

historic structure report

TOWER HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT
HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DATA

D-3

WHISKEYTOWN



NATIONAL RECREATION AREA / CALIFORNIA

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historic structure report

Tower House Historic District

Historical And Architectural Data Section

WHISKEYTOWN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA / CALIFORNIA

BY ANNA COXE TOOGOOD
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DENVER SERVICE CENTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MAY 1973

Ac 30056

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I. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tower House District, a fragile community of abandoned structures in a pastoral setting at the western fringe of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, once thrived as the heart of a gold mining community as well as a link in a chain of mining sites along river and creek beds north to Yreka which collectively contained gold deposits second only to California's famous Mother Lode. Strategically located on the road from Shasta--the transportation hub of Northern California--and at the junction of the two principal roads leading to the French Gulch, Trinity, and Yreka gold fields, the Tower House hotel received and served a continuous flood of travelers during the peak years of the gold rush. Later in the century the Tower House attracted visitors on its own merits as one of the favorite resorts of Northern California.

Levi H. Tower and his brother-in-law, Charles Camden, settled the site in the early 1850's and rapidly won acclaim as prosperous and benevolent pioneers of Shasta County. In a barren countryside rendered dry and dusty by scorching summers, Tower planted extensive orchards, gardens, and ornamental shade trees. In 1853 he constructed the Tower House, a commodious three-story hostelry complete with the best accommodations, lavish menus, and sturdy corrals. Later, Tower and two other citizens provided the necessary funds for the construction of the first wagon road over 13 miles of rugged, mountainous terrain from Shasta to the Tower House, and he cooperated in efforts to extend the wagon road north to Yreka. At his untimely death in 1865, the Tower House had achieved a reputation as a long-established hospitable oasis, and had given its name to the surrounding community which had grown large enough to be represented as an electoral district in the county. Tower himself was widely recognized as one of the leading citizens in the area.

Charles Camden set his sights on the gold nuggets of Clear Creek which flowed by his property only yards from his front door. Priding himself for his enterprising nature, Camden built over five miles of ditches and a network of toms and flumes to facilitate his placer mining. In addition, he opened one of the only sawmills in the county prior to 1855. By 1860 Camden had achieved wealth and had begun to demonstrate a civic and economic interest

in the construction of a new wagon road from Shasta. Completed in 1864, the Camden Turnpike greatly facilitated the heavy traffic to the gold fields farther north. For fifty years this road bore his name and reminded travelers of his major contribution to the development of Northern California.

In 1919 the Tower House burned to the ground, leaving only its foundations. The only remains of this historic district today--the dilapidated Camden House, its outbuildings, and numerous structures related to the agricultural and mining developments of the last decades of the 19th century--stand in a precarious location and in a jeopardized condition. The present appearance of the district belies its historic status, and recommendations that the National Park Service preserve this microcosm of regional and state history have been strongly stated in this historic structures report.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

NAME OF PROJECT: Preservation of the Tower House Historic District

<u>BUILDING NAME:</u>	<u>NUMBER:</u>
El Dorado Mine, Residence	85
El Dorado Mine, Stamp Mill	94
El Dorado Mine, Shed	95
El Dorado Mine, Greenhouse	101
Camden House	155
Camden House, Guest House	156
Camden House, Servant's Quarters	157
Camden House, Pump House	158
Camden House, Wood Shed	159
Camden House, Carriage House	160
Camden House, Garage	161
Shed (French Gulch Road)	162
Mill Creek Tenant Farmhouse	163
Mill Creek Barn	164
Clean-Out House (Irrigation System)	165
Water Storage Tank (" ")	166

The structures listed above are classified as 3rd Order of Significance. They have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Levi Tower graveyard, and the piping, trestles and other objects associated with the irrigation system are also included in the project.

PROPOSED TREATMENT:

The district will be preserved to commemorate and recall the pioneering activities and way of life of Charles Camden and Levi Tower, beginning in 1850. This will include both rehabilitation of structures and selective re-establishment of landscape features, thus maintaining continuity of the pleasant pastoral quality of this late 19th century settlement, a surviving oasis in the hot, dry countryside characteristic of the area since its first development.

The period treated is from 1850 to 1913, the year after Camden's death. The latter date would include all historic structures on

the site. Necessary emergency stabilization measures have been recommended to the park.

OPERATION:

The district will be a day-use area, primarily for historic interpretation at the Camden House and grounds. Management functions will be accommodated in the Camden House and elsewhere. Access and parking will be located away from the historic grounds.

Historic and nature trails will be developed, and wagon rides will be provided as a transport system and interpretive experience. Riding horses will be available, with access to a hiker-horseback trail into the back country as called for in the master plan. Visitors will have the opportunity to pan for gold in Clear Creek. A picnic area will be created.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS:

No cooperative agreements presently exist. However, such an agreement should be established with the nearby Shasta State Historical Monument, as recommended in the master plan.

A concession contract will also be necessary for wagon rides and saddle horses.

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The district is at the extreme northwestern corner of the recreation area, about 16 miles from Redding, county seat of Shasta County. Bordering the south side of California Highway 299 at French Gulch Road, near the confluence of Clear, Willow, and Mill Creeks, it contains the park's most significant historic structures. Whiskeytown itself and most of its related historic sites are covered by the waters of Whiskeytown Lake, created by the dam built in 1963 at the park's east end.

