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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART II

HUMES RANCH

BUILDINGS #699-A and #699-B, CLASS CC

Elwha River Trail
Olympic National Park
Washington

Prepared by
A. Lewis Koue
Architect
April 1969

Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service
Division of Historic Architecture, Branch of Restorations

ON MICROFILM

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DENVER SERVICE CENTER
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Elwha River Trail
Olympic National Park
Washington

A P P R O V A L S H E E T

Recommended

Superintendent Date _____

Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation Date _____

Approved

Regional Director, Western Region Date _____

1907-1908

1907-1908

1907-1908

1907-1908

1907-1908

1907-1908

1907-1908

1907-1908

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P.C.P. and Supplement

14 Photographs

I ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Structure:

Humes Ranch Cabin - Building 699-A.

Humes Ranch Barn - Building 699-B.

(Note: Structures inventory prepared July 28, 1952, and the Master Plan, combine a portion of the barn with the cabin and assigns one number - 699 - to include both structures. These structures actually are two separate buildings and for clarity are referred to herein as 699-A for the Cabin and 699-B for the Barn.)

Wood and Tool Shed - Building 700 (destroyed).

(Note: This structure which is recorded in the structures inventory and the Master Plan no longer exists (May 1968), but by description appears to be the structure once situated at the approximate spot from which the photograph, Illustration No. 5, was taken. It appears in an early photograph of the complex, Illustration No. 2).

B. Proposed Use of Structures:

Original, in-place trail-side interpretive exhibits to assist visitors in their understanding of homestead life in the Olympic Mountains.

C. Provisions for Operating the Structures:

The Cabin will not be open for active visitation. People will view the exterior, surroundings, and peer through the windows. Occasional ranger patrols will provide protection for the structure. Metal-photo signs will interpret the scene. The Barn will shelter farm equipment and may be accessible for emergency shelter.

D. Estimated Cost of Construction Activity:

Construction	\$ 6,000.00
P.S.&S.	1,200.00
Contingency	<u>800.00</u>
	\$ 8,000.00

See PCP M-122-1, appended.

II HISTORICAL DATA

A. Relevant Historical Data:

The cabin and barn were constructed by the original homesteader, William Humes, around the turn of the century, and became the sole property of his brother, Grant, after William returned east upon the death of their father. Grant was a recluse who earned his living by hunting, and operating a guiding and packing service in the Olympic Mountains.

After the death of Grant Humes in 1934, the cabin was occupied by Herb and Lois Crisler who filmed the Walt Disney classic on the Olympic Elk. They may have made minor alterations in the cabin; and bunk accommodations have been constructed in the barn, but photographs, news accounts and human testimony indicate that the structures are fundamentally as they were when occupied by the Humes brothers.

During their time, the region was still an untamed wilderness, and few settlers preceded the Humes into that area of the Olympic Mountains. The ranch is of historical significance due to the very few remaining structures representing pioneer life in the region.

B. Relevant Illustrative Documentation:

Illustration No. 1, appended, shows Grant Humes standing in front of the cabin, and Illustration No. 2 shows the complex of structures at the site. Comparing these with

Illustration No. 5, taken in 1968, no change in configuration of the structures from the earlier photographs is evident.

See historic research document on Humes Ranch, dated January 31, 1968, by Benjamin Levy, for more detailed historical documentation.



III ARCHITECTURAL DATA

A. Record Drawings of Existing Conditions:

See appended drawings from measurements and photographs by the National Park Service, May 1968.

B. Photographs of Existing Conditions:

See appended photographs.

C. Detailed Description of Fabric, Materials, Construction and Existing Conditions:

The cabin consists of one room constructed of logs approximately 15 feet wide by 18 feet long (exterior dimensions); and a kitchen to the rear, the same width and approximately 10'-9" deep constructed with a sapling frame and vertical weatherboarding. The roof of the log section is constructed of split cedar shakes secured to purlins bearing on the gable end walls with the additional support of rafters at mid-section. It appears that sapling tie poles extended across the room probably supporting a ceiling of sorts. (One such pole appears in Illustration No. 7.) The gable roof over the kitchen is similar but lower than that over the log section and extends over the rear porch the width of the cabin. A porch six feet deep with a hipped roof extends the width of the cabin at front. The spring line of the roof in the log section is approximately 7'-6". The floor consists of one-inch plank of random width and length secured to six-inch puncheon sleepers resting on



earth. The kitchen has a rough ceiling at a height of 6'-8". A larder is built into one corner of the room.

