Park administration objectives.”⁸⁴

In March 1939, the company directors sent several letters to Washington Representative Monrad C. Wallgren stating that the directors had “unanimously decided”⁸⁵ to sell the Enchanted Valley Chalet and Graves Creek Inn to the National Park Service. They requested a bill to allocate funds for the park to purchase them. The company hoped to sell quickly and make 1939 the last operating season. Later that year, Washington Representative Martin F. Smith proposed a bill in the first session of the 76th Congress, but without success.⁸⁶ The East Fork properties remained open for several more years.

1942 was the Chalet’s twelfth and final year as a private hotel. On April 11 Ignar Olson wrote to ONP Superintendent Preston Macy to say that the Chalet would be open but difficult to run.⁸⁷ According to ONP Ranger Raymond Geerdes, who was stationed in the Quinault sub-district:

The relationship between the Park Service and the Olympic Recreation Company was not always on the highest terms. Funds for trails and telephone maintenance were not always available in the amounts necessary. Snow in the high country kept the backcountry trails shut until late in the season. Although the Park Service offered the organization the same permit that they had received from the Forest Service, it was not always possible to maintain the same standards of trail maintenance that was possible under the period of CCC appropriations for such purposes. The purpose of the National Park Service was to reserve the area intact as wilderness in character. For ultimate survival, the Chalet needed a road, and it was against Park Service policy to build one. Neither was the park responsible for the depression or the coming of World War II which finally finished the operations of the company. The Olympic Recreation Company was a commercial venture, interested naturally in returning a profit to its stockholders. The Park Service was interested in making available, without charge, a wilderness area for the people of the United States.⁸⁸

Furthermore, the Olympic Recreation Company was hindered by gas shortages, tire shortages and military regulations within the park. In 1942 the use of all national parks dropped by 55%.⁸⁹ The United States was engaged in World War II, not just abroad but also on the Pacific coast in Oregon and Washington. The Olympic Peninsula was a critical area for defense because of its proximity to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, shipyards at Bremerton, a Navy intelligence facility on Bainbridge Island, the Boeing plant in Seattle, and the ports at Seattle and Tacoma. The Enchanted Valley Chalet was one of thirteen structures in the park either occupied or built to serve the Aircraft Warning Service

⁸⁴ Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁸⁵ Olympic Recreation Company. 14 March 1939. Quoted in Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁸⁶ Isne, John. “Our National Park Policy: A Critical History.” Routledge. 2011. Pg. 391. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

⁸⁷ Olson, Ignar. 11 April 1942. Quoted in Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁸⁸ Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁸⁹ ONP. “Backcountry Historic Structures Report.” Page 12. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

(AWS). In August 1943 Ignar wrote to Macy again to report that the Chalet “had no guests” and was not operating.⁹⁰

The AWS began in summer of 1942 and consisted of small observation points set up in state and federal parks, Tribal reservations, and private lands; all were active until 1944. In urban areas the observers were volunteers coordinated by the Civil Defense Agency, but in remote areas throughout Oregon and Washington the AWS staff were paid observers supervised by the US Forest Service. In Washington, the AWS posts were supervised by Lloyd E Brown, who later wrote about the program on the thirtieth anniversary of its termination:

The AWS posts had to be manned by two people to provide 24-hour, daily observation. They had to have telephone or radio communication to their army filter centers and to their supervisory headquarters. Generally, all of these observation posts in Region Six, covered the areas quite thoroughly, from the Pacific Ocean to the Cascade Mountains, and From California to the Canadian border, and along the Canadian border to Idaho. Keeping the AWS posts supplied with food and fuel as well as keeping communications working in the winter with deep snow was difficult at times. [...] The purpose of the Aircraft Warning Service was to prevent Japanese planes from attacking the U.S. The observers had to report every plane they saw or heard to their filter center immediately. Private planes were banned from the area, so the only planes to report were military or commercial passenger planes. If an observer failed to report a plane that should have been within 6 miles of his post, the Army called it a miss. Two misses, and we had to go to the post, sometimes on snowshoes, to see what caused the miss, such as observers absent, communication failure, or could not see because of storms.⁹¹

The Chalet’s remote siting made it a useful defense point, but one that was difficult to maintain. It was occupied by AWS personnel from 1943 to June 1, 1944.⁹² According to John Olson, the spotters at the Chalet were “an older couple” whose last name was Kempf.⁹³ They are the only people every known to have spent an entire year, especially a winter, in the Chalet.⁹⁴

The National Park Service provided critical services for AWS posts throughout ONP, including constructing and maintaining lookout buildings, roads, trails, and phone lines. They also supplied cots, maps, CCC crews, tractors, and trucks at considerable cost. Once a month, Ignar Olson packed supplies to the observers posted at Enchanted Valley.⁹⁵

1940s/Sale to NPS

⁹⁰ Olson, Ignar. 21 August 1943. Quoted in Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁹¹ Brown, Lloyd E. “Timberlines Region Six, 30 Years Club” July 1977 edition. Quoted in Rooney, Jack R. “Frontier Legacy: History of the Olympic National Forest 1897-1960.” Northwest Interpretive Association, Seattle, Washington. 1997. Page 69.

⁹² Evans, Gail H. E. “Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park.” NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

⁹³ Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 20 August 2003. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁹⁴ Olson, John. Oral History Interview. 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

⁹⁵ Rooney, Jack R. “Frontier Legacy: History of the Olympic National Forest 1897-1960.” Northwest Interpretive Association, Seattle, Washington. 1997. Page 69.

Throughout the late 1940s and early 1950s the National Park Service slowly recovered from the overwhelming expense and staff time that World War II had demanded. With little money and increasing numbers of visitors, the park was focused on tackling a backlog of maintenance projects. On December 6, 1944 Representative Fred B. Norman proposed a bill which Congress then passed without debate, authorizing purchase of all the Olympic Chalet Company' and Olympic Recreation Company's holdings. Price negotiations continued for several years. Meanwhile, the Enchanted Valley Chalet was empty, with no formal management.

Finally, in September 1949 the National Park Service had the Olympic Recreation Company's buildings appraised and determined that the value of the Enchanted Valley Chalet was \$7,200 and Graves Creek Inn was worth \$2,880.⁹⁶ This bid was less than the construction costs that were previously acknowledged by the U.S. Forest. Evidently, the Olympic Recreation Company had difficulty demonstrating their full investment in the properties. Elvin Olson later said that they had a hard time putting "a regular amount on it" because the company owners did much of the work themselves, with their own stock animals, and other contributors such as the Criswell's worked for very little just to have the experience of building in Enchanted Valley.⁹⁷ The deal finally went through on 27 January, 1951. The bill of sale transferring title of the property to the U.S. Government was recorded at Port Townsend, Washington.

1953/Ranger Station opens

The Enchanted Valley Chalet had been unoccupied for nine years, and it was not immediately put back in use by its new owner. Before the 1951 park season opened, Quinault District Ranger Dewey Webster reported that many hikers were using the Enchanted Valley Chalet, yet he had "never been officially notified that the park owned the building, nor been given the keys."⁹⁸ Two years later Quinault District Ranger Lee Sneddon reported that trail traffic into Enchanted Valley was increasing and the Chalet was being used by most hikers. The park did not have a ranger stationed at the building. According to Ranger Geerdes, park staff began discussing the possibility of officially re-opening the Chalet for public use, "while putting them on their honor for proper careful usage."⁹⁹

With this in mind, Park Superintendent Fred J. Overly took his family to Enchanted Valley on June 5, 1953 to assess its condition. Overly had replaced Superintendent Preston Macy in 1951 and under his leadership there was a greater emphasis on visitor services. The number of park users rose dramatically, from just over 400,000 in 1950 to nearly 1.2 million in 1958.¹⁰⁰ On this trip, Overly

⁹⁶ Masters, D.A. "Certificate of Appraisal for Graves Creek Inn and Enchanted Valley Chalet". 20 September 1949. Document prepared for National Park Service. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁹⁷ Olson, Elvin. Oral History Interview. 1975. ONP Archives. Oral Histories.

⁹⁸ Webster, Dewey. 11 June 1951. Quoted in Geerdes, Raymond. "Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet." 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

⁹⁹ Geerdes, Raymond. "Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet." 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹⁰⁰ ONP. "Backcountry Historic Structures Report." Page 51. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

concluded that the public use had been so far “satisfactory,”¹⁰¹ and he determined that the Chalet could serve a useful purpose to the park.

That summer, the Chalet was repaired and officially opened to the public. The extent of these repairs is unknown; at best guess, this may have been when ONP staff constructed an interior wall adjacent to the kitchen, reducing the former combined lobby/dining room. The room next to the kitchen is often called the dining room or the bedroom and it is not an original feature of the building. The wall and doorway were constructed sometime between the 1940 appraisal and a 1985 condition assessment. The assessor, Donald Peting, called them “additions of an earlier time, [well] crafted, and currently useful.”¹⁰²

A reasonable estimate is that over 300 hikers made use of the building during the summer of 1953. Ranger Geerdes wrote that “a typical day would find all of the seven rooms utilized on the second floor, with perhaps a party of boy scouts sleeping on the floor in the dining room downstairs.” The following year was just as busy. Geerdes reported that in a single day in late June, 1954, rangers at the Graves Creek Ranger Station issued 36 fire permits to Chalet visitors. In August, the park stationed a seasonal ranger in the Chalet to accommodate increased use.

1959/Alterations by NPS and SCA

A significant volunteer project was undertaken by the Student Conservation Program, later known as the Student Conservation Association (SCA) in 1959. The SCA began in 1957 to provide work experience for students and to complete special projects in national parks. At ONP, Jack Dolstad supervised two crews of young men who contributed three hundred days of work during the summer. They were in Enchanted Valley in June and August. According to supervisor John Douglas Dolstad, the Chalet was cleaned thoroughly six times. All broken windows are replaced with new glass; the useless toilet, left behind by the Olympic Recreation Company, was removed and the waterless bathroom converted to a bedroom; and they split one thousand cedar shakes to replace the roof.¹⁰³

1950s-2012/ Ranger Station

Since 1953, the Enchanted Valley Chalet has been used for park administrative purposes. Enchanted Valley is roughly one or two days' hike from the Graves Creek trail head and is located on a main trail through one of the most popular areas of the Olympics. This made the building an ideal location for park operations.

¹⁰¹ Overly, Fred J. June 1953. Quoted in Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹⁰² Peting, Donald. “Historic Structures Preservation Guide, Part B” 17 July 1985. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹⁰³ Dolstad, John Douglas. “An Analysis of the Status of a Volunteer Student Conservation Program Combining Education and Work Experience in Olympic National Park.” Thesis for the degree of Master of Education. University of Washington. 1960. Page 23-24. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet” and ONP. “Backcountry Historic Structures Report.” Page 54. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

The Maintenance Division used it to store fuel, rest pack stock, and store and maintain equipment used for clearing trails throughout the Olympic interior. The Natural Resources Division used the area as a base of operations for research expeditions and for equipment storage. In addition, the valley is used as a landing site and base of operations for Search and Rescue in the southern portion of the park. As a ranger station the Chalet was an important backcountry location for visitor contact. According to a 2006 assessment, “ONP presence in the Enchanted Valley area provides an opportunity for educating visitors, preventing resource impacts, and enforcing park regulations. “

Since the ranger station opened, rangers have written daily reports on the number of visitors staying inside the Chalet or camping in the surrounding area, the number of stock animals present, descriptions of wildlife encounters and visitor contact, medical emergencies and rescue parties, weather conditions, and tasks performed by the rangers each day. At the start of every season, a ranger would arrive at the building in June to assess its condition and prepare it for summer activities. Often they found bear damage, evidence of unauthorized use, and vandalism such as broken windows, damage to the exterior doors, and supplies taken from the storage room.¹⁰⁴

The rangers stationed at Enchanted Valley were responsible for routine maintenance projects such as upkeep on the water system, privies, trails, radio, and Chalet floors. Until a “pack-it-out” program was introduced in 1969 the rangers frequently burned garbage pits. Other tasks were undertaken every few years as needed; for example: the porch roof was replaced (1972), bunk beds and a hitching post constructed (1971), and the emergency shelter painted “in hopes of decreasing carvers and graffiti,” (1978).¹⁰⁵ They also delegated maintenance tasks to hiking groups that camped at Enchanted Valley. Boy Scout and Campfire troops, church groups, student conservation crews, and ONP trail crews frequently worked on the Chalet and surrounding campsites.

At the end of a season, Ranger Wiemer left a vivid description of life in the Enchanted Valley:

This valley has meant a lot of things to me; it's meant knee deep mud, irate scout masters, blisters, bear attacks, skunk attacks, nettles, picking up trash, cleaning the privies, two straight weeks of rain, and shoveling horse shit—but it also meant sun heated water falls falling into basins, views too beautiful to describe, living in a three story Chalet, being the ‘Enchanted Ranger’, more berries than I could eat, fantastic people from all over the country, 50 different types of wildflowers, a hanging glacier just outside my window, some of the largest trees in the world, getting my body back in shape, getting my mind together, and much more that I can't even describe and probably don't even realize.¹⁰⁶

The men and women who have called themselves Enchanted Rangers experienced Enchanted Valley and its Chalet in a way that few people besides the Olson family ever did. Because of its location and sporadic use, most people stay in the building for an occasional night in June, July, or August—only the rangers are exposed to an entire season.

¹⁰⁴ ONP. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” 1960s-90s. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

¹⁰⁵ Weimer, Carl. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” June 1978. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

¹⁰⁶ Weimer, Carl. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” September 1976. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

Ranger Carl Pengrantz was stationed at Enchanted Valley for three consecutive summers and later returned while working on the trail crew. At the end of a season he wrote: “Nature—understanding it a little more every day. How can people race through this place and say they’ve seen EV? I haven’t even begun to see it and I’ve been 3 seasons. [...] The biggest accomplishment was that I learned to live in the valley.”¹⁰⁷ Those who return for multiple seasons established traditions such as an annual Enchanted Valley Food Fest, which ran from the 1970s to early 1990s.

Likewise, Ranger Howard “Mike” Doherty wrote: “this has been more than a job certainly—it has been a pleasure, and yet a burden (a most maturing experience to have been one-on-one with nature at times—she keeps on winning!)”¹⁰⁸

1950s-2012/ Emergency Shelter

Enchanted Valley, and the neighboring glaciers and mountain peaks, can be a treacherous place to face nature one-on-one. According to a 2006 draft environmental assessment, the Chalet is vital to park operations, not just for ONP staff but also “for the enjoyment, health and safety of visitors.”¹⁰⁹ As an emergency shelter it can provide critical protection for visitors who are injured, trapped by storms, or facing other unexpected difficulties.