The Camden House and immediate outbuildings, until 1970 abandoned and deteriorating, have been altered several times over the period 1852-1913. Two other key structures--the Tower House hotel and the covered bridge--are gone. None of the structures, nor the area itself, is sufficiently significant to justify

restoration or reconstruction. Thus it is recommended as practicable that the structures be repaired and the interiors modified to accommodate modern park needs. In addition, the overgrown grounds should be cleared and limited reintroduction of significant landscape features accomplished, to suggest the development and way of life that were characteristic of this area.

Emphasis in treatment should be on the 1900-1913 period. Nineteen hundred was the year when the major building, the Camden House, reached its final form as Camden, its builder and owner, last knew it. Shortly after this he returned to Oakland and visits to Shasta County were rare. His daughter, Mrs. Grace Richards, (who was deeded the house in 1899) made the last changes to this house and built the last significant structures in 1913.

The irrigation system now being used by the park to revive the natural features in the historic district is an outgrowth of the vital and extensive system developed by Camden and Tower. It should continue to function both as a practical operating system and as an interpretive device.

Still operated by Frank C. Bickford when he sold it to the National Park Service in 1968, the El Dorado Mine, started in 1885, is one of the few surviving mines in this area operating over so long a period. The stamp mill and associated structures and apparatus should be rehabilitated and demonstrations of the mining process continued as an interesting experience for visitors.

The concept of historic preservation here is of a place which matured and evolved over the years and embraced such diverse and widespread features as houses, a hotel, barns, streams, bridges, an irrigation system, a mine and a gravesite--all linked by orchards and other attractive natural features. What is proposed is an attempt to sustain or recapture the pleasant, evocative feeling and character of this place, both by creating a sense of continuity through time and by emphasis on significant aspects of principal structures, particularly the Camden House. Attention is also given to the anticipated future needs of the park in the practical use of buildings and other facilities.

A few words of clarification are needed in regard to the name of the district. Actually, the Tower House, a three-story,

21-room frame hotel dating from 1853 and located near the Camden House burned down in 1919. The buildings and other structures existing today are principally associated with Charles Camden, partner (chiefly in gold mining) 1850-52, and brother-in-law of Levi Tower and an important business and financial figure. However, Tower was the builder and operator of the Tower House, developer of the extensive gardens and orchards around it, and a popular host, and the site became a well-known stagecoach stop and social center. Thus the place-name Tower House continues to the present.

The master plan and environmental impact statement for Whiskeytown National Recreation Area are now being prepared for public meetings. The plan identifies two potential actions which would seriously affect the district.

First, the Bureau of Reclamation is considering the creation of a new reservoir above Whiskeytown Lake which would inundate both French Gulch, an historic mining center north of the Tower House Historic District, and the district itself.

Second, the California Division of Highways proposes to widen Highway 299 fronting the district to a 4-lane undivided highway from the district to the east end of the park. This would include a huge interchange structure at French Gulch Road. Not only would this road construction create a shattering impact on the character, scale and atmosphere of the district, but it would markedly increase the already serious noise factor in a serene pastoral setting, particularly from logging trucks.

The National Park Service should oppose both of these regional plans and press for alternate solutions to save this historic place.

The historic and recreational quality of the area would be drastically lowered, since it is much too small to absorb the noise, visual, and air pollution that would result from this gross intrusion. The present high speed traffic, dangerous now, will become an even greater hazard.

The National Park Service should make a vigorous effort to persuade the California Highway Department to relocate this proposed freeway and interchange away from the historic district.

The Service's position will be strengthened by the fact that the proposed facility will front directly on a district soon to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. The required environmental impact statement for the freeway project will give the Service a further opportunity to present its objections, although this will be late in the day.

In the interim the Service should discuss with the county and the State the establishment of effective cautionary signs and possibly traffic controls to ensure safe access to the historic district.

Should the proposed reservoir become a reality despite all Service efforts, preservation of the district would cease to be a consideration--it would simply disappear. On the other hand, should the highway proposal be carried out, the Service would still have a responsibility for the district and its structures. The scope and nature of preservation, development and operation of the district would then have to be carefully weighed against the degrading impact of this construction.

In regard to French Gulch, it is recommended that the Service consider extension of the park boundary to include this hamlet as part of the district, as recommended in the master plan. The French Gulch Historic District was included on the National Register of Historic Places in March, 1972.

During master plan reviews at the Denver Service Center it was pointed out that there is no administrative or contact center--or interpretive center--for visitors entering the park from the west. The park headquarters and visitor center are located at the extreme eastern end of the park. Also, the existing ranger stations are located on and oriented to the lake and its activity. It is therefore suggested that the Camden House be considered as the site of a future reception, administrative and protection center or sub-headquarters, as well as the major site for historic interpretation. The natural attractions of this vicinity and its evidence of cultivation make it a particularly suitable location for this use, as well as a logical center for natural history interpretation, as desired by the park.

The authors have discussed their findings and recommendations with the consultant firm engaged to prepare the park master plan,

Theodore Osmundson and Associates, San Francisco. A copy of this report will be provided to this firm prior to completion of the final master plan.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Preservation of Structures and Grounds:

1. Rehabilitation and interior alteration, Camden House and adjacent outbuildings, c. 1913.
2. Re-creation of Camden House grounds including fences as close to available photographs and recollections as possible, c. 1913.
3. Restoration of trace of historic toll road to Shasta.
4. Reestablishment of walnut trees along the old toll road.
5. Construction of new (non-historic) covered bridge over Clear Creek.
6. Reestablishment of orchard near Tower House site and back field orchard.
7. Rehabilitation and interior alteration, tenant farmhouse and barn, c. 1913.
Farmhouse: residence and ranger station.
Barn: horse stable, concessioner office, wagon storage, N.P.S. maintenance.
8. Rehabilitation of El Dorado Mine.
9. Construction of new footbridge (non-historic) across Willow Creek to the back field.
10. Rehabilitation of irrigation system.
11. Rehabilitation of Levi Tower graveyard.
12. Reestablishment (long-range) of orchard across California 299, east of French Gulch Road.
13. Creation of a corral and/or pasture area near the barn.