The log section has one window 5'-7" wide by 2'-7" high, originally containing bi-parting sliding wood sash. (The "ghost" of this sash is readily discernible on the window sill.) There is an entrance door 2'-8" x 6'-0" leading to the kitchen. Another door, 3'-0" x 6'-0" opens opposite a door to the barn which is separated from the cabin by approximately 16 inches. Further research should determine if this doorway dates to the Humes' period.

The openings in the kitchen consist of one door 2'-9" x 6'-0" opening to the porch, one bi-parting sliding window 4'-8" x 2'-9" also opening to the porch, and one hinged window 2'-0" x 2'-7" in the westerly wall. All existing doors are hand made.

A chimney constructed of special concrete blocks 14"x14"x8" with a special interlocking joint layed up without mortar has been installed in the thickness of the log wall with flue openings serving the kitchen and the log cabin. Spaced roof purlins near this chimney would indicate that they once supported a metal chimney and were charred by overheating of the chimney collar. See Illustration No. 7.

The log walls are assembled with dovetail joints at the corners. A hand made gutter, badly decayed, extends along

the eaves of the cabin between the cabin and the barn. No exterior or interior paint finish is evident.

A barn approximately 28'-6" x 17'-6" adjoins the cabin, but separated from it by 16 inches. This structure is of pole and girt construction with split cedar shake roof and siding and earth floor. Illustration No. 8. Presently, the interior has been adapted with bunks constructed of saplings with plywood decks.

Water shedding off the cabin roof and the barn which has been unable to drain from between the buildings due to accumulation of debris has caused the logs of the cabin to decay badly.

The frame of the barn is in fair condition except for the bottoms of posts. Some of the shake siding has been removed. Both the cabin and barn are good examples of handcrafted construction with local timber by a logical application of engineering principles by a layman in a pioneering situation.

D. Architectural Description of Proposed Construction Activity:

The cabin, kitchen and porches shall be restored to a sound condition with all decayed and missing elements replaced, and building leveled up. The building shall be enclosed with job-built doors as per original. Sliding sash without glass shall be reinstalled and windows shall be covered with 1" x 2" mesh hardware cloth to thwart vandals.



The barn shall be made structurally sound by repairing structural members. Bottoms of posts shall be spliced as necessary to eliminate decay. Shake roof and siding shall be repaired. Barn may be left accessible for emergency shelter, and bunks shall remain until future determination for other use. Like materials for the restoration of cabin and barn shall be garnered from the local forest.

The fences, shed and other out-buildings of record will not be reconstructed under this program, but shall be reserved for future consideration.

See notes on appended drawings for more detailed description of proposed work.