Emergency shelters throughout ONP are a mix of historic shelters of varying ages and designs and several repurposed buildings. A system of shake-sided high-pitched roof shelters was initiated by the US Forest in the late 1920’s and early 1930s. The system has since been expanded with many small, log-sided shelters (1950s) and hewn-log designs (1960s) built by the National Park Service. The USFS and NPS shelters can be considered “official” shelters, as opposed to structures that were adapted from different origins. According to the park’s Shelter Establishment Criteria, “the most outstanding example of this de facto condition is the Enchanted Valley Chalet.”¹¹⁰

For many years, all three levels of the Chalet were available for visitors to use as a shelter, and not just in emergencies. It was very rare for the Chalet to be unoccupied even one night during the summer.¹¹¹ On a day in late August, 1968, Ranger David Holloway wrote: “85 people (!) at the Chalet [...] Scout Troops 138 and 142 from Seattle in here, and Troop 422 from Emunclaw outside [...] A bear climbed onto the porch roof and looked in the second floor windows, scaring Troops a bit.”¹¹² Rangers often entertained small groups for coffee and tea, or salmonberry pies; at other times they struggled to prevent large groups from harassing wildlife and other hikers, or damaging the building.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid. Pangratz, Carl M. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” 1973. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

¹⁰⁸ Doherty, Howard. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” September 1971. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

¹⁰⁹ ONP. “Draft Environmental Assessment for the Management of the Enchanted Valley Chalet.” July 2006. Page 10. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹¹⁰ ONP “Shelter Establishment Criteria.” 4 January 1978. ONP Archives. OLYM-2340. Bibkey# 2172315.

¹¹¹ Ibid. Doherty, Howard. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” 1971. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

¹¹² Holloway, David. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” 1968. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

In bad weather the Chalet would become crowded with hikers. Ranger Geerdes wrote: “for me as many others of the trail it represented warmth and comfort as well as mystery and beauty.” Dale Durrwachter was a Trail Crew Foreman at ONP in the early 1960s. In a letter to the park staff he described a “terrific storm” that struck the valley one August: “At 6pm we were the only people in the Chalet when a terrific storm descended. By 11pm there were bodies of Park Visitors in sleeping bags covering both the 1st and 2nd floors.”¹¹³

At first park visitors were allowed to stay in the second story rooms but by 1975 they were limited to a large “visitor room” on the first floor.¹¹⁴ The park constructed a wall around the staircase so the upper floors could only be reached by rangers. This was done to encourage visitors to camp outside and make it easier for rangers to monitor activity inside the building. However, it became more difficult to accommodate large groups in emergencies. Later that year Ranger Leinman wrote: “Rangers losing sanity with people coming and going through ranger station to upstairs. 67 people IN Chalet. Help!”¹¹⁵

In the 1980s and 1990s, the emergency shelter space was further reduced to keep visitors from misusing it. Unfortunately, this meant that they rarely had an opportunity to see the upper floors, which are better preserved than the first floor. The new restrictions have also lead to some surprises; in September 1977 seasonal Ranger Carl Weimer wrote that a “visitor showed up in the evening insistent on wanting to go upstairs. Reaching between double floor boards of the old bathroom the visitor miraculously produced a bottle of German wine which he said had been hidden there since 1972. You guessed it; we sat down and drank it!”

1964/ Wilderness Act

As early as 1953, Raymond Geerdes had written in reference to the Chalet that the park struggled to “keep the area essentially wild and yet useful to our citizens.”¹¹⁶ In 1964 the Wilderness was enacted but it was not until the 1970s that NPS staff began preparations to designate a large wilderness area in the park. The Pacific Regional office laid out a plan for managing historic resources contained within the “Proposed Olympic Wilderness,” in a Final Environmental Statement” dated July 1974:

The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted, and no properties located in Olympic National Park are listed. [...] The comprehensive inventory required by Executive Order 11593 is scheduled for completion by the spring of 1975. All properties meeting the criteria for the National Register will be nominated in compliance with Section 2(a) of

¹¹³ Durrwachter, Dale A. Message to ONP. 28 June 2004. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹¹⁴ Weimer, Carl. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” September 1976. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

¹¹⁵ Leinman. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” September 1975. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

¹¹⁶ Geerdes, Raymond. “Enchanted Valley and Its Chalet.” 1954. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

Executive Order 11593. [...]Existing and potential National Register properties will not be affected by the wilderness proposal.¹¹⁷

At this point in time, the Enchanted Valley Chalet was not formally recognized as a cultural resource and Enchanted Valley was included in the potential wilderness area. The inventory was due to be completed in 1975 but was not finished until 1983.

1970s/ Proposal to Reopen Chalet

In an alternative to the proposed action the National Park Service simultaneously considered plans to build more recreational developments in Enchanted Valley. When the 1980 Master Plan was drafted, ONP staff included a proposal to build a “backcountry hostel” at Enchanted Valley. This plan is described in the Master Plan under a section called “Alternatives Which Were Proposals in the Draft Master Plan”:

The 32-person facilities, each with a supporting ranger station and caretakers quarters, would be located at Enchanted Valley and at Diamond Meadows. Construction of the hostels would require site clearance for the buildings, water and sewer lines, and associated disturbance of vegetation and soils. [...] The hostels would offer a backcountry experience to people who are not equipped with backpacks, sleeping bags, and camping equipment for independent overnight trips. Since the hostels would exceed the minimum facilities permitted in wilderness, two 20-acre enclaves from the proposed wilderness would be required.¹¹⁸

Another section called “Alternatives Which Were Considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement” describes a plan to construct a trans-Olympic road from Graves Creek in Quinault Valley to Enchanted Valley and over Anderson Pass to Dosewallips, exactly like the road which was planned and partly surveyed by the US Forest Service in 1933.¹¹⁹ Neither of these projects came about, and the Enchanted Valley Chalet remained a Ranger Station and Emergency Shelter.

1980s/Restoration by NPS and Olympians

In the early 1980s ONP undertook a major project to restore the Enchanted Valley Chalet, and partnered with The Olympians hiking club. This was the largest collaborative project between the National Park Service and any public organization in the NPS Pacific Northwest Region. From the NPS side, the project was coordinated and led by Allan Comp, Chief of Cultural Resources for the Pacific Northwest Region. It was intended to be completed during the summer of 1983, but more tasks were identified during the first season and the projects continued in 1984 and 1985.

¹¹⁷ NPS. “Final Environmental Statement—Proposed Olympic Wilderness.” 29 July 1974. Page 33. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹¹⁸ NPS. “Final Environmental Statement. Proposed Master Plan, Olympic National Park, Washington.” 30 June 1976. Page 86-87 ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹¹⁹ NPS. “Final Environmental Statement. Proposed Master Plan, Olympic National Park, Washington.” 30 June 1976. Page 93 ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

The Olympians' side was led by several influential members: Anne Moisanen, a Montesano resident who regularly took her Girl Scout Troop to Enchanted Valley and was chair of the club's Conservation Committee and Helge Erickson, an experienced trip leader who was particularly attached to the Chalet. Moisanen and Erickson were especially passionate about preserving the structure, and through their heartfelt dedication to both the Olympians and the Chalet they were able to organize a remarkable volunteer campaign.

In their early years, the Olympians and the Olympic Recreation Company were not collaborators. The Olympians were unofficially founded in 1915 and incorporated in 1925. Their founding members came from Hoquiam, south of Quinalt and accessed the Olympic Mountains from the south side. The Olson brothers and early Olympians were exploring the Olympic interior around the same time.¹²⁰ By the late 1920s Ignar and Elvin Olson knew of the Olympians but were not on good terms with the two of their leaders, W.C. Mumaw and Matt Mathias. The details of this conflict are unclear, but according to John Olson, his father and uncle were wary of Mumaw, Mathias, and the Olympians by extension.¹²¹ The club owned a single share in the Olson Brothers' rival company, the Olympic Chalet Company, which Mumaw co-directed.¹²² By the 1930s Ignar Olson's opinion of the Olympians had improved and he occasionally worked for the club, helping them establish base camps in the mountains.¹²³ It is unclear when and how the Olympians first became attached to the Enchanted Valley Chalet, but by the 1980s a connection was already there.

In May 1982 the club began fundraising and drew up plans of the Chalet by referencing photographs. They formed a Conservation Committee and a "Friends of the Enchanted Valley Chalet" group. On 28-30 May, a measuring crew visited Enchanted Valley where they assessed the building's condition and made final adjustments to the blueprints. The party members were all Olympians: Dave Butterfield (Rayonier employee), Harold Lloyd (Rayonier employee), Ron Lofgren, and Sam Conrad.¹²⁴

Through 1982-85 the Olympians held a fundraising campaign to raise money and collect materials. The club hosted a pancake feed, oyster feed, and raffle; they collected aluminum cans, sold bumper stickers, and wrote to many local businesses for donations.¹²⁵ In preparation for the first summer of restoration the Olympians raised \$7000 in cash and nearly \$5000 in materials, but by the project's completion in 1985 they had raised over \$20,000 in cash and donations. Many area residents donated cash, tools, and labor. An original silk screen print by Elton Bennett, donated by the artist's daughter, was raffled off for \$1,742.95.

Many local companies from Hoquiam, Aberdeen, and Montesano also participated, including ITT Rayonier Inc. (20 logs valued at \$2,000); Mayr Bros Saw Mill (log storage, log shaping, and lumber

¹²⁰ Gregory, Al. Oral History Interview. 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹²¹ Olson, John. Oral History interview. 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹²² Gregory, Al. Oral History Interview. 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹²³ Olson, John. Oral History interview. 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹²⁴ Unknown. "Enchanted Valley Chalet to be Renovated." The News Tribune. 4 July 1982. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder "Enchanted Valley Chalet."

¹²⁵ ONP. "End-Of-Year-Report 1983." ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

for 20 shutters and sashes); Robert Ruiz, a mason from Montesano, WA (300 Chehalis common bricks); Pryde Bros. Inc. (stainless steel flashing); Jack Root Construction Co. (heavy hauling of materials to Bunches Meadow); Knack Manufacturing (windows, flooring, molding, stair parts); Hoquiam Plywood Co (Marine plywood for shutters); McCleary Horse Riders (packing of materials to Enchanted Valley); Day-n-Nite Propane (5 gallons of propane); Copeland Glass (frame for Elton Bennett print); and Graystone of Grays Harbor, Stouffer's Home Improvement, Bayview Building Materials (percent reduction in bills).¹²⁶

The Olympians and the National Park Service agreed to use some of the collected funds to hire an experienced project supervisor; NPS chose John Marshall, a preservationist from Idaho. He shared his enthusiasm for old buildings and craftsmanship with the volunteer crews, noting that building's relatively good condition was a sign of the original carpenters' great skill. Additionally, NPS contributed the expertise of its Cultural Resources staff, assessed the structure, determined what supplies that would be needed, coordinated helicopter flights, and provided accounting to the Olympians. The club also received critical support from NPS in specialized areas such as the project engineering, preliminary cost estimate, contracting, and liability.¹²⁷

The relationship between the two agencies is well demonstrated by a letter that Allan Comp wrote to the Olympian's Conservation Committee in 1982:

First, I want you to know that the drawings prepared by the Olympians of the Chalet were most helpful. Last week we completed an on-site survey of the logs necessary, windows condition, and other rehabilitation needs. Without these drawings our work would have taken much longer and our trip would have been much less productive. Obviously, this collaborative relationship between the Olympians and the National Park Service is already bearing good fruit. [...] I want to make it clear that we are depending on the volunteer efforts of those Olympians willing to make the trek to the Chalet. The one person we can station there (using the donated funds) cannot hope to do all the work that is needed—and besides, a little cheering up and good company is always important in a long project like this one. [...] Your efforts on behalf of this important structure and its rehabilitation are already meritorious. While I am confident the club will continue to watch over the Chalet and alert the park to any area of concern in the future, it is the responsibility of the National Park Service to maintain its historic structures to the best of its ability. Your assistance in bringing the Enchanted Valley Chalet up to a state of repair that makes possible its continued maintenance and use are fully acknowledged and very much appreciated.¹²⁸

ONP Superintended Roger Cantor was more cautious in his approach to the project. He wrote: We should also make it clear that we cannot be committed to any long range preservation of the building. Even if it is placed on the National Register it is doubtful if federal funding for its

¹²⁶ The Olympians. "For Enchanted Valley Chalet Donation of Materials and Services." c. 1983. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹²⁷ Stone, Richard. Message to Don Jackson, Olympic National Park. 20 August 1982. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹²⁸ Comp, Allan. Message to Dorothy Estergreen and Anne Moisanen, the Olympians. 12 May 1982. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

preservation could be expected. In time the building may deteriorate beyond the point of reasonable reparability, although efforts of your group can surely prolong its life.”¹²⁹

As the Olympians and NPS were focused on the Enchanted Valley Chalet, they also discussed its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places and considered the implication that, if it were considered eligible, certain conditions and opportunities would apply. Superintendent Cantor explained to the Olympians that “the Chalet’s eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places was last studied in 1978, and it was found to be ineligible at that time. The recent visits provided more information and it appears that there is a remote possibility that it could be eligible. Status on or off the register does determine the level of historic integrity required in any repair effort.”¹³⁰ Once its eligibility was determined, ONP would consult a historic architect, absolve the club of liability in case of personal accidents or damage to the structure, and provide Volunteers in Parks (VIP) status to all participants so that they would be covered for injuries sustained while working on the Chalet. Park staff continued working on this research project while the Olympian’s hands-on restoration work began.