Archeological Investigations:

- a. Tower House foundations reportedly covered over by Camden's daughter, Grace Richards.
- b. Sawmill which stood until c. 1950 on the edge of Mill Creek, just to the south of the tenant farmhouse.
- c. California Stage Company's stable foundations
c. 100 yards northwest of the Tower House site.
(Any remains may have been destroyed by the construction of the present highway.)
- d. Foundations of presumed blacksmith shop at French Gulch Road.
- e. Foundations and/or remains from barn complex in field east of French Gulch Road.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PACKAGE ESTIMATING DETAIL

REGION Western	PARK Tower House Historic District Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
PACKAGE NUMBER 123	PACKAGE TITLE Restoration of Historic Scene

(If more space is needed, use plain paper and attach)

ITEM	QUANTITY	COST
Rehabilitation and Interior Alteration		
Camden House 70,000		
Guest House 8,000		
Servants' Quarters 10,000		
Farmhouse 20,000		
Barn 45,000	L.S.	153,000
Rehabilitation		
Carriage House 12,000		
Woodshed 4,000		
Garage 5,000		
Pump House 500		
Tower Graveyard 500		
Irrigation System 3,500		
El Dorado Mine 3,500	L.S.	29,000
Stabilize Shed and Stone Walls	L.S.	4,000
Construct Foot Bridge 5,000		
Construct Covered Bridge 45,000	L.S.	50,000
Site Improvements	L.S.	60,000
Roads and Trails	L.S.	20,000

SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES		CLASS OF ESTIMATE	
		☐ A Working Drawings	☐ B Preliminary Plans
		☒ C Similar Facilities	
Proj. Type		Totals from Above B & U R & T	
52	Museum Exhibits		XXXXX
62	Audio-Visual		XXXXX
89	Ruins Stabilization		XXXXX
91	Construction	326,000	20,000
92	Utility Contracts		XXXXX
ESTIMATES APPROVED (Signature)		(title)	(date)

PACKAGE ESTIMATING DETAIL (cont.)

REGION: Western

PARK: Tower House Historic District
Whiskeytown National Recreation
Area

PACKAGE NUMBER: 123

PACKAGE TITLE: Restoration of Historic
Scene

Utilities*

L.S.

30,000

*Sewerage Systems Included with Buildings.

TOTAL NET PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

346,000

-SCHEDULING-

C: Year of
Construction

DEVELOPMENT RELATED PROJECT TYPES		C-3	C-2	C-1	
07	Construction Drawings B&U				
07	Construction Drawings R&T				
12	Project Supervision (FHWA Projects)				
21	Construction Layout & Supervision B&U				
21	Construction Layout & Supervision R&T				
26	As Constructed Drawings B&U				
26	As Constructed Drawings R&T				
36	Historic Structures Const. Drawings			51,900	
37	Historic Structures Const. Supervision				41,520
43	Archeological Salvage				
51	Museum Exhibit Design				
61	Audiovisual Design				
55	Wayside Exhibit Design				
<u>Project Planning Total:</u>					
Advance Planning Project Types					
05	Surveys				
06	Comprehensive Design (Prel.Design)				
14	Utility Negotiations				
15	Special Studies				
34	Historic Furnishings Report				
35	Historic Structures Report (HIST)	COMPLETED	E.Y.	73	
35	Historic Structures Report (Archit.)	"	"	"	
12	Archeological Research		6,000		
ALL OTHER PROJECT TYPES		1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
01	New Area Study				
02	Existing Area Study				
03	Development Concept Plan				
04	Interpretive Prospectus				
08	Boundary Surveys & Monumenting				
15	Special Studies(Non-Develop. Related)				
16	E.I.S. - DCP's & Master Plans				
17	Service-wide Projects				
18	Wilderness Studies				
31	Archeological Investigations				
32	Park History Study				
33	Special History Report				
51	Museum Exhibit Design (Rehab)				
53	Museum Exhibit Operations				
54	Curatorial Services				
55	Wayside Exhibits (Rehab)				
61	Audiovisual Design (Rehab)				
63	Audiovisual Maintenance				
72	Sales Folders				
73	Books				
75	Gen. Publications				
76	Posters				
77	Special Publications				
	Other				
	Other				

HISTORICAL DATA

By

Anna Coxé Toogood

III. HISTORICAL DATA

PREFACE

During my visit to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and Redding, California, numerous people assisted me in my research on the Tower House District. Superintendent Mitchell at the park and his staff all were most interested and willing to help, and several good leads were gleaned from their advice. I also fondly appreciate the park employees' keen sense of humor which brought a welcome light exchange in the typically intense schedule of field trips.

In the community of Redding several people who had taken an interest in the Tower House provided me with information on and insight to its history. In particular, Judge Richard B. Eaton, Edwin A. Henriques of the Shasta County Historical Society, Jean Frost of the Shasta State Historical Monument, Kitty Rodgers of the Recorder of Deeds Office, Shasta County Courthouse, and Edward Petersen and Veronica Satorious, local historians, all offered me their time, assistance, and research materials for which I am most grateful.