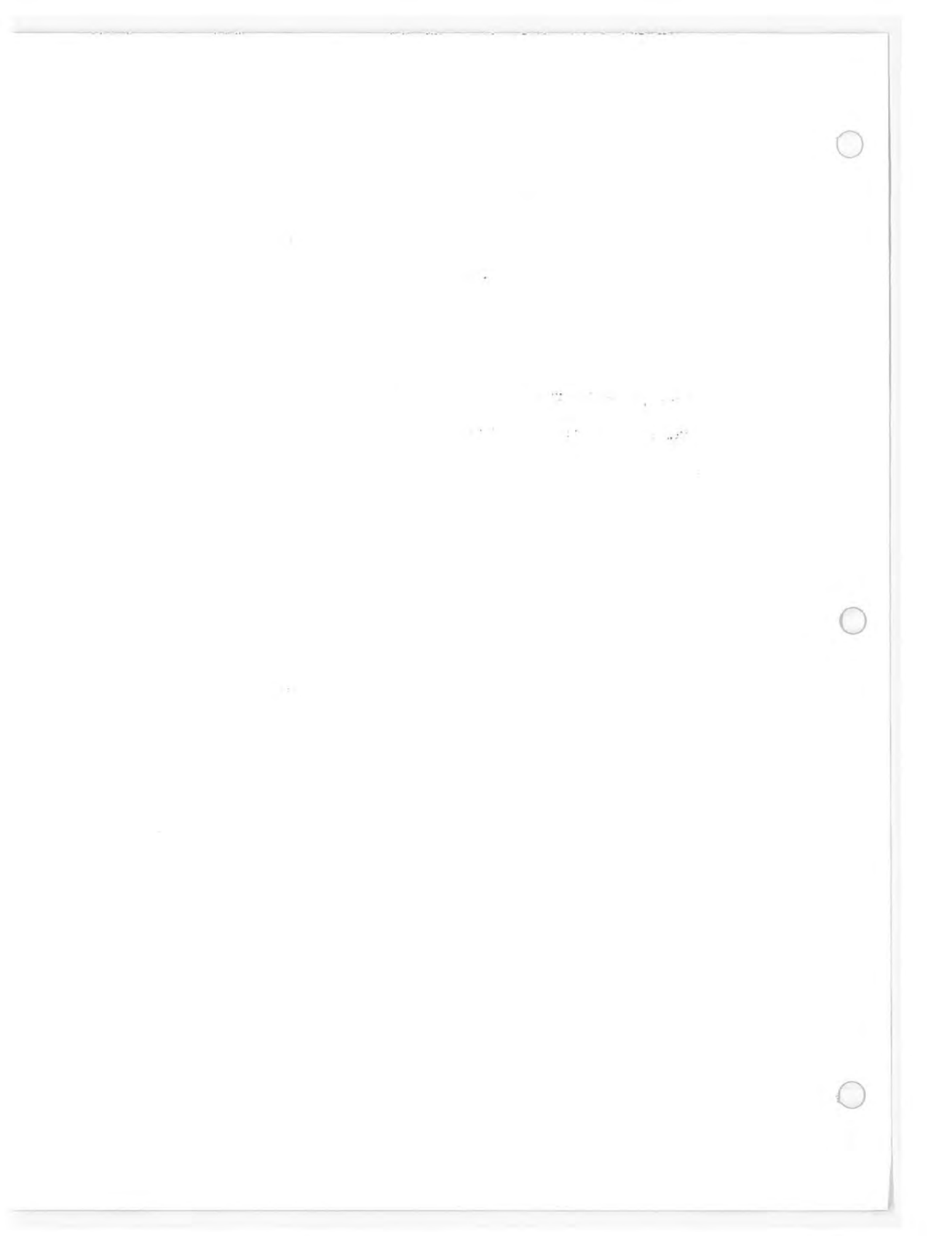
IV ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

No archeological survey of the site has been made nor contemplated. However, diligence should be exercised during restoration activity to preserve any artifacts uncovered. Exploration should be made of the small pit just inside the entrance to the cabin in an effort to determine its size and significance. Farm implements and the old gasoline-powered saw should be removed from the yard to the shelter of the barn.

V LANDSCAPE DATA

The cabin and barn occupy the southern extremity of a gently sloping natural mountain terrace comprising approximately one half acre on the easterly side of the narrow Elwha River Valley. This terrace is situated 100 feet or more above the flood plane where crops were planted and domestic animals grazed, and which was reached by a crude roadway (now reduced to a trail) cut into the rather steep embankment. The terrace is served by a spring emanating from the mountainside. A small dam impounding water (now silted in) is situated at an elevation which would provide a flow of water by pipe or wood flume to the cabin. Presently, the water flows in an uncontrolled manner across the former yard. The flow should be placed under control. The principal view is to the west across the narrow Elwha Valley toward rugged terrain. The site is reached by the Elwha River Trail approximately 2-1/2 miles from the mountain road at Whiskey Bend just south and east of Lake Mills.

Old photographs show fences and other outbuildings, the reconstruction of which is not contemplated at this time. Two fruit trees, planted by Humes--an apple and a plum tree--should be preserved.



PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

NO.	TO
2	Director
2	WFO
1	DCSC
1	Park

1. STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT'S REQUIREMENTS, PROPOSED WORK, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FACETS OF THE PARK PROGRAM. (Provide detail data for "Management Information" on Form 10-411a, Supplemental Sheet and attach.)