In June, 1983, John Marshall and Olympians made camp in Enchanted Valley and set to work repairing the Chalet. The crews worked fourteen hour days. Marshall directed volunteers as they raked soil away from the foundation, dug out and replaced several rotted sill logs, removed the windows and doors, and jacked up and braced the building to make it level. Two volunteer masons rebuilt the chimney. The entire building exterior received a coat of wood preservative. On the interior, broken floor boards were replaced with recycled ones to match, graffiti was removed from the walls and ceilings, and missing beaded fir paneling was replaced. The windows were made by Roy Knack, of Hoquiam, who had built the originals in 1931.¹³¹ Finally, Marshall and the volunteers identified a few additional tasks they wanted to complete the following summer.¹³²

The entire effort was closely reported in the Daily World newspaper, of Aberdeen. Its editor, Bryn Beorse was a member of the Olympians and wrote more than a dozen articles before, during, and after the restoration work. According to Beorse,

In the waning days of the project [...] a typical scene was Marshall hard at work in the main room late at night, gas lanterns burning, shaping shutters with hand tools so they’d fit old, warped frames. The day’s work began before 7 after a night filled with the bugling of elk and the blaze of moonlit mountains. Work halted for breakfast, continued with halts for lunch and dinner and petered out at about 10 p.m. It brought forth images of a hard-pressed

¹²⁹ Cantor, Roger. Message to Richard Stone, the Olympians. 26 October 1982. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹³⁰ Cantor, Roger. Message to Richard Stone, the Olympians. 26 October 1982. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹³¹ Lewis, Earl. A “Survey Inventory Form for Enchanted Valley Chalet.” Prepared for NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. Survey by the Olympians, Inc of Hoquiam. ca. 1980s. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹³² ONP. “End-Of-Year-Report 1983.” ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

Depression-era shop, with the lighting, hours, hand tool use and products all offering images of the past.”¹³³

For this renovation the crews did not gather materials on site; instead the logs, tools, doors, windows, and other supplies were lifted in by helicopter. They used a chainsaw, but no other power tools. The crews of scheduled volunteers also received spontaneous assistance from hikers who passed through the valley, in the same way that the Olympic Recreation Company did during the original construction in 1930. By the end of the summer, 41 people (Olympians, hikers, others) had donated 1,661 hours of work on site.¹³⁴

In May, 1984, park staff and the Olympians returned to Enchanted Valley for a second season to make more repairs including replacing a base log and filling in a rectangular hole in the northwest façade remaining from the unfinished fireplace. They contributed 814 hours. In July, 1985, work resumed for a third and final season. The crew spent two weeks finishing up with log inserts, a new back porch, new ranger station door, a drain field for the ranger’s kitchen sink, and a railing for the second story staircase. Sam Conrad, a long-time member of the Olympians and participant in the project, died of natural causes on the hike out.¹³⁵

The Enchanted Valley Restoration project attracted attention locally and nationally. From 1982-1985 The Daily World published regular articles about the Olympians, the Olson family, and the Chalet. In March, 1984 President Ronald Reagan sent a note to the Olympians commending the club members for demonstrating “compassion for others, creativity in meeting challenges, and determination to accomplish goals.”¹³⁶ In October, 1984 The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation presented the Olympians with one of its three annual awards.¹³⁷ Years later, Anne Moisanen was named Citizen of the Year in Montesano, WA and commended for her many years of service, especially with Girl Scouts and the renovation of Enchanted Valley Chalet. Moisanen personally spent eight weeks at Enchanted Valley throughout the three-year project.¹³⁸

1983/ Historic Resource Study

NPS Historian Gail H. E. Evans wrote the first professional historic analysis of the Enchanted Valley Chalet as part of the Historic Resource Study for Olympic National Park in 1983. Evans was the lead historian for this project and was supervised by Allan Comp, director of Cultural Resources in the Pacific Northwest Region. At this point in time, no such inventory had been done within the

¹³³ Beorse, Bryn. “Some Enchanted History.” The Daily World, Aberdeen, WA. 9 October 1983. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹³⁴ The Olympians. “For Enchanted Valley Chalet Donation of Materials and Services.” c. 1983. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹³⁵ Beorse, Bryn. “An Olympian Task.” The Daily World, Aberdeen, WA. 4 August 1985. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹³⁶ Reagan, Ronald. Message to The Olympians Incorporated. 27 March 1984. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹³⁷ The Olympians. “Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash!” 1984. Memo. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹³⁸ Blair, Pam. “Citizen of the Year’ named in Monte.” 12 June 1988. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

park. It was necessary step for implementation of the Wilderness Act at ONP, since cultural resources and national register-eligible sites are exempt from the Act.

Evan's research determined that the Enchanted Valley Chalet was historically significant, particularly because it was—and still is—“the last extant structure in Olympic National Park representing the efforts of a commercial enterprise to develop the recreational potential of the Peninsula's interior mountain wilderness.”¹³⁹ She also wrote about the Olympic Recreation Company, recreational developments plans by the US Forest Service, the Chalet's occupation by the AWS, its role in park administration, and the NPS/Olympians restoration work. In The Historic Resource Study Evans stated that the Chalet was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

1985/Assessment

As the restoration project came to a close, Donald Peting, a professor of Historic Preservation at the University of Oregon, conducted a condition assessment of several ONP buildings and prepared “Historic Structures Preservation Guides” for each. The Chalet was found to be in excellent condition. However, Peting advised that the park make a plan to reconfigure interior walls on the ground floor, particularly an “awkward, recently installed plywood partition” around the staircase. It had been constructed shortly before the Olympians' restoration projects.¹⁴⁰ He explained: “the wall was placed there to control public access to second floor sleeping rooms and attic which are now only reached through the two room ranger quarters with separate outside entry. [The] stairway is dark and stored materials (mostly firewood) nearly block access.”¹⁴¹ Allan Comp had similar feelings about the notorious “ugly wall” and there was some discussion about having Marshall and the Olympians remove it.

Peting suggested building a wire cage around the staircase to keep visitors out of the upper floor but leave the historic staircase visible. This and other proposals were intended to make the ranger station more functional and restore “the original intentions of the designer.” Furthermore, he suggested that the upper rooms “be made accessible for viewing by the general public and an interpretive display of early backcountry travel should be considered within all or some of the rooms.”¹⁴² Ultimately the wall remained for another decade. In 2014 this wall is gone but there is evidence of it; the floor area that it enclosed is unpainted, while the rest of the main room is painted grey.

1988/ Wilderness Designation

When Olympic National Park, including Enchanted Valley became a designated wilderness area in 1988, ONP reasserted that the Enchanted Valley Chalet and several other existent backcountry

¹³⁹ Evans, Gail H. E. “Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park.” Page 304. NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

¹⁴⁰ Evans, Gail H. E. “Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park.” Page 304. NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. ONP Archives.

¹⁴¹ Peting, Donald. “Historic Structures Preservation Guide, Part A.” 17 July 1985. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.

¹⁴² Peting, Donald. “Historic Structures Preservation Guide, Part B.” 17 July 1985. Page 4. ONP Archives. “Paul Gleeson's Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

ranger stations were still absolutely necessary for the park's operations.¹⁴³ Furthermore, the Chalet was a historical resource, eligible for the National Register.

1995/Alterations by NPS

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s the Enchanted Valley Chalet continued to serve as a seasonal ranger station and emergency shelter. In 1994 Quinault Ranger Roger Blain requested that the park approve some changes to the first story. He recommended making the emergency shelter smaller to limit its misuse and give the rangers more living space.¹⁴⁴ In an email to park staff he described the rangers' living conditions as "worse than sparse."¹⁴⁵

In late August a group of park employees from the Maintenance and Cultural Resources departments made a trip to Enchanted Valley to examine the building. They observed carpenter ant activity. They also identified the old bathroom that once had a raised floor and central partition. The bathtub was nowhere to be found—exactly when it was removed is still unknown. Ellen Gage, ONP Historic Architect designed a way to improve the ranger quarters and better contain visitor use. The emergency shelter served a critical need and had to remain open year round; however, it attracted high impact use. By this time nearly every surface, including the ceilings, had been graffitied by guests.

During the following summer park staff finally removed the "ugly wall" around the staircase and enclosed one portion of the main room to serve as the emergency shelter.¹⁴⁶ With this new arrangement, the ranger station function incorporated both upper floors and approximately 80% of the ground floor. The park used it to store a large cache of supplies including Trail Crew tools, Search and Rescue materials, and the rangers' backcountry gear. There was no interior door connecting the ranger quarters and the emergency shelter. The remaining shelter space is a rectangle plan roughly ten feet by twelve feet.

2002/Archeology

In the following decade, NPS staff made no significant changes to the building but were active in the surrounding area. ONP archeologists recorded an archeological site encompassing the Chalet and three other "loci" in the fall of 2002. ONP Archeologist, Dave Conca used a metal detector to define the location, shape, and size of these three features. In the subsequent Archeological Site Inventory report he described the characteristics:

¹⁴³ ONP. "Draft Environmental Assessment for the Management of the Enchanted Valley Chalet." ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. July 2006. Page 10.

¹⁴⁴ Blain, Roger J. "Enchanted Valley Cooking Facilities." Message to Paul Gleeson, Ellen Gage, Dan Pontbriand, and Gretchen Luxenberg. 17 August 1994. Email. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder "Enchanted Valley Chalet."

¹⁴⁵ Blain, Roger J. "Enchanted Valley Cooking Facilities." Message to Paul Gleeson, Ellen Gage, Dan Pontbriand, and Gretchen Luxenberg. 17 August 1994. Email. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder "Enchanted Valley Chalet."

¹⁴⁶ Pontbriand, Daniel. "Enchanted Valley Chalet Project." Message to Dave Conca, Ellen Gage, Paul Gleeson, Kris Kincade, and Roger J. Blain. 3 August 95. Email. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder "Enchanted Valley Chalet."

Locus 1: A roughly rectangular area measuring 28 x 38 meters identified by metal detector “hits” on a flat area 50 feet west of the Chalet. [...]

Locus 2: A roughly rectangular area measuring 38 x 22 feet. [...] A concentration of stones in the northeast corner may represent part of a structural foundation. [...]

Locus 3: Two adjacent rock-lined depressions located 50 feet southwest of the Chalet. The pits are rectangular and the larger pit includes logs resting across the width of the pit. A low berm surrounds the north, south, and west sides of the pits.¹⁴⁷

The site was not excavated; however, subsurface probing revealed nails, wire, spikes, bolts, “and other hardware consistent with building construction.” Locus 1 and Locus 2 are thought to have been related to two historic structures noted in early photos of the area and described by members of the Olson family.¹⁴⁸ They may have been linked to the Forest Service patrol cabin, the Olson trap shack, the Chalet’s woodshed, or a privy. Locus 3 is thought to have been a trash dump.

2003/Restoration Plans and River Threat

After an unusually dry summer, two storm events flooded northwest Washington in quick succession in mid-October, 2003.¹⁴⁹ At Lake Quinault the Quinault River’s discharge leapt from roughly 400 cubic feet per second to over 35,000 cubic feet per second within ten days.¹⁵⁰ The East Fork was flooded during these events and in the aftermath its main channel moved west towards the Chalet. In 2002, ONP Cultural Resources, Maintenance, and Compliance staff had begun planning for a cyclical maintenance and rehabilitation project at the Chalet. No substantial cyclic maintenance had been done after the 1980s restoration effort. Following the 2003 storms, ONP staff had to pursue these maintenance topics within the context of the river channel issues.

Paul Gleeson, Cultural Resources Division Chief and Dave Conca were in Enchanted Valley in late May 2004, along with a consultant named William L. Hose, a Supervisory Exhibits Specialist/ Carpentry Team Leader from the Historic Preservation Training Center in Frederick, MD. According to Hose’s subsequent report:

“This brief trip focused on evaluating existing conditions of historic fabric and current issues on usage with the future use of the Chalet in mind. We also explored possibilities of the HPTC assisting in future work and providing training on historic preservation maintenance. [...]Paul and Dave were hiking in to map out the Quinault River at the site and study a problem with the river course, which had diverted dangerously close to the structure”¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁷ Conca, Dave. “Archeological Site Inventory Form” 18 September 02. Olympic National Park Archeological Site Records. Smithsonian Number: 45-JE-367.

¹⁴⁸ ONP. “Emergency Action to Temporarily Relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet for the Protection of the East Fork Quinault River: Environmental Assessment.” ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. May 2014. Page 27.

¹⁴⁹ van der Zweep, Rick. “Washington State October 2003 Flood Report.” Northwest River Forecast Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 2003. www.nwrfc.noaa.gov. Retrieved 26 August 2014.

¹⁵⁰ United States Geological Survey. “USGS 12039500 Quinault River at Quinault Lake, WA. Oct 01- Nov 01.” 2003. ONP Archives. “Paul Gleeson’s Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁵¹ Hose, William L. “Trip Report– May 24-28, 2004.” Message to Superintendent of Historic Preservation Training Center. 8 June 2004. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

On the exterior, Hose observed that logs around the emergency shelter door had been damaged “as the result of water infiltration from a previous gable roof canopy over the door not being properly flashed.” He recommended that this non-historic feature did serve a useful purpose by protecting the doorway, but that it might be better to build a shed type roof instead. Otherwise, the logs were in good condition despite needing to be cleaned and showing some damage from woodborers. Woodpeckers had done considerable damage to exterior shakes on the dormer walls, leaving holes as large as three inches across. The roof was apparently past 75% of its life expectancy and expected to last no more than five years. The chimney needed some bricks replaced but was otherwise in good condition. Finally, Hose documented damage to window sashes and surrounding trim caused by rangers taking the shutters on and off through the open windows. He recommended several changes that would make the shutters easier to install.

Regarding the interior, Hose’s comments were mostly about potential ways to improve the visitor and ranger use while protecting the structure from further damage. The four suggestions were: 1. a hall constructed along the kitchen wall with a door leading into the ranger’s quarters, 2. using one of the upstairs rooms above kitchen as the ranger’s room, 3. installing a solid core, dead bolted door connecting the emergency shelter and ranger quarters, and 4. building a separate storage building/emergency shelter. This fourth option was recommended because: “even when stored in flammable storage lockers, and properly vented to the exterior, flammables should not be stored in historic structures - period. [...] Moving the emergency use area to a separate structure [...] would also improve fire safety and security issues on the Chalet, by providing separate shelter for hikers during periods when the ranger is not housed there and monitoring use.”

Meanwhile, Gleeson and Conca reported back on changes in the river channel. According to a press release issued by ONP in June “October’s heavy rains dramatically changed the East Fork Quinault River’s channel through Enchanted Valley, bringing it approximately 25 feet from the Chalet. Prior to the autumn storms, the river’s path was approximately 170 feet from the Chalet.”¹⁵² Gleeson and Conca’s report also identified a possible solution:

What the group found is that flow near the Chalet is not the main flow of the channel. It appears that the Chalet is only at risk in high water or flood events. There is a cottonwood tree directing high flows towards the bank near the Chalet. When the water is low, it flows under the tree. It appears that when the water is high, the tree directs the flow towards the bank by the Chalet. There is potential for cutting or moving the cottonwood to redirect the flow. [...] We need to look at the least intrusive solution. However, we need to look at long-term solutions if this least intrusive alternative is unsuccessful.¹⁵³

From this point on, the maintenance concerns were secondary to the river threat. ONP began an Environmental Assessment (EA) “to identify and evaluate feasible alternatives, including no action, for Chalet preservation.” It included a plan for preservation projects at the Chalet, which would

¹⁵² ONP. “Historic Enchanted Valley Chalet Threatened by Changing River Channel; Park Seeks Public Input Regarding Possible Protection Measures.” Press release. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. 2 June 2004.

¹⁵³ ONP. “Interdisciplinary Planning Team. Meeting Minutes.” 8 June 2004. Section V: “Other Project Updates.” ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

apply if structure was “no longer at risk from river movement or erosion.” ONP staff would repair the chimney, replace shakes to repair all woodpecker damage on the dormer walls, repaint/re-glaze windows as necessary, repaint shutters, make the shutters easier to install, replace the porch, and implement an “Integrated Pest Management program” for carpenter ants. Shakes for the new roof were to be collected on-site from a cedar log, thought to be the one felled by Teander Olson for the Olympic Recreation Company.¹⁵⁴

Through the ongoing EA process, alternatives evolved; there was public comment, and scoping done. Site visits and park meetings done during this time period resulted in developing alternatives. Information from this process also led to Emergency Stabilization Actions in 2005. A draft EA was completed in 2006. The process closed at that time because the river no longer appeared to pose an immediate threat to the Chalet.