Mrs. Herbert Hubbard of Paradise, California, the great-granddaughter of Charles Camden, granted me an interview which took 5 hours of her time, and which added to my research not only interesting written documentation, but also several very valuable historic photographs used in this report. Mrs. Hubbard's cooperation and assistance facilitated my research immeasurably, and helped to furnish much of the necessary evidence to support the recommendations in this report.

Members of the staff at the California State Library and Archives in Sacramento, and at the University of California at Berkely also were most helpful to me during my research. Generally speaking, I found Californians to be most receptive to research efforts, and this fact enhances my expectations for the forthcoming research project on the historic resources of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area scheduled in this fiscal year.

A quality appearance of a report generally stimulates the reader's attention and upgrades his level of absorption. For the excellent arrangement and typing performance of this report, as well as for numerous punctuation and editorial corrections made, I have Linda Wedel to commend and thank sincerely.

INTRODUCTION

GOLD ON TRINITY RIVER. Alta California, San Francisco, August 2, 1849.*

A party of young men have returned from an exploring tour through the region intersected by the coast range of mountains, and report having discovered gold on a river emptying into Trinity Bay, about five hundred miles north of San Francisco, and near the boundary line of the territory. But very little is known respecting this portion of California.

CLEAR CREEK. Sacramento Transcript, August 13, 1850.*

It was our fortune yesterday to fall in with a gentleman who has passed a few months on Clear Creek, in the northern part of California, and near Mount Tshasti. . . . Our informant states that there are extensive ravine diggings all along each side of Clear Creek . . . very rich.

The preceding two newspaper clippings provide an introduction to the main characters of the Tower House Historical District--Levi H. Tower and Charles Camden. Intrigued and captivated by the wealth available in the unexplored regions to the north, they were among the first to join the "49ers" on the Trinity River in the spring of 1850, and among the first to settle and develop sections of Shasta County.

*These newspaper articles announcing the gold rush of Northern California have been copied by Mae Helene Boggs and included in her collection of historical clippings published as, My Playhouse Was A Concord Coach, (Oakland, 1942), pp. 30 and 60.

TWO NOTABLE PIONEERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

A. A PARTNERSHIP IS FORMED

In the spring of 1850 Charles Camden, Levi Tower, and John Hindman formed a verbal partnership to make an expedition to the highly publicized Trinity gold mine area of Northern California. They took passage from San Francisco on a brig, the "Jacob M. Ryerson," and disembarked some weeks later in Humboldt Bay. Their explorations took them through largely virgin territory unclaimed by the hordes of miners already sifting the waters of the Trinity River to the northeast. En route to the Trinity area, Tower and Camden found themselves distracted from their mission to get directly to the mining sites by coming across an opportune location to set up a ferry. Having staked a claim for the land and strapped together their first log raft to carry members of their party across the river, and having left Hindman behind to run the ferry, Tower and Camden pushed on towards the Trinity country, marking the trail as they journeyed. Writing years later for his autobiography, Charles Camden maintained that, "The trail we then blazed continued the only one from Unionville, or Arcata, to the south fork [of the Trinity River] for forty years and to the present day [1901], perhaps."¹

When they reached the mining area the two partners joined forces with a group of "49ers" who led the band's explorations for gold on the Trinity and Salmon Rivers. Finally, in late October, just before the rainy season set in, Tower and Camden split up, the former returning to Unionville on Humboldt Bay to purchase supplies and mules, while the latter continued on to Shasta County to investigate the mining potentials in that

1. The Autobiography of Charles Camden (San Francisco, 1916), pp. 109-131. A newspaper clipping from the San Francisco Alta California dated May 25, 1850 verifies Camden's claim, for it states, "Last Evening Camden and Tower returned on foot from the mines, having dug successfully . . ." The article was extracted from a letter from Humboldt Bay, dated May 17, 1850. This clipping is printed in Boggs, p. 54.

area. Within a month's time, Camden had decided to send for Tower, who had returned as far as Weaverville to await Camden's word, as prearranged. The location Camden had chosen to prospect was along Clear Creek, near the future site of the Tower House.

According to Camden's recollection, a man named Schneider was then operating a mining supply concession from an 8- x 10-foot log cabin on the Clear Creek location. But few miners were about the area in November of 1850, for the principal mining claims at that season were to the south of Marysville.

Camden immediately constructed his own log lodging on the south side of Clear Creek, about a mile below the Tower House site, and began mining. Tower, in the meantime, made a trip to San Francisco for business, and took with him their 10 mules to carry back supplies from Sacramento. In the winter Camden and his assistants continued mining, while Tower once again left the area, on this occasion to winter the mules in the Sacramento Valley to protect them from Indians. According to Camden, the "tom" and boxes he and his helpers constructed for their mining operations that winter were the first used in Shasta County.

In the spring of 1851 miners began to migrate north again to the rich findings in the "Shasta Flats" or Yreka area. Both Tower and Camden followed this movement to the north, despite the fact that rich diggings had been uncovered in French Gulch and Whiskey Creek nearby; their decision to head north was based on information passed on to them by a mule team captain that supplies carried into the remote Yreka area were fetching a very high price. After making a handsome profit on their sales, the partners did some placer mining of their own en route back to their preferred mining claim on Clear Creek.²

2. Ibid., pp. 133-150. The dictionary defines a "tom" used in mining as "an inclined trough in which gold-bearing earth or gravel is crudely washed; usually called long tom, because it is longer than the rocker."