The Humes Ranch is listed in the inventory of Historic Structures qualifying it for rehabilitation. The log cabin with split shake roof is run down from neglect and exposure to the elements. Some vandalism has also occurred. The foundation and floor sags due to deterioration of wood in contact with the ground. The building is a fine example of a pioneer cabin built around 1897.

The architectural and historical research and other data of the report to be undertaken by the Division of Historic Studies, WASO.

2. ADVANCE REQUIREMENTS DATA

LAND STATUS Government-owned	MASTER PLAN NO. NP-OLY-2209-D	APPROVAL DATE 5/31/54
PCP NUMBERS OF PREVIOUSLY COMPLETE PORTIONS	INTERRELATED & DEPENDENT PROJECT PCP NUMBERS	
INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS APPROVAL DATA		DATE

WATER RIGHT NEEDS & STATUS

RESEARCH NEEDS & STATUS

RSP sent to WASO 11/8/66 for review and approval

OTHER

3. RECOMMENDED BY SUPERINTENDENT (Signature & Date)

(SGD) DELMER M. ARMSTRONG FEB 24 1967

4. APPROVED BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR (Signature & Date)

By: /s/ John W. Henneberger 3/21/67
Acting Regional Programs Officer

5. LOCATION WITHIN AREA OR TERMINI

Elwha Valley

7. REGION

Western

8. PARK

Olympic National Park

9. PROJECT

Restore and Rehabilitate Humes Ranch Cabin**Clallam**

(County)

Washington

(State)

6. BLDG. OR RT.# AND SEC.

Bldg. No. 699

10. PCP INDEX NO.

M-122-1

CLASS ☐ (A) - Estimate based on working Drawings
 CLASS ☐ (B) - Estimate based on preliminary plans
 CLASS ☒ (C) - Estimate based on similar facilities in other parks Day Labor

P.S. & S. by -
 BPR ☐ NPS ☒

ESTIMATE

ITEM	QUANTITY	COST
Construction to restore and rehabilitate Humes Cabin, including Conting. & PS & S.		8,000
<u>Historical and Architectural Research</u>		
Professional services of historian and historical architect	\$1,000	
Travel	300	
Photostats, Photographs, supplies, etc.	370	
Report preparation	200	
Total Research costs	\$1,870	
Contingencies	250	
PS&S	380	
	\$2,500	
RESEARCH ESTIMATE APPROVED:		
(Asst. Director, Resource Studies)	(Date)	
CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE APPROVED:		
(SGD.) ROBERT H. COOMBS	JUN 12 1967	
(EOB) (Design Office Chief)	(Date)	
INTERPRETIVE ESTIMATE APPROVED:		
(Asst. Regional Director, Operations)	(Date)	
ESTIMATE TOTALS		
RESEARCH.....		\$ 2,500
Construction.....		
Plans, Surveys, and Supervision.....		
Contingencies		
CONSTRUCTION SUB TOTAL		8,000
INTERPRETIVE SUB TOTAL (100%)		
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 10,500



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

PARK Olympic	FACILITY Humes Ranch Cabin	P.C.P. NO. M-122-1
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1. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

2. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

1. Level building. Replace deteriorated foundation posts. Set on stone or concrete block. Apply preservative treatment against insects and rot.
2. Replace windows, doors, shelves and floors as required.
3. Replace roof.
4. Replace fences.
5. Clean up grounds and raze old sheds.

Day labor project.

The building is located 2-1/2 miles by trail from the Whiskey Bend trailhead in the Elwha Valley.





- Illustration No. 1: Grant Humes standing in front of his cabin and barn, Building 699, A. and B. Date unknown. Source, Ruby El Hult, Untamed Olympics.



Illustration No. 2: Humes homestead with Building #700, Wood and Tool Shed (now destroyed), left center. Rubbish in foreground is the fencework. Date unknown. Files of Olympic National Park.





Illustration No. 3: Humes Barn on the pasture beneath the cabin. The crowbars and hammers of the Student Conservation Program soon finished the job of demolition that time and weather began. Date unknown. Files of Olympic National Park.





Illustration No. 4: Alleged greenhouse at the Humes homestead.
At one time used as a privy. Taken 1967. Files of the Division
of History.





Illustration No. 5: Present view of Cabin and Barn.