During the summer, 2004, the first action was taken to protect the Chalet. ONP sought consultation from Paul Kennard, a NPS Regional Fluvial Geomorphologist. Based on Kennard’s recommendations, a crew went to work in mid-August and conducted one small project. The downed cottonwood tree was cut back upstream of the Chalet. In the short term this successfully redirected the channel away from the building.¹⁵⁵ Because of this removal, the channel no longer headed directly towards the Chalet.

In winter 2005 the bank was eroded further leaving less than ten feet of terrace west of the Chalet.¹⁵⁶ On February 4, ONP issued a press release stating that “sometime between January 9 and January 29, the river’s main flow shifted into the former side channel, increasing the rate of erosion close to the Chalet and bringing the river closer to the building.”

To tackle the immediate threat, ONP staff went to the Chalet and removed supplies that would damage the river, such as fuel and equipment for trail maintenance, first aid, and search and rescue. These items were stored in several Knack boxes which were flown in by helicopter and deposited in Enchanted Valley southeast of the building.¹⁵⁷ Years later, these Knack boxes are still in the meadow and are used to safely store fuel outside the structure. The park also flew in gabion netting to have on-site if they decided to construct protective baskets along the river bank.

On June 18, 2005 Gleeson and Conca took Paul Kennard to Enchanted Valley. After mapping and observing the river conditions, Kennard determined that the 2003 flooding had left sediment deposits in the upper basin which caused “catastrophic” channel shifting, technically “avulsion.” He wrote:

¹⁵⁴ ONP. “EV Maintenance EIS. Section 2.1.6: Actions Common to All Action Alternatives.” ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁵⁵ ONP. “Park Staff Taking Emergency Steps to Protect Historic Enchanted Valley Chalet; Seeks Public Input in Developing Long-Term Strategy.” Press release. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. 4 February 2005.

¹⁵⁶ ONP. “Park Staff Taking Emergency Steps to Protect Historic Enchanted Valley Chalet; Seeks Public Input in Developing Long-Term Strategy.” Press release. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. 4 February 2005.

¹⁵⁷ Gleeson, Paul. “Enchanted Valley Timeline.” August 2014. Timeline and accompanying photographs. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

For reasons not yet understood, the entire upper watershed has ‘unraveled,’ with loss of most of the previous in-channel vegetation (and its attendant ability to store sediment), and concomitant recruitment of copious amounts of large trees from eroded stream banks. As a result, there is an ‘outwash plain’ of sediment and downed trees from upriver of the Ranger Station to above the confluence of Anderson Creek and the upper Quinault River. The presence of large, downed wood in the channel creates areas susceptible to sudden channel shifting during high stream flows, and a plethora of sediment provide ideal conditions for new channels to be excavated. When the channel suddenly shifts during high flows, and a new channel is created, copious amounts of sediment are released downstream, propagating further channel instability and movement down valley.¹⁵⁸

Given the situation, Kennard concluded that: 1. It was highly likely that the East Fork would shift again during the next winter, 2. It was “virtually certain” that the channel would shift “catastrophically” again within five years, and 3. Relocating the Chalet would be the only way to protect it “with any degree of certainty.”

The EA for long-term management of the Chalet was already underway and had received public input in June, 2004; however, the continued erosion led ONP to seek public comments again. At that time the four alternatives under consideration in the EA were: “A. No Action Alternative, B. River Channel Manipulation and/or Bank Stabilization, C. Relocating the Chalet, and D. Removing the Chalet and Constructing a Smaller Ranger Station.”¹⁵⁹

Regarding alternative B, Kennard had proposed either digging an overflow channel, digging a diversion channel, reinforcing the river banks, installing engineered log jams, or removing vegetation from the channel.¹⁶⁰ During the summer river levels were low and the channels were stable, which provided a necessary window for ONP to study the river and make plans before the water rose again in winter.

By July 26, 2005 the three alternatives under consideration were: “no action; use adaptive management in an attempt to save the natural and cultural resources of the area; or complete disassembly and removal of the Chalet from the area.”¹⁶¹ As ONP advanced through the formal EA process park staff asked, as a short term solution, “what emergency actions can be taken prior to the EA being completed?”¹⁶² It was determined that the structure and its functions could be preserved without invasive measures that would require an EA.

¹⁵⁸ Kennard, Paul. “Enchanted Valley Chalet— Conditions and Options.” 29 June, 2005. Memo. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁵⁹ Gleeson, Paul. “Enchanted Valley Field Trip—6/20/05.” 20 June 2005. Trip planning notes. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁶⁰ Kennard, Paul. “Enchanted Valley Chalet— Conditions and Options.” 29 June, 2005. Memo. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁶¹ ONP. “Enchanted Valley IPT Meeting.” 26 July 2005. Meeting minutes. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁶² ONP. “Enchanted Valley IPT Meeting.” 26 July 2005. Meeting minutes. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

A proposal called the “Enchanted Valley Chalet Short Term Emergency Stabilization Action Plan” was reviewed and approved by ONP Superintendent William G. Laitner on September 1, 2005. The plan would have a minimal impact on the area. For instance, a crew would work in the dry riverbed and use fallen trees as barbs instead of metal gabion baskets to reinforce the banks.¹⁶³

It was “determined through consultation with park biologists, resource specialists, and other staff that implementing this plan would result in no effect on the existing stream channel and the plan would not affect fisheries values. Implementing the plan would result in potential relief to the Chalet in case of a small to moderate storm event. These actions would protect the current administrative use of the Chalet for administrative function and would protect the Chalet as a historic property.”¹⁶⁴ Laitner wrote: “In terms of wilderness values and compliance in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the action in nature and duration can be considered a ‘day-to-day’ operation to maintain the Chalet. This is a short term emergency action that will help us protect area resources, until a long-term plan and environmental assessment are finalized.”¹⁶⁵

In September, park staff implemented the plan that was considered the absolute minimum needed to protect the Chalet through the winter of 2005-2006. A crew completed four actions while on-site from September 21-24. As Action One, a small channel obstructed by gravel and wood debris was reopened so that it would dilute the full force of the main channel during winter storms. As Action Two, the two downed cottonwoods that were partially removed in 2004 were cut back by an additional ten feet or so. Also, a downed log overhanging the side channel and three downed logs in the water were cut into lengths. As Action Three, three downed logs, or “barbs” were anchored in the dry riverbed beside the west bank. In high water they would slow the river current and minimize erosion of the bank. Finally, as Action Four, three live alders and three dead alders were cleared from a small channel to prevent it from damming upstream of the Chalet.¹⁶⁶ The 2006 draft EA characterized these actions as “non-invasive measures” that gave the channels and banks a strategic shape, thereby slowing the current and encouraging gravel deposition.¹⁶⁷

Unlike the work done in 2004, the action taken in 2005 did protect the Chalet through winter. An aerial photograph taken in February, 2006, showed that the main channel of the East Fork was more stable in its location. By May 2006, the side channels had also retreated and the structure was no longer in immediate danger.¹⁶⁸ The EA process continued into 2006 when a draft was completed.

¹⁶³ ONP. “Emergency Action to Temporarily Relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet for the Protection of the East Fork Quinault River: Environmental Assessment.” ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. May 2014.

¹⁶⁴ Laitner, William G. “Enchanted Valley Chalet, Short Term Emergency Stabilization Action Plan Review and Approval.” Memorandum to Paul Gleeson. 1 September 2005. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁶⁵ Laitner, William G. “Enchanted Valley Chalet, Short Term Emergency Stabilization Action Plan Review and Approval.” Memorandum to Paul Gleeson. 1 September 2005. ONP Archives. “Paul Gleeson’s Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁶⁶ Gleeson, Paul. “PG notes post 9/24/05.” 24 September 2005. Notes about actions taken on 21-24 September 2005. ONP Archives. “Paul Gleeson’s Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁶⁷ ONP. “Draft Environmental Assessment for the Management of the Enchanted Valley Chalet.” ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. July 2006. Page 6.

¹⁶⁸ ONP. “Draft Environmental Assessment for the Management of the Enchanted Valley Chalet.” ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. July 2006. Page 7.

The section of the East Fork that runs through Enchanted Valley developed an entirely new character and has been a volatile, dynamic force ever since the 2003 flood events. The “unraveling” that Kennard described is clearly evident by the sprawling stone river bed which used to be a large area of the grassy valley floor. During storm events the river widens considerably and its channels may change course quickly.

Sarah Woodard and Ernie Vail, former ONP Trails Supervisor, experienced one of these river events first hand while they were packing for a group of clients. In a 2014 interview, Ernie described a rain storm from 2005:

Enchanted Valley used to be all these green fields in a large area there, and the wife and I would camp there. [...] We were there in September and it rained hard. [...] The waterfalls were getting extremely high and I didn't really worry about it because there was no snow to melt—but it rained so hard. [...] We had nine doctors and lawyers from the Seattle-Bainbridge area and [...] Sarah had the good idea to move them up off the river to high ground because of the rain—and we went to bed. [...] It changed in the middle of the night.

It was about eleven-thirty when I got up to look. [We were] camped right out on the river, pretty much out from the Chalet. [...] Our table, our gear was starting to float away. Up above somewhere a log had shifted over and it changed the whole course of the river instantly. [...] It was raining so hard, with your headlamp on all you saw was a white sheet in front of you. I couldn't see past anything. [We] picked the whole tent up and waded through two feet of water up on to high land. It was a big tree right over by where the Chalet is where we found safe ground. But it took hours to move everything, and the last thing I moved was my llamas. They were standing in three foot of water by then, tethered out. I was underwater getting the screw stake out of the ground. [...] That was pretty horrific. [...] It was all pasture but now all it is is just river bar. [...] The channel moved over a good hundred feet.¹⁶⁹

2007/National Register Listing

In 2007 the Chalet was added to the National Register of Historic Places, nominated under Criterion A for historic significance in commerce, recreation, entertainment and also under Criterion C for architectural significance.¹⁷⁰ The site boundary includes the open meadow surrounding the Chalet because this area creates an important visual context for the building. Its nomination was part of a larger multiple-places nomination prepared by various ONP researchers. Stephanie Toothman, NPS Regional Historian wrote the first draft in 1986 based on Evan's 1983 Historic Resources Study. Substantial work as done in 1998 by Gretchen Luxenberg, ONP Historian, and Jacilee Wray, ONP Anthropologist, made final edits in 2005. All are credited authors on the multiple-property nomination form, which was finally submitted in 2007 and was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in July 2007.

¹⁶⁹ Vail, Ernie. Oral History Interview. 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.

¹⁷⁰ ONP. “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.” October 1990. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

This designation documented the historic importance of the chalet and the need to manage to that importance. According to ONP's current management plan, no National Register listed structure will "be removed or allowed to decay naturally without prior review by park and region cultural resource specialists, including approval by the NPS regional director and consultation with the state historic preservation office."¹⁷¹

2008/General Management Plan

ONP reaffirmed its plans to retain historic structures in its most recent General Management Plan (GMP), completed in 2008. As a National Register-listed building, the Enchanted Valley Chalet was included in the GMP "List of Classified Structures (LCS) for the Park," and was also listed as a "Potential Cultural Landscape."¹⁷² The LCS is a database containing information about historic structures including the structure's significance, condition, use, threats, treatments, cost estimates for treatments, and physical description. According to the GMP, properties on the List of Classified Structures "are to be treated as cultural resources by law, policy, or decision reached through the [NPS] planning process."¹⁷³ Being listed on the National Register and on the LCS means that ONP will pursue basic preservation maintenance and comply with cultural resource protection and preservation policies regarding historic structures. The building will be protected, unless a formal process determines that alterations or deterioration are "unavoidable."¹⁷⁴

The 2008 GMP also codified the way in which ONP manages historic structures in wilderness areas. The GMP states that laws which preserve cultural resources, such as the National Historic Preservation Act and Archeological Resources Protection Act, "are applicable in wilderness."¹⁷⁵ In wilderness areas these laws are administered to preserve the wilderness character. As a cultural resource, and one that predated the park's 1988 Wilderness Designation, the Enchanted Valley Chalet is generally preserved and managed using methods "that are consistent with the preservation of wilderness character and values."¹⁷⁶

2010/Restoration

¹⁷¹ ONP. "Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement." 2008. Volume 1. Page 148. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\All\Planning and Compliance\FGMP. Retrieved 11 August 2014.

¹⁷² ONP. "Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement." 2008. Volume 2. Appendices E and F. Page 452-457. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\All\Planning and Compliance\FGMP. Retrieved 11 August 2014.

¹⁷³ ONP. "Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement." 2008. Volume 2. Page 452-457. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\All\Planning and Compliance\FGMP. Retrieved 11 August 2014.

¹⁷⁴ ONP. "Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement." 2008. Volume 1. Page 35. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\All\Planning and Compliance\FGMP. Retrieved 11 August 2014.

¹⁷⁵ ONP. "Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement." 2008. Volume 1. Page 149. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\All\Planning and Compliance\FGMP. Retrieved 11 August 2014.

¹⁷⁶ ONP. "Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement." 2008. Volume 2. Page 49. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\All\Planning and Compliance\FGMP. Retrieved 11 August 2014.

There was only one other major restoration project at the Chalet after the Olympians and National Park Service made repairs in the 1980s. In summer of 2010 Donald “Duck” Houk, ONP Backcountry Carpenter, and his crew completed several interior and exterior projects at the Chalet, with oversight by Gage and Gleeson. The crew included Jeremiah Brown, John Stanek, and Keith Robinson, with assistance from Lea Over and Kate Houk. Afterwards, Houk and Over produced a detailed condition assessment report which includes a description of the building, as well as short term and long term preservation goals.¹⁷⁷

For this project, the Olympians Hiking Club donated \$7,196.15 remaining from their 1982-85 “Friends of the Enchanted Valley Chalet” fundraising campaign.¹⁷⁸ A large part of that sum was collected after the ‘80s projects because the club, led by Anne Moisanen, continued to raise money for the Chalet.¹⁷⁹

On the northeast exterior wall several logs had been damaged when a small gable roof over the shelter door broke under the weight of heavy snow. This roof was not replaced because the gable shed water down the wall logs and was not an original feature. The crew replaced two large log sections over the shelter door and windows, as well as seven small log sections on either side of the door. They built new steps below the emergency shelter door. One collar tie, two purlins, and all wall shakes on the dormer were replaced. All windows and doors received a new coat of paint. The Chalet’s cedar roof shakes were replaced and the chimney was rebuilt from the roof flashing up.¹⁸⁰

The porch roof was extended to better match its historical design, as it was when the National Park Service acquired the building. Photos from 1953 show Superintendent Overly’s family cooking on the porch. In these pictures, both the deck and roof were roughly fifteen across and the west end was an enclosed wood storage shed.¹⁸¹ Ranger logs from the 1970s mention bear damage to the woodshed.¹⁸² At some point during the late 1970s or early 1980s the woodshed was removed and the porch roof rebuilt to cover just the west end of the deck. In 2010 Houk and his crew replaced the upright posts and extended to roof to cover the porch. They did not replace the woodshed.