By the time of their return, it was late April 1851. French Gulch to their north was growing into one of the principal mining locales in Northern California, and Shasta town, only twelve miles east, was emerging as a booming center as well as a crossroads for mining activities throughout the northern territory. Reports such as that printed in the Sacramento Union in June 1851, that seven men had extracted \$10,000 worth of gold in 15 days from Whiskey Creek at Mad Mule Canyon, and that one lump alone was worth \$900, kept the influx of men to the area high.³

Camden and Tower were gradually narrowing down their alternatives; they had decided on the Clear Creek for mining, but needed optimal water capacity to operate the sluice boxes and long toms effectively. They explored the French Gulch mining area, but finding it in full swing with no available water, they tried bars farther south along Brandy Creek. Finally, they concluded that their original location proved to be the most consistently profitable.⁴

The partners closely coordinated on the mining of Clear Creek only for half a year. By the winter of 1852 Tower had begun to turn his interest to new directions. On February 12, 1852, he laid claim to and posted notices for a piece of land today known as the original 160 acres of the Tower House property. His claim specifically included "the trading stand which Samuel Francis formerly owned." Whether this stand was the same mentioned by Charles Camden in 1901 as that owned by a man named Schneider is difficult to conclude. Camden did not, however, mention Samuel Francis, who by deed of April 5, 1852, sold his Clear Creek property, including a "house bridge and all appurtenances," to Levi Tower for the sum of \$575.00 in hand paid.⁵

3. Sacramento Union, June 13, 1851, as quoted in Boggs, p. 85.

4. Camden, Autobiography, pp. 153-4.

5. Deed Book B, p. 54 and Deed Book A, p. 187, Recorder of Deeds Office, Shasta County Courthouse, Redding, California, herein cited, DB, RDO, SCC, Redding, Calif.

The ambiguity concerning Schneider as Camden recalled him in his later life does not distract from Tower's history in the area. He apparently was anxious to obtain full title of the property, for in May of 1852 he expended another \$912.00 to buy the same property from Joseph Roop, the Administrator for John Gilmore, who apparently at some point had been Samuel Francis' partner. This deed described in fuller detail the extent to which the Free Bridge House property had already been developed when Tower purchased it. Specifically, the deed noted that the land stood

at the Crossing of Clear Creek and at the fork of the trail leading from Shasta to Weaverville and to Scotts River likewise lying in the fork of Said Creek together with the Houses Corralls the free bridge and all the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining these premises have heretofore been known as the free bridge House.⁶

Clearly Tower had bought himself a ready-made location with facilities for trade already provided. But it was his input and energy which shortly transformed the roadside property to one of the most popular and profitable public houses around Shasta.

At the purchase, Tower dissolved his partnership with Charles Camden, but did not lessen his close bonds as a friend. Camden, in fact, constructed a small house alongside Tower's, and when Tower's sister, Philena, arrived from Rhode Island to help him with his business, Camden married her. The original business partnership was promptly replaced by a stronger familial one, which proved beneficial to both men during the next decade.⁷

Tower not only gave Camden his sister's hand, but he also gave him, through a grant to Philena, the land on which Camden's house stood. And to complete the happy arrangements, Tower too found himself a woman to take as wife, and together the four were wed on November 11, at the Free Bridge House. Their marriages were the third and fourth to be recorded in the County Courthouse

6. DB A, p. 243, RDO, SCC, Redding, Calif.

7. Camden, pp. 154 and 158.

in Shasta. Philena Tower and Mary Jane Shuffleton, the two women involved, were among the first females to reside in the county; according to the census of 1852, the county had 3,448 men, and only 252 women.⁸

While many of the citizens of Shasta County recorded on the 1852 census were miners shifting from one locality to another (the census officially named nine mining districts), Tower and Camden had acquired the trappings of a permanent community. Indeed, the development they together promoted on the premises attracted more and more settlers, until the Tower House itself eventually became an electoral district for the county.

B. LEVI H. TOWER OF THE TOWER HOUSE

According to Charles Camden's recollection almost fifty years after the fact, the building already on Tower's property in 1852 "was just a long log house containing the bar, dining room and lodging place." Tower apparently immediately set about to enlarge his lodging, which we can only presume was the same structure advertised below as the Free Bridge House, although this name was not at all alluded to by Camden in his memoirs. As Camden further recalled, Tower "put up that fall a kitchen and dining room; in the spring and summer of 1852 he hewed and split (with carpenters from San Francisco under contract), the materials that constitute the present Tower house."⁹

8. DB C, p. 241, RDO, SCC; Alta California, Nov. 17, 1852 as printed in Boggs, pp. 139-40; Index to Men Married, 1852-1904, RDO, SCC; "Shasta County," California Census of 1852, 9, copied under the direction of the Genealogical Records Commission, Daughters of the American Revolution of California, 1935; the figures are for white males and women, as Negroes and Indians were computed separately.

9. Camden, p. 155.

Camden's recollection clashes with the deeds of purchase concerning the dates on Tower's acquisition and construction of his building on the Clear Creek property. Although Camden's account may be inaccurate to detail, the local newspapers of the period do verify Camden's claim that Tower erected a larger structure for the Tower House. On March 26, 1853, the Shasta Courier gave notice of its completion:

Mr. L. H. Tower has also built a large and elegant house at his old stand, the Free Bridge House, a few miles this side of French Gulch. He has long enjoyed the reputation of keeping one of the best hotels north of Shasta.¹⁰

The clipping not only establishes the fact that Tower erected a new structure on the site, but also that he had, by 1853, already gained a regional reputation for his hospitality as a hotel-keeper. Tower's strategic location on the mule trails west and north from Shasta to the rich Trinity diggings, and to their main base, Weaverville, and to Yreka area gold finds, not to speak of his proximity to the gold diggings along Clear Creek north and south of the Tower House, helped to attract a good business. In addition, Tower advertised the Tower House, under his and Jason Tower's name, for close to a decade. The advertisement has provided useful information on the grounds around the Tower House, as well as on the importance of the hotel, for the Tower House ad remained on the front page of the Shasta Courier for years after Shasta had blossomed with grand and luxurious hotels of its own.