Illustration No. 6: Close-up of west side of Cabin.





Illustration No. 7: Interior of Cabin. Note charred purlins that appear to have once supported a metal chinmey.





Illustration No. 8: Interior view showing construction of barn roof.



Illustration No. 9: Connection - Kitchen wing to Cabin.

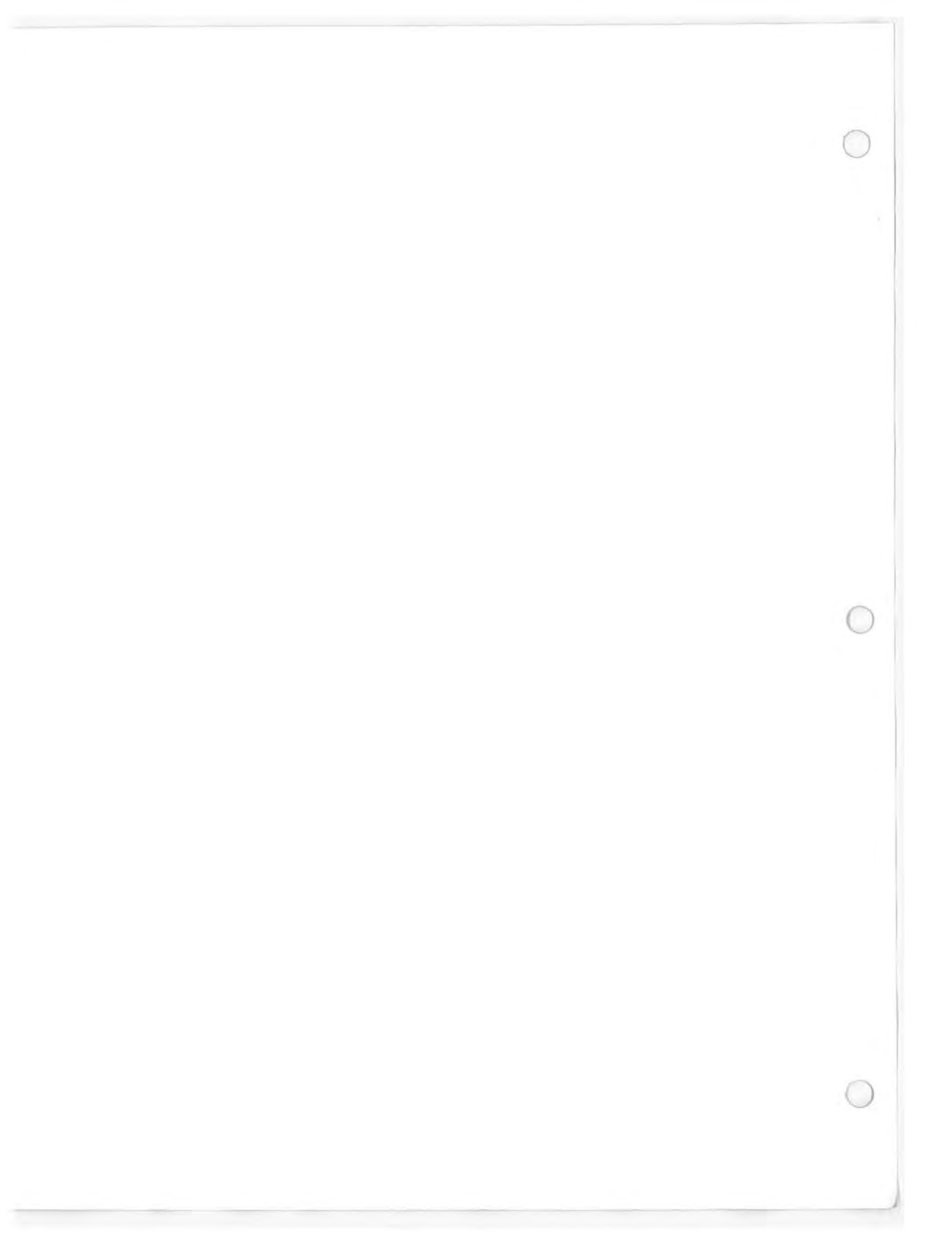




Illustration No. 10: Condition of logs - westerly side at entrance.