On the Chalet interior two significant changes were made. A privacy partition wall was built adjacent the emergency room to create a new Ranger bedroom. This wall is open on the top and bottom to allow air and light into the central room. The previous bedroom then became a dining room. The crew also installed a door leading from the central ground level space into the emergency room.
2012/Archeology

In 2012 (or June 2011 according to photos), ONP archeologist Dave Conca further investigated the Enchanted Valley archeological site. As this point the East Fork Quinault River had washed away

¹⁷⁷ Houk, Donald “Duck” and Lea Over. “Enchanted Valley Chalet 2010 Condition Assessment.” 2010. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\Backcountry Carp\Enchanted Valley\Enchanted Valley CA.indd. Retrieved 1 September 2014.

¹⁷⁸ Jorgensen, Barbara and Kathleen “Olson” Graeber. Message to the National Park Service. 8 December 2009. Letter. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Files (unprocessed collection). Folder “Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

¹⁷⁹ Gleeson, Paul. Conversation with Charlotte Helmer. 26 August 2014.

¹⁸⁰ Houk, Donald “Duck.” Re: Enchanted Valley Chalet History.” Message to Charlotte Helmer. 5 August 2014. DOI Email.

¹⁸¹ See Appendix B: Historic Photographs.

¹⁸² ONP. “Enchanted Valley Ranger Logbooks.” 1970s. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Cat No. 30455 and 30456.

Locus 1 and Locus 2, the two sites that were thought to be related to historic outbuildings. According to a 2014 summary of this archeological resource:

At that time a number of historic period artifacts were observed along with more recent debris. It is thought that the refuse pit includes artifacts dating from the use of the Chalet as a lodge along with material deposited through the years by campers and NPS employees. A small, unsystematic sample of material from the refuse dump was collected by backcountry rangers as the feature began to erode into the river. This collection has not been formally analyzed.¹⁸³

As of 2014, Locus 3 is entirely washed away. All that remains of the archeological site includes the Chalet and a small part of the meadow to the east and southeast of the building.

2013/River Threat

In October 2013 Jason Benson, ONP Preservation Carpenter visited the Chalet to make a condition assessment and plan preservation action for the following summer. He observed that the East Fork Quinault River was approximately nine feet from the northwest corner of the Chalet.¹⁸⁴ At this point the river's location was cause for concern, but not an emergency. ONP planned to go ahead with preservation work including: replacing the dormer ridge beam and one dormer collar tie, replacing two log ends on the exterior, replacing several exterior logs, treating exterior logs with rot stabilizer, replacing interior bead board, installing roof anchors to safely work on the roof, repointing weathered mortar joints, and restoring the original staircase newel post.¹⁸⁵

Rainfall in the Quinault area was above average that winter. Storm events and high water levels caused the main channel to shift by at least fifteen feet after Benson's initial report. This change was first discovered by hikers including former Ranger Lana Myers who gave ONP the first notification when she emailed photos of the Chalet in early January, 2014.¹⁸⁶ These pictures showed that the river was within eighteen inches of the building. The park commissioned aerial photographs which were taken on January 14.¹⁸⁷

On January 17, the park issued a press release, "Historic Enchanted Valley Chalet Threatened by Changing River Course; Park Assessing Options." It was announced that "a routine monitoring program of biweekly aerial photography flights will provide park cultural and natural resource experts with current information about the upper East Fork Quinault and the Chalet. These experts

¹⁸³ ONP. "Emergency Action to Temporarily Relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet for the Protection of the East Fork Quinault River: Environmental Assessment." ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. May 2014. Page 28.

¹⁸⁴ ONP. "Emergency Action to Temporarily Relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet for the Protection of the East Fork Quinault River: Environmental Assessment." ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. May 2014. Page 16.

¹⁸⁵ Benson, Jason. "FY14 Project Planning." 18 November 2013. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\Backcountry Carp\Enchanted Valley\Chalet FY14 Planning."

¹⁸⁶ Myers, Lana. Photographs. 4 January 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\All\Enchanted Valley\Enchanted Valley_Lana Myers 1-4-14."

¹⁸⁷ Creachbaum, Sarah. Message to Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Office. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. 17 January 2014.

are also working closely with the Pacific West Regional Office of the National Park Service, the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer, and other partners and concerned citizens.”¹⁸⁸

Also on January 17, ONP Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum initiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). In this letter the Superintendent wrote that “the Chalet’s location within the Olympic Wilderness combined with its location on the East Fork Quinault floodplain makes this a challenging situation.”¹⁸⁹ ONP and the SHPO determined that the state of affairs was an emergency and authorized park staff to empty the Chalet while it was still safe to enter.¹⁹⁰ Additional photos were taken by Ranger Sanny Lustig on January 24. They showed that the river edge was within two feet (one foot in some places) of the Chalet’s northwest wall.¹⁹¹

Photos taken on March 8 showed the riverbank eroded right up to the Chalet’s north and west corners. They also showed that the building was undercut at the center of the northwest wall. A sill log was detached at one end. Pieces of wood, a section of repaired foundation, and two large sections of the original concrete foundation had detached and were visible in the river channel.¹⁹²

On March 12, Benson led a crew at the Chalet. The crew removed equipment, fuel, and other supplies which were considered a threat to environmental conditions. Window sashes were removed and stored safely on site. The windows were the only historic elements that were removed from the building. Photographs from this trip show the interior and exterior of the Chalet. At this point the foundation all along the wall was in the river, including the foundation’s west corner. The north corner foundation and hanging sill log were still attached. In several places the Chalet was more undercut. Protruding from the river were sections of the foundation, wood fragments, and a piece of metal pipe. On March 20, ONP issued a second press release, “Dynamic Quinault River Continues to Shift Course, Threaten Historic Enchanted Valley Chalet,” including one of the March 12 photos.¹⁹³ It stated that “As of late last week, the river has undercut the Chalet by approximately four feet.”

ONP began preparing this Historic American Building Survey [HABS] in April, in reaction to the river threat. HABS standard large format photographs were taken by photographer Lani Doely on May 21-22. Doely documented the Chalet’s exterior, emergency shelter interior (shot through the door), and kitchen interior (shot through the south window). She was contracted by ONP and assisted by park interns Jonathan Schmitz and Charlotte Helmer.

¹⁸⁸ ONP. “Historic Enchanted Valley Chalet Threatened by Changing River Channel; Park Seeks Public Input Regarding Possible Protection Measures.” Press release. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. 2 June 2004.

¹⁸⁹ Creachbaum, Sarah. Message to Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Office. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. 17 January 2014.

¹⁹⁰ ONP. “Emergency Action to Temporarily Relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet for the Protection of the East Fork Quinault River: Environmental Assessment.” ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. May 2014.

¹⁹¹ NPS. Photographs. 24 January 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\All\Enchanted Valley\Enchanted Valley_Sanny Lustig 01-24-14

¹⁹² NPS. Photographs. 8 March 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\All\Enchanted Valley\“chalet 3-8-2014.”

¹⁹³ ONP. “Dynamic Quinault River Continues to Shift Course, Threaten Historic Enchanted Valley Chalet” 20 March 2014. Press release. <http://www.nps.gov/olym/parknews/newsreleases.htm>. Retrieved 5 August 2014.

Photos from May 25 showed that the river was undercutting the building by roughly eight feet. Around that time, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation placed the Chalet on its “Most Endangered Properties List” and released an advocacy alert. Their statement said:

“Park officials must consider the fact that the Enchanted Valley Chalet sits within a designated Wilderness Area. While such designation does not prohibit proper care and stewardship for historic resources, past litigation has park officials wary of taking action that could be misconstrued as violating the Wilderness Act. In the meantime, Chalet supporters simply want to ensure future generations can experience the Chalet in its original context.”¹⁹⁴

On May 21, the park issued a press release, “Public Invited to Review and Comment on Plan to Temporarily Relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet; Long-term Options to be Examined in Second, Follow-up Analysis.”¹⁹⁵ ONP Public Information Officer Barb Maynes wrote, “Recent photographs show that the river has undercut the building by approximately eight feet.”

2014/Move away from the river’s edge

A concise Environment Assessment (EA) was prepared between January, 2014 and July 25, 2014. The EA considered the one action of moving the structure away from the river to prevent environmental harm if it were to collapse into the river.

The proposed action and Environmental Assessment received a “Determination of No Impairment”¹⁹⁶ on July 21st and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)¹⁹⁷ signed by NPS Pacific West Regional Director Christine Lehnertz on July 25. A Memorandum of Agreement was prepared with mitigations for the adverse action of moving the chalet from its original location. Signatories in the National Park Service/Olympic national Park, Washington State Historic Preservation Officer, Executive Director for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation with the last signature signed on August 7, 2014. The Quinault Indian Nation was a concurring party.¹⁹⁸

Monroe House Moving, Inc. was contracted to move the structure. The move was accomplished in September 2014. The building was moved approximately 100 feet to the northeast. The chalet currently rests on the steel I beams used in the move. The building is shuttered and not in use. An EA to determine the final disposition of the chalet began in June 2016 and is in process.

Part II. Architectural Information

A. General Statement

¹⁹⁴ The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. <http://preservewa.org/Enchanted-Valley-Chalet.aspx>. Retrieved 5 August 2014.

¹⁹⁵ ONP. “Public Invited to Review and Comment on Plan to Temporarily Relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet; Long-term Options to be Examined in Second, Follow-up Analysis.” 21 May 2014. Press release. <http://www.nps.gov/olym/parknews/newsreleases.htm>. Retrieved 5 August 2014.

¹⁹⁶ NPS. “Determination of No Impairment.” ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. July 2014.

¹⁹⁷ NPS. “Finding Of No Significant Impact.” ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. July 2014.

¹⁹⁸ Memorandum of Agreement Between the National Park Service at Olympic National Park and the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Enchanted Valley Chalet. August 7, 2014.

1. Architectural character:

It is difficult to say the Enchanted Valley Chalet is attributed to a particular architect, because potential architects include several members of the Olson brothers, their partners at the Olympic Recreation Company, recreational developers in the US Forest Service, Tom and Glenn Criswell, and Roy Streater. The design was undoubtedly influenced by building techniques that are traditional to the Olympic Peninsula, but also by U.S. Forest Service's special use permit, the Olympic Chalet Company's Low Divide Chalet, the Olympic Recreation Company's Graves Creek Inn, and Arts and Craft style houses in Grays Harbor.

The Chalet is a significant example of vernacular architecture which is common on the Olympic Peninsula and within Olympic National Park. This tradition was well described in the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Properties Nomination for Olympic National Park:

“Largely as a result of isolation, poor or nonexistent transportation routes, and the paucity of trained architects and technological equipment or knowledge, building styles during the peninsula's early phases of development did not duplicate features characteristic of any one particular style. Instead, buildings display design characteristic that reflect the Olympic Peninsula's unique amalgam of available materials, topographic and climate constraints, and the knowledge and skill of local builders.”¹⁹⁹

The Chalet's original design demonstrates these vernacular traits. It was constructed dimensional lumber produced by local mills and from logs, peeled-poles, rough split cedar shakes and boards all collected from trees felled on site. The Olympic Recreation Company relied on skilled local carpenters to complete the work; Tom Criswell, Roy Streater, and Roy Knack were from Quinault, Grays Harbor, and Montesano.

Most of the design was driven by the need for a functional, inexpensive building that could be constructed by a small crew. Practical features include a steeply sloped roof designed to shed snow, a fenestration pattern dictated by the need to have natural light in each room, and the absence of an expensive fireplace. The log and pole framing, used of locally milled lumber, and uses of materials sourced on site are practical parts of the design and are also consistent with local building traditions. According to the National Register Nomination:

“Log and pole frame structures, often considered the traditional American frontier building type, served as appropriate shelters for the early settlers of the Olympic Peninsula. Constructing buildings on land many miles from mills, and often without the tools or knowledge to design and construct buildings that emulated contemporary architectural styles, the first peninsula settlers, as well as the early USFS rangers, used logs and poles to build their early structures. [...] Well into the twentieth century, after the completion of a major highway and the rapid appearance

¹⁹⁹ ONP. “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.” October 1990. Page 26. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

of vehicular transportation and numerous lumber mills on the peninsula, log and pole structures continued as the preferred or only possible building type in the more remote and inaccessible interior sections of the peninsula.”²⁰⁰

The Chalet is related to other recreational and commercial developments in the park, but is also distinguished by its remote location in Enchanted Valley. It is one of just four extant historic sites that are associated with commercial development of the Olympic Peninsula. The other three, Lake Crescent Lodge, Rosemary Inn, and Lake Quinault Lodge (which is on USFS land), are all front country developments.²⁰¹ This separation from easy transportation routes is largely why the Enchanted Valley Chalet has a rustic design, more readily associated with log cabins and log shelters in the Olympic backcountry. NPS historian Gail E. Evans observed that “although its late construction date places it more in the time period of the Rustic style architectural phase, the remote location of the Chalet, and the building’s construction by a local peninsula craftsman exposed to the pioneer skills of log building, established its clear link to regional pioneer craft traditions.”²⁰²

The Olympic Recreation Company and Olympic Chalet Company operated the only backcountry hostels in the Olympic interior. The Enchanted Valley Chalet was built immediately after Graves Creek Inn, and the two buildings were very similar. In some ways, Graves Creek Inn also resembles the Low Divide Chalet, which was designed and built roughly five years before the Inn. It is likely that the Enchanted Valley Chalet was partly or significantly modeled after the low Divide Chalet and Graves Creek Inn. According to the National Register nomination, “such commercial ventures to capitalize on the wilderness setting of the Olympic Interior reveal America’s 1920s and 1930s dual perception that nature was to be both revered and exploited for commercial use.” Today, the Enchanted Valley Chalet remains as the last surviving example of their impact.²⁰³

Some elements of front-country design did permeate into the Olympic interior, mainly the Arts and Craft movement which celebrated local craftsmanship and the use of local materials. Evans observed that “the precise graduation in log size from the sill logs to the roof line, its well-proportioned lines, and its precision diagonally cut dovetail corner joints all contribute to the chalet’s high artistic value and excellence of craftsmanship.”²⁰⁴ Furthermore, the Chalet’s three-over-one and six-over-one double hung windows are reminiscent of Arts and Craft style residential designs. By 1930 the style was well established. It is likely that Knack Manufacturing produced windows for Arts and Craft houses in the Greys Harbor area and used a similar design for the Enchanted Valley Chalet and Graves

²⁰⁰ ONP. “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.” October 1990. Page 17. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

²⁰¹ ONP. “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.” October 1990. Page 11. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

²⁰² Evans, Gail H. E. “Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park.” NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. Page 18. ONP Archives.

²⁰³ ONP. “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.” October 1990. Page 11. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. “Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet.”

²⁰⁴ Evans, Gail H. E. “Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park.” NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. Page 18. ONP Archives.

Creek Inn.