The first advertisement to appear in the Courier remained essentially the one used throughout the Tower ownership. Its appearance coincided with the announcement given above of the completion of the Tower House. It said:

TOWER HOUSE. At junction of the Yreka and Weaverville Roads, twelve miles from Shasta. The undersigned would announce to the public and particularly to persons traveling to and from Yreka and Weaverville, that, having leased this long established stand, formerly known as the "Free Bridge House" he is prepared to

10. As printed in Boggs, p. 159.

entertain customers in a style not surpassed by any hotel in Northern California. Having completed his commodious building, and furnished it in the best possible manner, he is enabled to promise the very best accomodations. The table, as heretofore, will always be supplied with the best viands the market furnishes, while from the large garden attached to the premises, all the vegetables grown in this part of the state will be furnished in great abundance. He has also a secure Corral connected with his establishment, and always supplied with an abundance of Barley and Hay.¹¹

From a survey of the existing Shasta Couriers, it appears that this advertisement was reissued several times under Jason Tower's and Levi Tower's names. One series runs the name Jason Tower dated March 1, 1854, while another series, also dated March 1, 1854, bears the given name of Levi, as does the longest series, dated October 18, 1856. The census records for Shasta County do not help to determine the relationship of Jason to Levi, but for the purposes of this report, it is clear they were close kin, working together as one.¹²

Certainly the rapid development of the Tower House as an inn well stocked with luxuries and provisions required the industry and hard labor of more than one man. Within the first year Tower's orchards and gardens had become the talk of the editorial columns in Shasta. One writer in commenting on his satisfaction at seeing some cultivation in

11. Shasta Courier, March 11, 1854, as quoted in Boggs, p. 191.

12. The Tower House advertisement ran consecutively until 1860, and, at least in 1858, the year checked, it also appeared in the Shasta Republican, printed in Shasta. Jason Tower was listed in the 1852 census alongside Levi; he was 26, a farmer, and, like Levi, from Rhode Island. Levi was 31, which would suggest Jason was either a brother or cousin.

the vicinity of Shasta "in many spots which, last summer, wore a dreary and forbidding aspect," noted specifically his delight over the developments at Tower's:

Especially does this remark apply to the property formerly known as the "Free Bridge House." Last year the enterprising proprietor, L.H. Tower, Esq., was living in a house anything else than elegant in appearance, surrounded by a spot of land that failed to attract the admiration of even our poetical eye; now he is in residing [sic.] in a fine and commodious building, and his grounds several acres in extent, are enclosed in good paling fence, and in a high state of cultivation--producing in abundance all the vegetables grown in this section of the state. He has also growing large numbers of peach, apple, pear, cherry, and other fruits. And not the least attraction about his premises are some two or three hundred chickens and several hundred hogs. In short he has a regular old fashioned home . . .¹³

Tower also applied his enterprising nature in other directions to publicize his business, as well as to increase his profits. He began to sell his fruit commercially, and, to promulgate his goods, he either encouraged visits to his gardens, or he offered some of his wares free to newspaper writers. The result was enthusiastic as illustrated by graphic reports such as that published in the Courier in August 1854:

L.H. Tower has several trees in his garden at the Tower House, of but three years growth, now bearing a goodly number of very large peaches. They are almost ripe, and present an appearance as rosy, luscious and tempting as the lips of any 'fair Ophelia' that we wot [sic.] of . . . We also observed in the same garden a large bunch of grapes hanging upon a vine of the present season's growth; while water melons, musk melons, etc. were lying about in rich profusion.¹⁴

13. "Gardening," Shasta Courier, May 28, 1853, p. 2.

14. "A Pleasant Garden to Visit," Shasta Courier, August 19, 1854, p. 2.

The following week the writer, it seems, got his due reward for such a glowing account; he noted in his next column: "We are indebted to our friend, L.H. Tower, for a small basket of the peaches of which we spoke. . . . They were very excellent--of as fine flavor as the best specimens we have eaten in the United States."¹⁵

Besides successfully spreading word of the Tower House through his abundant gardens and orchards, Tower also entertained lavishly at his hotel. It might be supposed that his motivation in part for a gregarious social life was to search for a new wife, for on April 1, 1854, less than two years after his marriage, Tower received a divorce. Whatever the reasons, however, Tower's entertainment certainly provided a local spectacle in a county which still had few roads, few women, and few amenities as known in the eastern states.¹⁶

His announcement of a ball to be held at the Tower House on the fourth of July, 1854, reflected his prosperity as well as his enthusiasm:

I would announce to the public that every preparation is being made to celebrate the approaching anniversary of our nation's birth day, at the "Tower House," In a style worthy of the glorious occasion. Indeed no exertions or expense shall be spared in order to secure a large, as well as a happy gathering. As an earnest of this I will here state that I will run several free coaches down the valley as far as Tehama,

15. Ibid., August 26, 1854, p. 2. In 1855 the Courier featured at least two more articles on Tower's fruit produce. On August 18, one writer noted, "Our friend, L.H. Tower, Esq., of the Free Bridge, presented us a few days since, with several of the largest peaches that we have ever seen in any country. One of them measured some ten inches in circumference."