Illustration No. 11: Detail, corner joints of logs.



Illustration No. 12: View of interior toward front entrance.
Note decay of floor construction from contact with earth.



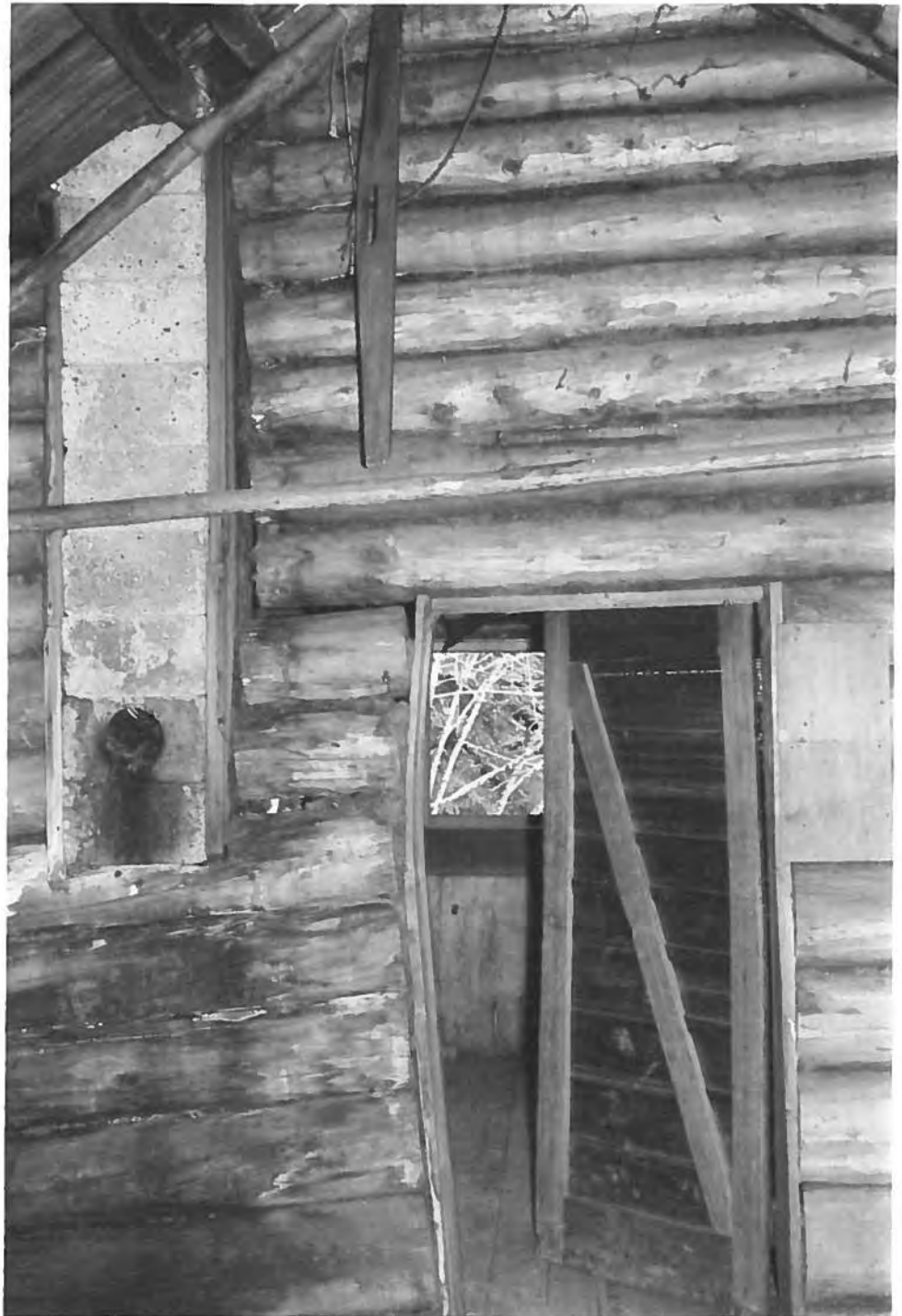


Illustration No. 13: View of interior toward Kitchen.





Illustration No. 14: Detail of front porch construction.