2. Condition of fabric: The building was restored in 1980 and 2010 and is generally in good condition. A preservation project was planned for 2014 and had to be postponed. At last assessment, the preservation carpenter planned several projects including: replacing the dormer ridge beam and one dormer collar tie, replacing two log ends on the exterior, replacing several exterior logs, treating exterior logs with rot stabilizer, replacing interior bead board, installing safety equipment in the chimney, repointing weathered mortar joints, and restoring the original staircase newel post.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The building has a rectangle plan approximately 28' x 42'. It is 2 ½ stories tall.
2. Foundations: The rectangular foundation is roughly a foot wide around the perimeter. Its core was primarily made of rocks from the East Fork riverbed surrounded in concrete which was packed in to the site. "1930," the year of construction, is inscribed on the north corner. A perimeter of river stones approximately two feet wide surrounds the Chalet and provides sufficient drainage. One section of the foundation is unoriginal, but otherwise much of the original concrete material remains intact and is in good condition. Foundation height at each corner of the building varies according to the natural inconsistencies of the land, but is roughly 5" to 1'3" high. Each foundation wall has two vents. As of August, 2014 large sections of the foundation have fallen into the East Fork Quinault River. When the Chalet is moved in mid-September, 2014 it will be lifted off the foundation and will rest on steel rails.
3. Walls: The exterior walls are constructed of silver fir logs notched with dovetail diagonal-cut joints. The first story logs are 10" in diameter, and the upper story logs are 8" in diameter. The first and second story logs are hewn on three sides. Several logs on the northeast and northwest walls were replaced in 1983 and 2010. Log ends at the south corner were replaced in 1983. The gable walls were roughly constructed, but this is only visible from the inside; few of the gable wall logs are hewn, they protrude unevenly on the interior, and some were only partially peeled. Throughout the building most wall logs fit together tightly and there is chinking in just a few places. The third story dormer walls are constructed of horizontal boards attached to log pole framing and clad in cedar shakes.
4. Structural system, framing: The roof structure consists of a pole ridge beam, rafters, purlins, collar ties, and supporting log knee braces at the gable ends. High collar ties are made of split cedar. The dormer structure has pole rafters, purlins, posts, and a king post truss against the southwest wall. The first floor decking is attached to log floor joists which are 30" on center and approximately 14"-16" inches above the ground. The joists sit on a single split cedar summer beam located in the center of the floor width. The floor joists on the outboard end are on blocks and are not attached to the sill log— in 1983 the sill logs were replaced and the blocks were inserted to remedy the floor joist outboard support. The second floor decking is the same and sits on log joists which are notched square to meet the exterior wall logs. They rest on a 2" ledge where the 10" diameter wall log ends and the 8" diameter wall logs begin.

All joists run southwest to northeast.

5. Porches, stoops: The southeast façade has a front porch and overhang shed roof supported by log posts and clad in cedar shakes. The porch floor slopes away from the building. The northeast doorway has a stoop with two large steps.
6. Chimneys: A square-base brick chimney is placed in the north corner of the kitchen, and is connected to a wood stove. There is no fireplace. On the second floor it intersects a sleeping room. It was substantially rebuilt in 1981 and rebuilt again above the roof line in 2010. The stainless steel flashing and cap are in good condition; however, some exposed mortar joints are deteriorating above the roof line.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doors: The front door is right of center on the southeast wall, and opens into the kitchen. It is usually locked. A second exterior door is on the northeast wall and leads into the emergency shelter. It is usually left unlocked. Both doors are constructed of vertical boards with three horizontal braces on the interior side. Both were painted in 2010. The kitchen also has a screen door with rustic wood handles.
 - b. Windows: Windows on all exterior walls are of four different types including: 3-over-1 and 6-over-1, double hung sash windows; wood sash sliders, and four light fixed wood sashes. All windows are wood sash with multi-pane glazing over a single pane. All have plain board trim and a narrow projecting sill. All windows designed to open were in working order before they were removed in 2014.
 - (1) Southeast façade: The ground level has one set of side-by-side 6:1 single hung windows, and one set of 3:1 double slider windows right of the front door. The second level has three evenly spaced 3:1 single hung windows. The gable has two 3:1 single hung windows same as second level.
 - (2) Northeast façade: The ground level has one set of 3:1 double slider windows; one 6:1 single hung window; one set of side-by-side 6:1 single hung windows. The second level has four unevenly spaced 3:1 single hung windows.
 - (3) Northwest façade: The ground level has two sets of side-by-side 6:1 single hung windows. Second level: three evenly spaced 3:1 single hung windows. The gable has two 3:1 single hung windows same as second level.
 - (4) Southwest façade: The ground level has two sets of side-by-side 6:1 single hung windows. The second level has three 3:1 single hung windows; one set of two fixed 3:1 windows. Historic photographs show that the opening for this window was originally half as wide. The dormer has two small fixed four pane windows.
 - c. Shutters: Shutters on the ground floor windows open horizontally, and secured open or shut with hook-and-eye latches at the trim, and are barred with a metal bars on threaded rods and nuts. Shutters on the upper stories are hung from the top casement and close with hook-and-eye latches at the sill. All shutters, windows and trim were painted in 2010.
8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The Chalet has a gable roof with a 12/12 pitch clad in cedar shakes. The shakes are 36" with a 24" exposure. The original shakes were split from trees on site and have been replaced at least twice.
- b. Dormers: There is one dormer on the southwest side. It has roughly a 12/12 pitch and is clad in 36" cedar shakes, just like the main gable roof.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The Enchanted Valley Chalet has a rectangular plan approximately 28' x 42'. On the ground floor there are four rooms: a kitchen, dining room, L-shaped living space with partitioned sleeping room, and an emergency shelter. The second story has a storage room and six sleeping rooms of various sizes all opening onto a central hallway. The third story attic has an open plan under the gable roof. These three levels are connected by a single staircase oriented perpendicular to the northeast exterior wall and ascending from the large main room beside the kitchen.
2. Stairways: The stairs leading from the ground level to the second level are located in the center of the building against the northeast wall. Three stairs against the wall lead to a small landing where they turn 90 degrees and rise to the second floor by eleven treads along the opposite side of the kitchen wall. The upper stairs run directly over the lower stairs. There is no newel post on the ground level or banister up to the landing. There is an original newel post at the inside corner of the landing and an original banister from the landing to the second floor. There is another original newel post on the second floor landing, a non-original newel post on the third floor, and a non-original banister from the second floor landing up to the third floor. The stairs were constructed of cedar collected on-site and the steps are painted grey.
3. Flooring: The first and second floor decking is fir tongue-and-groove. The floor is in good condition although generally worn from use and age. It is painted gray. There are two layers of metal flooring nailed down below the staircase and two worn patches in the nearby floorboards. This metal flooring indicates the historic location of a second wood stove that was tied into the chimney, and the worn patches show where people stood or knelt to use the stove. The attic floor is decked in four foot long pieces of tongue and groove flooring nailed at each floor joist. These pieces look like the remaining flooring material from the first two floors. There are some gaps between the seams, as well as water damage, and previous repairs. In several areas of repair the wrong type of material, i.e. bead board, plywood and metal were used to cover holes and soft boards.
4. Walls: The kitchen walls are original and are presumably framed with split cedar studs. They are clad with horizontal bead board on both sides. The ranger room wall perpendicular to the kitchen is presumably framed with 2" x 4" studs. It is clad with plywood on both sides, has minimal insulation, and is not original. The emergency room walls are framed with 2" x 4" studs and clad in plywood on one side. The privacy partition is framed with 2" x 4" posts around a plywood center and is open at the bottom. The second story walls are framed with split cedar studs irregularly spaced throughout. Each wall is clad with bead board on one side. The hallway and stairwell have bead board walls, but the storage and sleeping rooms are

a mix of bead board and bare studs. Approximately 50 square feet of the original bead board is missing and has been replaced with plywood. The top of the walls terminate at the bottom of the summer beams leaving approximately six inches of space between the wall and the ceiling. There are no walls in the attic. Many areas of the walls throughout the Chalet have names of visitors and dates from the last several decades carved or painted.

5. Ceilings: On the ground floor the ceiling is exposed second floor joists, 30" on center with a central summer log (primary load bearing log beam.) The underside of the second floor tongue and groove decking is visible between the floor joists. On the second floor the ceiling is exposed attic floor joists, 30" on center. There are two summer beams in the center of the building four feet apart. Four posts on either side of the hallway support the summer beams. Many areas of the ceilings throughout the Chalet have names of visitors and dates from the last several decades carved or painted.
6. Doorways and doors: There is a doorway connecting the kitchen a dining room. It probably had a door originally, but it is unclear when the door was removed. A non-original plywood door connects the dining room with the main room. In 2010 a metal door was installed between the main room and emergency door. It was removed in 2014 along with the windows. The second story sleeping rooms were originally hung with doors but have been open doorways for a long time—it is unclear when they were removed. The storage room door is made of plywood.
7. Decorative features:
 - a. In one of the second floor sleeping rooms there is a plywood sign which reads:
"Welcome/to Enchanted Valley Chalet/restored by student/conservation
program/sponsored by the/National Parks Assn./1959/Please think of others by/1.
Opening windows carefully/2. Observing all signs."
 - b. There is a landscape painted on one of the oldest, but no original interior walls. It appears to have been painted by a visitor or a ranger when the staircase was enclosed by a rough plywood wall. The mural was painted on the emergency shelter side of the old ranger room wall between this staircase wall (now removed) and the exterior wall. It depicts the upper end of Enchanted Valley and is signed with the initials "BR."
 - c. On the second floor landing there is a brass plaque which reads: "In memory of/T.E. Criswell/and/Glenn L. Criswell/Father's Day 1993."
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: An operational cast iron wood cooking stove is piped into the chimney in the kitchen. There is a vent in the ceiling above the stove which lets heat into the sleeping room above.
 - b. Cooling: There is a refrigeration box in the east corner of the kitchen. It has only one cooler vent (above), which is unusual, so a second one may have been removed (below).
 - c. Ventilation: The foundation has two vents on each wall.
 - d. Plumbing: The kitchen sink is plumbed with running water from a nearby creek. The piped are connected to a utility box on the kitchen porch.

9. Original furnishings: It is hard to know how much of the original furniture remains in the Chalet. The kitchen cabinets, and hanging cabinets, and refrigeration box are probably all original. According to John Olson, most of the original furniture was broken up and burned for firewood. As on 2014 there is no furniture in the attic; the second floor has a collection of built-in end tables made of halved logs, built-in bunk-bed frames, and wood tables of various sizes; and the ground floor has several large tables, benches, wood storage racks, and folding chairs. Also on the ground floor are some small shelves, an upright storage box, and a large bench with curved arms and a cedar shake back. This large bench resembles one that Elvin Olson described in a 1975 interview. The original reception desk and Adirondack-style chairs are certainly gone. Some tables maybe be all or partly original. In 1995 it was reported that the main dining table had a cedar top with drawings of the Chalet on the underside, but this has not been seen since.

D. Site

1. Historic Landscape design: The Enchanted Valley Chalet stands in a grassy open meadow with nearby surrounding forests and steep valley walls. The grassy meadow vegetation is comprised of both native and non-native grasses and herbs with scattered red alder (*Alnus rubra*) and bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*). The surrounding forest contains Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western red-cedar (*Thuja plicata*), and western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) along with scattered Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). The valley walls have Alaska yellow cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) on the cliff bands. Understory is comprised of moist-site shrubs and ferns including evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium* sp.), vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), devil's club (*Oplopanax horridus*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*), and lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*). There are numerous moss, lichen, and liverwort species.²⁰⁵ Roughly fifteen campsites are scattered along the riverbank, among trees at the forest edge, and in the meadow. There is a water spigot southwest of the building. A cedar hitching post has been rebuilt several times, on the south side of the Chalet. The last one was a casualty of the river channel's movement in 2014.
2. Outbuildings: Historically, there was a trap shack built by the Olson family, a U.S. Forest Service patrol cabin, a woodshed, a privy, and occasional tent camps near the Chalet. Currently there are two privies in the meadow.

²⁰⁵ ONP. "Emergency Action to Temporarily Relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet for the Protection of the East Fork Quinault River: Environmental Assessment." ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. May 2014. Page 14.

Part III. Sources of Information

A. Architectural drawings:

See Appendix A for plans and elevations.

B. Historic Photographs (1920s-1950s):

See Appendix B for historic photographs.

C. Contemporary Photographs (1980s-2014):

See Appendix C for NPS photographs.

D. Contemporary Photographs (May, 2014):

See Appendix D for HABS standard photographs.

E. Selected Sources:

See Appendix E for complete bibliography.

1. Benson, Jason. "FY14 Project Planning." 18 November 2013. Most recent condition assessment of the Enchanted Valley Chalet, prepared by the ONP Preservation Carpenter. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\Backcountry Carp\Enchanted Valley\“Chalet FY14 Planning.”
2. Evans, Gail H. E. "Historic Resource Study of Olympic National Park." NPS Pacific Northwest Region Cultural Resources Division. 1983. Extensive survey of ONP with several chapters that are relevant to the Enchanted Valley Chalet, such as "Settlement: Quinault River Drainage," "Recreational Development: Interior Mountains," and "WWII Military Involvement: Aircraft Warning Service." ONP Archives.
3. Geerdes, Raymond. "Enchanted Valley and its Chalet." 1954. Short essay that is part history, part interpretive aid, and part memoir, written by an ONP Ranger shortly after the park reopened the Enchanted Valley Chalet. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.
4. Houk, Donald "Duck" and Lea Over. "Enchanted Valley Chalet 2010 Condition Assessment." 2010. Detailed and illustrated report on the building's condition, prepared after preservation work was completed in 2010. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in ONP active files, I:\Backcountry Carp\Enchanted Valley\Enchanted Valley CA.indd. Retrieved 1 September 2014.
5. Laitner, William G. "Enchanted Valley Chalet, Short Term Emergency Stabilization Action Plan Review and Approval." Memorandum to Paul Gleeson. 1 September 2005. Complete plan for stabilizing the East Fork Quinault River, with approval by ONP Superintendent. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection. Originally located in Paul Gleeson Collection. "Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet."
6. Masters, D.A. "Certificate of Appraisal for Graves Creek Inn and Enchanted Valley Chalet." 20 September 1949. Appraisal prepared for NPS during negotiations with the Olympic Recreation Company for sale of its holdings. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.
7. ONP. "Backcountry Historic Structures Report." No date. Extensive survey of ONP with several chapters that are relevant to the Enchanted Valley Chalet, including "ONP Historical Context," "Backcountry Building Development," and "Enchanted Valley Chalet: Conservation Assessment, Evaluation, & Recommendation." ONP Archives.