16. Ibid., April 1, 1854, p. 2. One week later the Courier noted that Mary Jane had remarried to an Adams & Co. stage driver. Ibid., April 8, 1854, p. 2.

for the accommodation of all ladies, and for all those gentlemen who may bring ladies with them. . . .¹⁷

Tower not only hosted at the Tower House but he also served on several boards at Whiskeytown and French Gulch organized to plan other community balls. As if it were a well established fact, one reporter noted about a ball at the Independence Hotel in French Gulch in the fall of 1853, that "The manner in which the supper was gotten up [for over one hundred people] did great credit to the accomplished caterer, Mr. Tower, of the 'Tower House.'"¹⁸

Although the popularity of the Tower House and its rapid development would indicate that Tower expended most of his energy in this sphere, the county records and newspapers clearly bring to light the versatility and extensiveness of Tower's interests. Tower invested heavily in real estate, both in the rapidly expanding county seat of Shasta, and in the more rural lands along the Sacramento River. For a while he joined in a partnership as a rancher, and at the same time he was building and buying hotels in Shasta. His mule teams received mention in the local paper as being among the finest in the region, and presumably Tower was using them for shipping purposes.¹⁹

17. Ibid., May 13, 1854, p. 2. On June 25, 1854, Tower inserted another ad in the Courier, urging all the ladies to avail themselves of his carriages which would be running south all the way to Tehama, in the neighboring county.

18. Ibid., October 29, 1853, p. 2; Tower also served as a manager at the Independence Hotel's ball the next winter. Ibid., January 7, 1854, p. 2; also at the Christmas Ball in Briggsville, Ibid., Dec. 1, 1855, p. 2; also at the opening ball at Mix's Hotel at Whiskey Creek, Ibid., Nov. 17, 1855, p. 3; also at the May Ball at Mix's in Whiskeytown, Ibid., February 25, 1860, p. 2.

19. See Appendix A for a list of Tower's real estate investments. On March 18, 1854, the Shasta Courier (p. 3) posted a notice that the partnership between Tower and Henry Lander in the business of ranching had been dissolved. The Courier also noted on August 4, 1855, the arrival of a six-mule team in Shasta, and compared the team with the "splendid" teams of Messrs. Tower, observing in addition that Towers' teams could match the 8,473-pound shipment of goods brought in that day to town from Red Bluff. Boggs, p. 230.

In addition to his contribution to Northern California as a pioneer cultivator of the hot, dry, and barren countryside, as a promoter of social exchange in a sparsely populated territory, as an optimistic investor in the future of the region through his land acquisitions and real estate development, Tower also made a major contribution to the construction and expansion of wagon roads throughout the wilderness to the north and west of Shasta. Not only was Tower's involvement in road making profitable financially, but it also won him considerable prestige and acclaim as far north as Yreka.²⁰

Tower, of course, had the trade at the Tower House to consider when he helped promote a wagon road from Shasta, but he also had to finance the road from his own pocket. In November of 1853 the Shasta Courier gave Tower and his two principal associates, Mr. Ferington and Mr. Wingate, credit for their expending \$2000 to improve the road from Shasta to Whiskeytown. "Such liberality on the part of individuals," the paper noted, "is deserving of all commendation and we would be glad did the law permit and the county finances justify it, to see these gentlemen at least in part remunerated for their enterprise from the County Treasury."²¹

Two years later, when making a public reply to a public appeal to him for further assistance in road construction, Tower boasted, "When I first located where I now reside, few supposed that wagons would ever reach me, but now stages make regular trips, and with expenditure of a very few thousand dollars, any load could be taken to my place than be hauled to the town of Shasta. This improvement is a result of little more than my individual labor. . . ."²²

20. As late as 1855 one writer for the Courier deplored the hot, barren conditions surrounding Shasta: "To remedy this defect--to change in some degree the appearance of sterility and desolation which reigns about Shasta, every one who owns a lot of ground . . . should . . . plant a few trees around his residence." Shasta Courier, September 1, 1855, p. 2.

21. Ibid., November 19, 1853, p. 2.

22. Ibid., Nov. 17, 1855, p. 2.

The request of 1855 for Tower's assistance in road making came from a group of gentlemen "selected by the majority of the inhabitants of Scott's Valley, and the mining districts of Siskiyou generally," for a wagon road from Yreka across Scott's mountain and Trinity Mountain to Shasta.²³ Tower drafted an elaborate response and published it, as he did the requestors' letter, in the Shasta Courier. His reaction demonstrated his foresighted and enterprising nature, as well as his sincere concern for the development of the region. Among his comments were:

I am pleased to see that you feel so deep an interest in the enterprises. There can be no doubt of its feasibility, nor of the advantages which such a road would offer not only to the citizens of Siskiyou, but of Shasta, and I venture the assertion that the road can and will be made of individual enterprise. . . . I have not had an opportunity of conversing with many of my neighbors since the receipt of your favor, but I feel that I can pledge them all to donations or subscriptions proportionate with their means. Personally, I would not be pecuniarily benefited at present, but would certainly be a loser were the road to be diverted up the line of the Sacramento River, and for this reason I will subscribe the sum of ten thousand dollars . . . Sincerely wishing that this may not end "in talk," but that we may realize the benefits of this road in a few months, I am respectfully your obedient servant.