8. ONP. "Draft Environmental Assessment for the Management of the Enchanted Valley Chalet." July 2006. Page 10. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.
 9. ONP. "Emergency Action to Temporarily Relocate the Enchanted Valley Chalet for the Protection of the East Fork Quinault River: Environmental Assessment." May 2014. ONP Archives. Enchanted Valley Chalet HABS Collection.
 10. ONP. "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." October 1990. ONP Archives. Paul Gleeson Collection. "Notebook on Enchanted Valley Chalet."
 11. ONP Ranger Logbooks. 1950s-2000s. Extensive documentation of day-to-day activity at the Enchanted Valley Chalet Ranger Station, including notes about the number of visitors, wildlife activity, ranger tasks, weather, fire, search and rescue, and much more. ONP Archives. Acc No. OLYM-742. Box 12.
 12. United States Forest Service. "Term Permit." 1 January 1929. Legal document prepared for Olympic Recreation Company to allow special use of the Enchanted Valley Recreation Unit. ONP Archives. Historic Structures Reports. ACC. No. OLYM-731. Cat No. OLYM 16353. Box 3. Folder 10.
- F. Interviews: The tapes and transcripts are available at the ONP Archives.
1. Gregory, Allen. Al is a member of The Olympians and held the office of club historian. The tapes and transcript are available at the ONP Archives. He was interviewed by Charlotte Helmer on 20 August 2014.
 2. Olson, John. John is the son of Ignar and Jessie Olson. He was interviewed by Charlotte Helmer on 21 August 2014.
 3. Vail, Ernie. Ernie was formerly Trails Supervisor at ONP and now operates a packing business in the park. He was interviewed by Charlotte Helmer on 22 August 2014.
- G. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:
1. Interviews
 - a. Paul Gleeson, former Chief of Cultural Resources at ONP. Paul assisted with research and editing of this report but no interview has been recorded.
 - b. ONP Rangers stationed in Quinault: Rodger Blain, Lynn Dwann, Dan Ferrell, Hazel Gilley, George Leite, Hannah Merrill, Carl Pengrantz, Liz Tuttle, and others. More Rangers will be easy to identify by referencing the Ranger Logbooks housed in the ONP Archives.
 - c. Tom Criswell's family. Little information has been discovered about the carpenters/builders who worked on the Enchanted Valley Chalet.
 - d. Roy Streater's family. Little information has been discovered about the carpenters/builders who worked on the Enchanted Valley Chalet.
 - e. John Olson interviews. As part of this documentation project Charlotte Helmer recorded an extensive oral history interview with John. Some of his comments should be verified and added to any future history of the building. In particular, he talked about Representative Russell Mack and negotiations for NPS to purchase the Chalet.
 2. Museums and Archives
 - a. National Archives. College Park, M.D. Record Group 79 (NPS Records) includes 900 files pertaining to the Olympic Recreation Company and the Olympic Chalet Company in boxes 1515-1520. Also there are NPS concessions contracts and permits in boxes 894-896. Record Group 79 (USFS Records) contains some files pertaining to the Olympic

- Recreation Company and the Olympic Chalet Company. USFS Forest Service records may include files pertaining to the Olympic Recreation Company's bid for the Enchanted Valley Recreation Unit, including original drawings.
- b. Washington State Archives. Olympia, WA. USFS Forest Service records may include files pertaining to the Olympic Recreation Company's bid for the Enchanted Valley Recreation Unit, including original drawings. The Asahel Curtis Collection also has primary documents pertaining to the Chalet.
 - c. Congressional Records. This research project did not include an in depth search for congressional records relating to negotiations between NPS and the Olympic Recreation Company.
 - d. US Military Records. This research project did not include an in depth search for records relating to AWS activity at the Enchanted Valley Chalet.
 - e. The Polson Museum. Hoquiam, WA. The director of the Polson Museum, John Larson, has confirmed that the museum has collections pertaining to The Olympians. The club historian, Al Gregory, has said that the Olympian's collection of documents, awards, memorabilia, etc. will most likely be deposited with the Polson Museum sometime in the future. For now, those collections are housed with the club historian.

Drawings

Elevation—Southeast

Elevation—Northwest

Elevation—Northeast

Elevation—Southwest

Section

Plan—First Floor

Plan—Second Floor

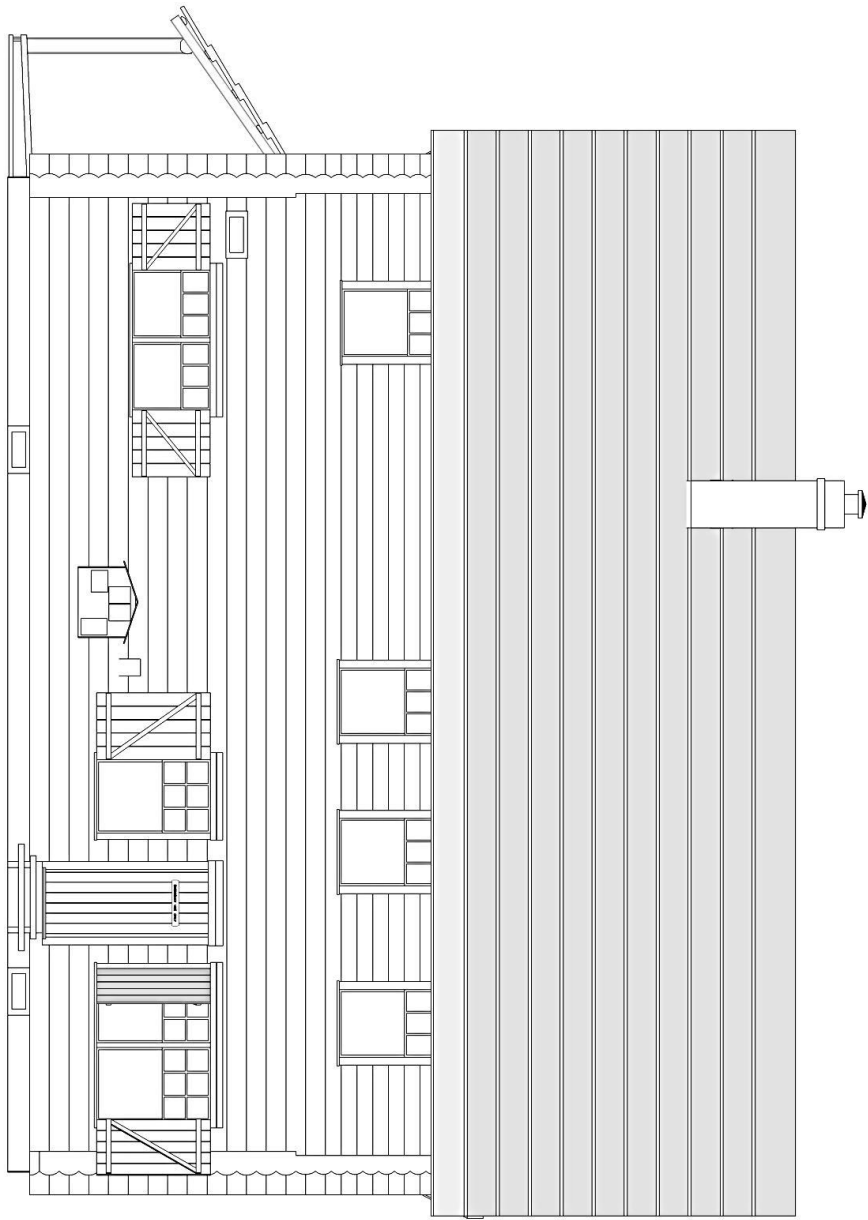
Plan—Attic

Plan—First Floor c. 1930

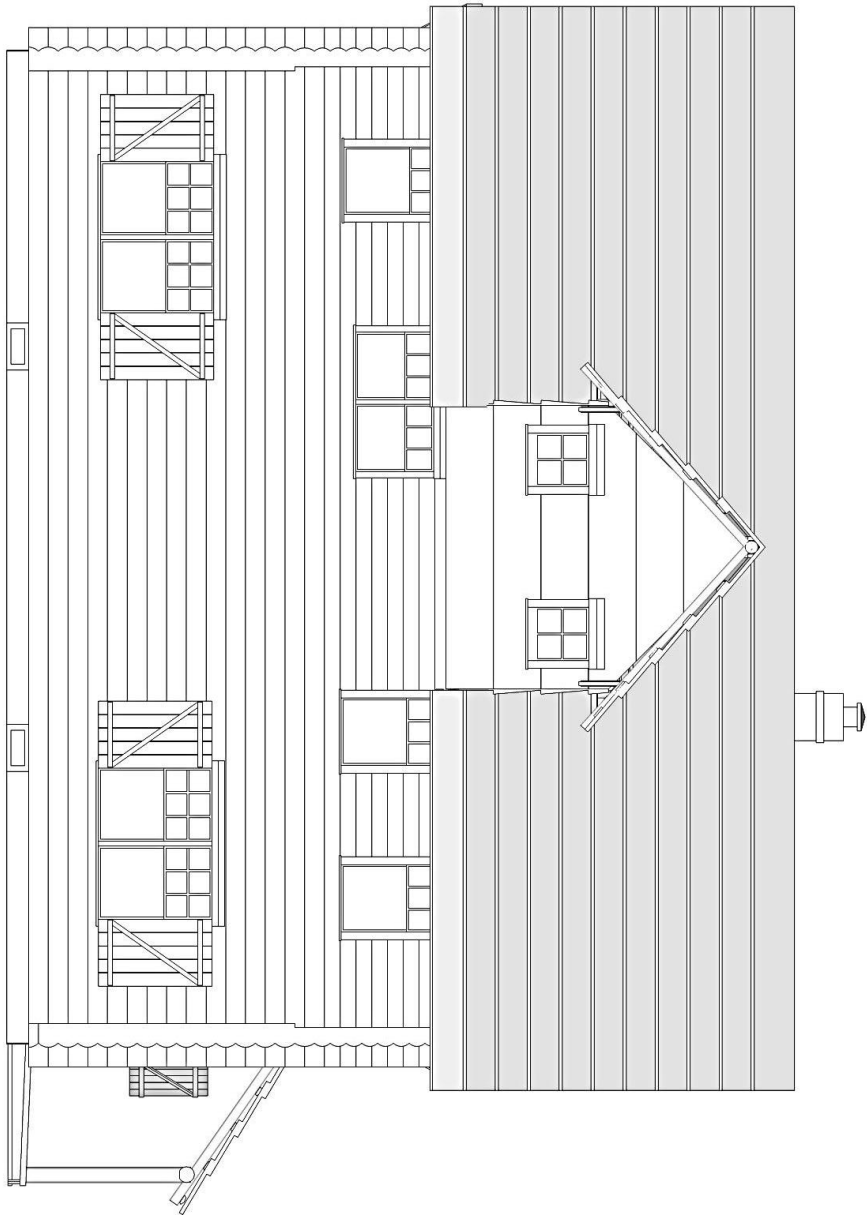


ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET		ELEVATION—Southeast	
Historic American Building Survey	by Charlotte Helmer	Date: August 2014	Scale: 3/16" = 1'-0"

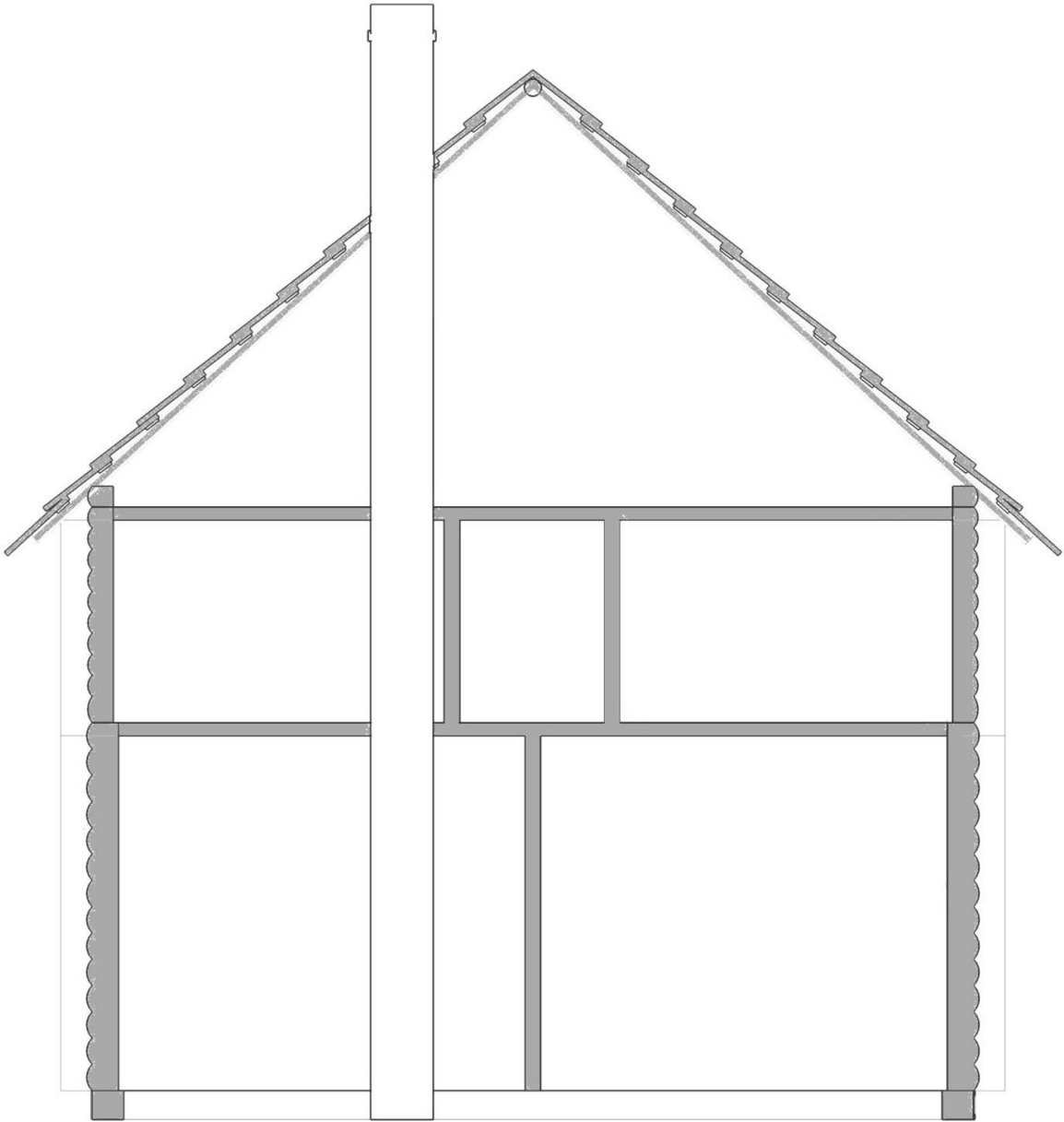




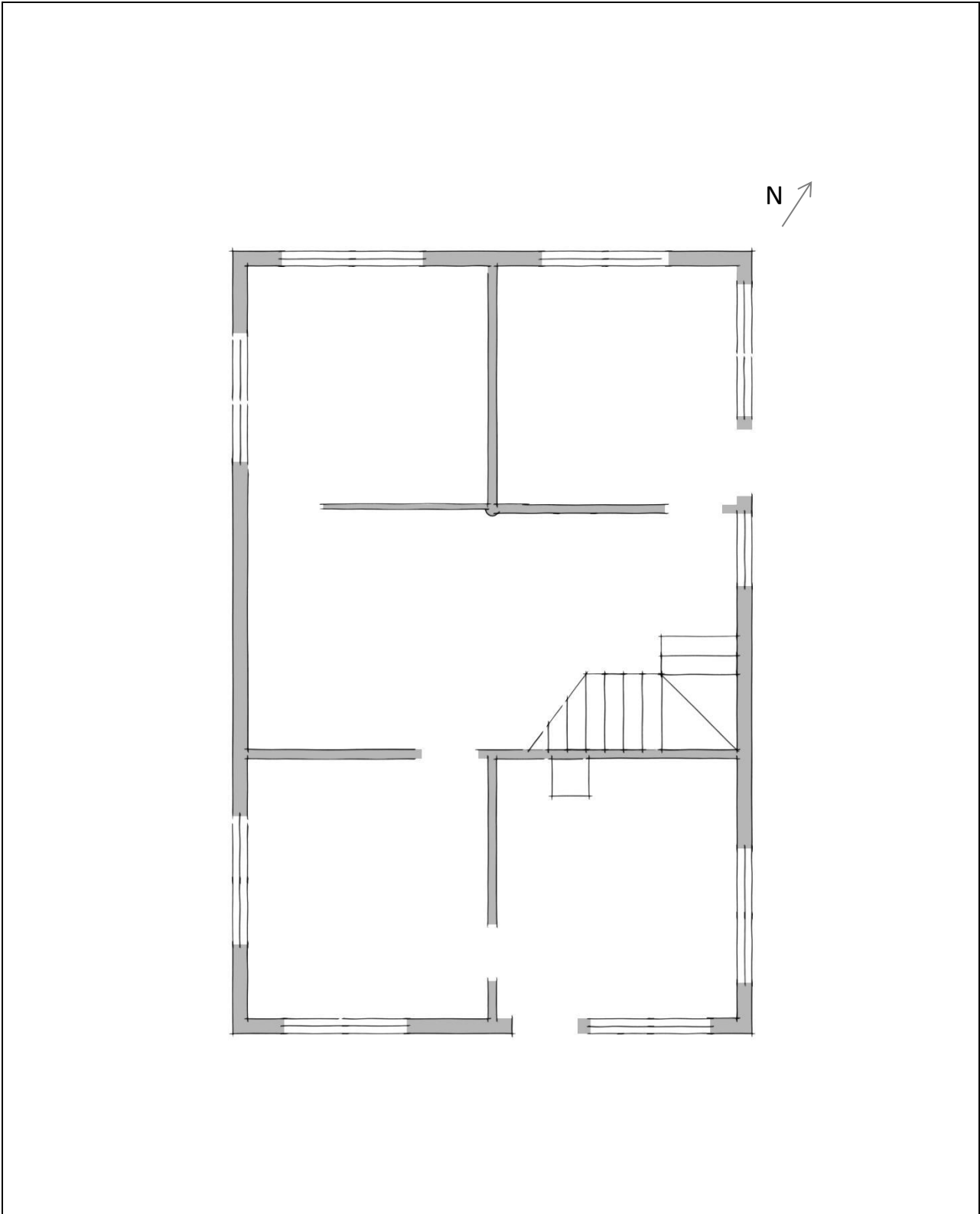
ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET		ELEVATION—Northeast	
Historic American Building Survey	by Charlotte Helmer	Date: August 2014	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



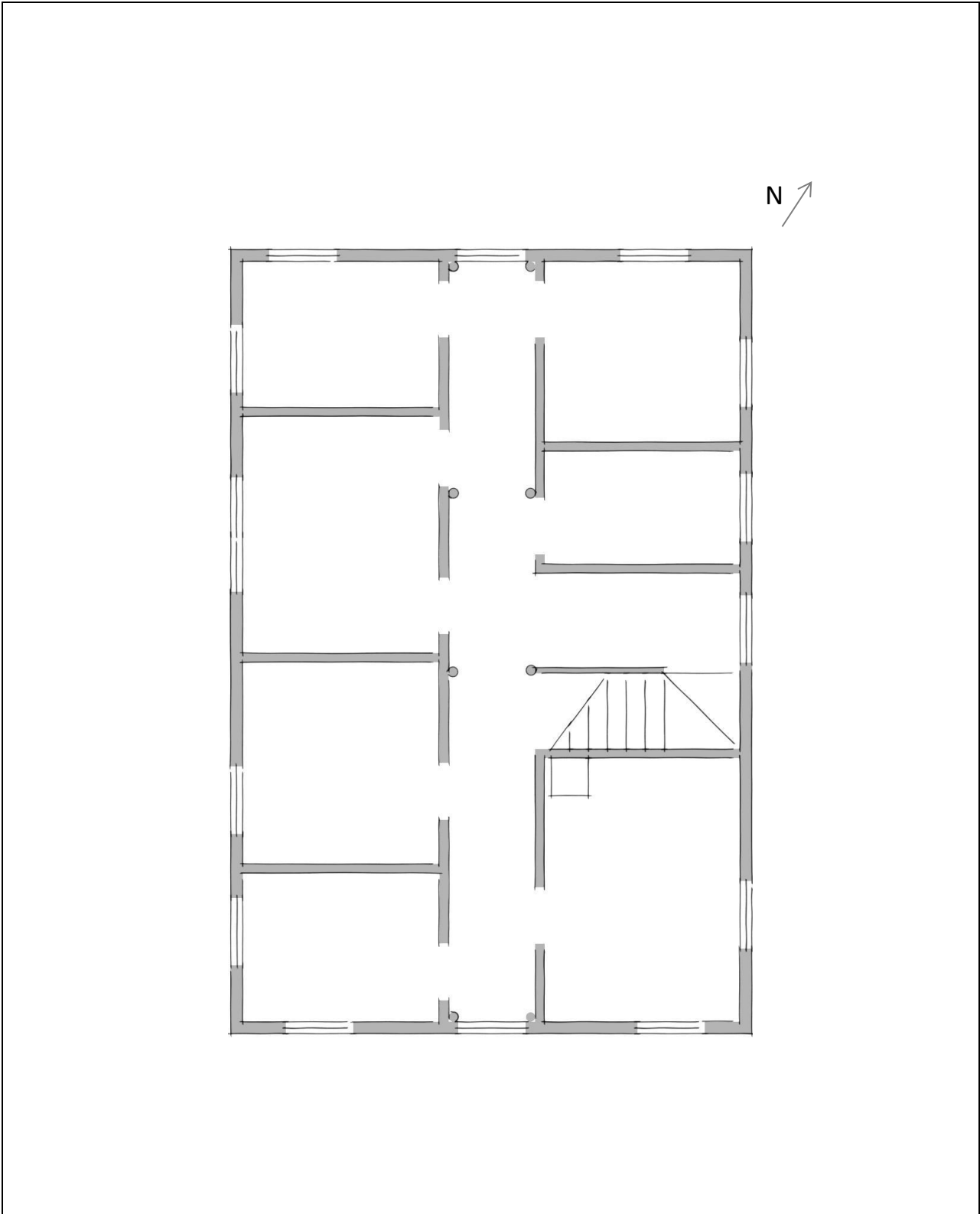
ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET		ELEVATION—Southwest	
Historic American Building Survey	by Charlotte Helmer	Date: August 2014	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



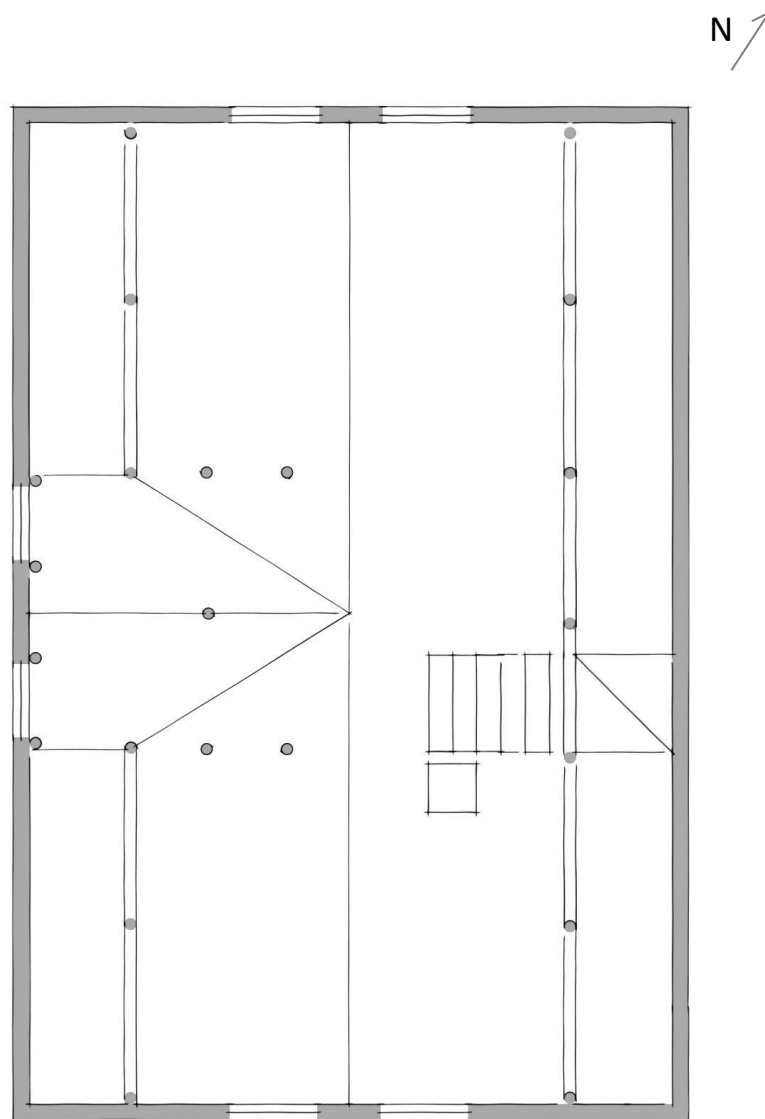
ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET		SECTION	
Historic American Building Survey	by Charlotte Helmer	Date: August 2014	Scale: 3/16" = 1'-0"



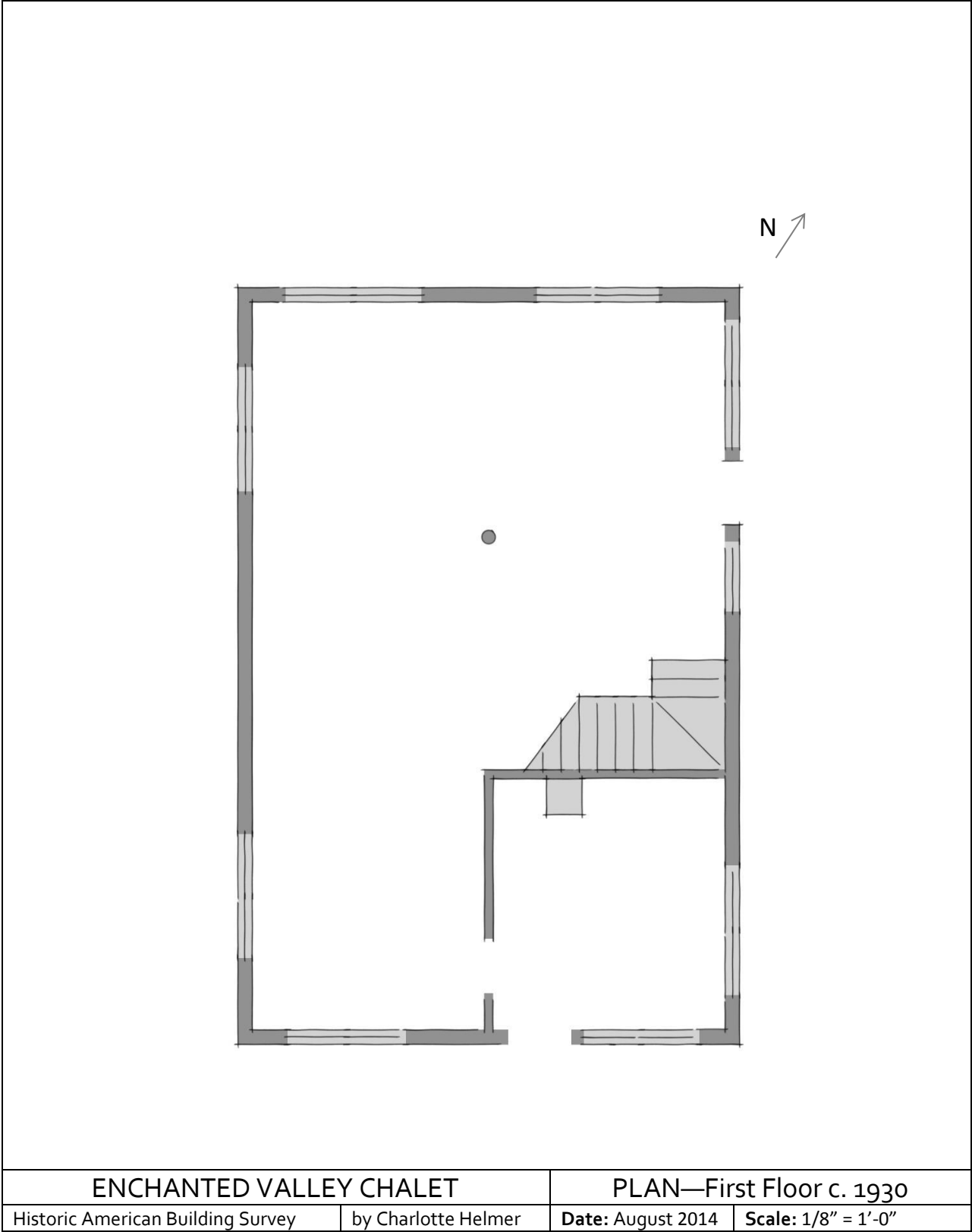
ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET		PLAN—First Floor	
Historic American Building Survey	by Charlotte Helmer	Date: August 2014	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET		PLAN—Second Floor	
Historic American Building Survey	by Charlotte Helmer	Date: August 2014	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET		PLAN—Attic	
Historic American Building Survey	by Charlotte Helmer	Date: August 2014	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

ENCHANTED VALLEY CHALET
East Fork Quinault River Valley
Olympic National Park
Brinnon vicinity
Jefferson County
Washington

HABS WA-273

The prints are 8x10" enlargements from 4x5" negatives.

INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Lani Doely, photographer, May 2014

WA-273-1	Exterior oblique, view facing south
WA-273-2	Exterior facade, view facing southwest
WA-273-3	Exterior oblique, view facing west
WA-273-4	Exterior facade, view facing northwest
WA-273-5	Detail of front porch, view facing northwest
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WA-273-8	Exterior facade, view facing southeast
WA-273-9	Exterior detail of corner with "1930," view facing southeast
WA-273-10	Detail of window removed from the building
WA-273-11	Interior of shelter room north corner of building, view facing northwest
WA-273-12	Interior window opening upstairs, view facing southeast
WA-273-13	Interior of kitchen, view facing north