In addition to investing financially in county roads, Tower also took an interest in the Clear Creek bridge he had purchased with his property, and, possibly, the money he raised from converting the bridge to a toll one in 1853 helped provide the funds applied towards "the new bridge . . . at the Tower House," completed in the summer of 1858.²⁴

23. Ibid.

24. Tower first applied in 1853 for a toll bridge license, and he applied again the next year. Shasta Courier, December 3, 1853, as printed in Boggs, p. 181; Shasta Courier, October 28, 1854.

Tower's reputation and concern for the improvement of roads no doubt won him his first political position in the county administration as a member of the Board of Supervisors for roads, which he held in 1855-56. Despite his influence and his respect in the county, however, he was not able to realize his wish that the road over Scott Mountain first proposed in 1855 be completed "in a few months." Indeed, in 1858 a group of gentlemen including Tower printed an announcement in the Shasta Republican that they intended to organize a joint stock company to construct a "turnpike road" essentially on the same route planned in 1855.²⁵

Disappointments for Tower were not limited, however, to his endeavors towards road development. He had other ambitions in the political sphere which seem to have never borne fruit. Although elected to the Judicial District Convention in 1858, Tower withdrew his nomination for tax collector in 1865. Had he not suddenly passed away that year, however, Tower might well have made further efforts to become politically active.²⁶

Probably one of Tower's most bitter disappointments during his active years in Shasta County was his financial insolvency which cost him the loss of his Tower House property as well as all his lands on the Sacramento River and in Shasta. In 1852 Tower suffered one of his first financial disasters from the fire which swept through much of the town of Shasta. According to his own testimony, Tower lost a "Tavern House and fixtures" estimated to be worth \$10,000, and a large quantity of hay and a barn valued at \$6500. In that year Tower began borrowing money from his friends by putting mortgages on the land he owned and developed. In 1853 another fire raged through Shasta, and Tower reportedly lost an estimated \$3000 in property. More mortgages followed, and seemed to expand with the growth of the Tower House business

25. Ibid., June 9, 1855, p. 2; Ibid., March 1, 1856, p. 2. Shasta Republican, January 16, 1858, p. 3.

26. Shasta Republican, July 24, 1858, p. 2; Shasta Courier, May 27, 1865, p. 2; Ibid., June 10, 1865, p. 2.

until one, in 1854, reached a value of \$18,186, the funds having been collected from fourteen different mortgages. In 1857 Tower's ranch on the Sacramento River was sold outright at a public sale to pay his debts; in September 1858, Tower filed an official petition of insolvency, and, in October, the district court released him from his debts according to the insolvency laws.²⁷

But Tower's struggle was long and bitter, as one of his creditors, Henry D. Hanscom, took the case to the State Supreme Court, appealing the court's decision to allow Tower his debtor's rights. The battle must have been a wearing and depressing experience for Tower. But by 1858 his brother-in-law, Charles Camden, and his close friend and associate, Samuel Francis, together had come to Tower's assistance. On October 18, 1858, Camden purchased the Tower House and the Sacramento River ranch of Tower's, and immediately leased them back to Tower; Tower then took out another mortgage on his lease by borrowing \$6,446.66 from Samuel Francis. By 1860, although he apparently owned no land or held no possessions, Tower was listed on the tax records as a prosperous property owner, with 40 improved and 120 unimproved acres--the acreage of his original purchases--and his farm had a cash value of \$15,000. Although Tower legally did not own the Tower House, he apparently still lived there, and this, in addition to his long identification with the property, apparently accounts for his appearance on the tax rolls.²⁸

27. See Appendix B, for a list of Tower's main sales and mortgages; DB G, p. 43, RDO, SCC; Shasta Courier, June 18, 1853, p. 1, October 16, 1858, p. 2; #1081, Supreme Court Cases, California State Archives, Sacramento, California. Unfortunately, time did not permit adequate research in the outcome of this court case. Hanscom's petition filed in August of 1860 still had not been resolved by October of the year, for the Courier reported that the case was still pending: Courier, October 27, 1860, p. 2.

28. Records Book G, pp. 173, 205-7, 407, RDO, SCC, #25, Shasta County, Schedule #4, Production of Agriculture, Census of 1860, Calif. State Archives, Sacramento.

The events in Tower's life after 1860 remain unclear, but by 1861 he no longer was managing the Tower House, for in that year a visitor to the place commented, "The house is under the management of G.I. Taggart, a gentleman of polished manners, and accommodating to a fault. . . ." At least Taggart followed in the tradition which Tower had so well established at the Tower House. Indeed, at Tower's most unexpected death from typhoid in 1865, he was still identified very closely with his hotel, and with the deep respect he had gained throughout the region. The obituaries speak most elaborately for Tower's legacy to the county and to the region of Northern California.

DEATH OF A PIONEER. It is with feeling of the deepest regret that we to-day announce the sudden death of L.H. Tower, late of the Tower House, Shasta County. . . . Mr. Cooms, of the Weaverville and Shasta Stage, brought the unwelcome announcement . . . and informed us that the scene at the Tower House, on the receipt of the sad news by his relatives and friends was painful in the extreme. . . . No man in Northern California was more extensively known or had more warm friends. The announcement of his sudden death will send a chill to many hearts. Peace to the ashes of the pioneer, who will be long remembered for his noble and generous deeds.²⁹

The local Shasta Courier also had words of commemoration:

. . . In 1854 he purchased the site upon which the Tower House now stands. His energy and enterprise made it what it is--the best property in Northern California. The friends of the deceased are many. His genial nature made him welcome everywhere, and his pleasant smile and cordial shake of the hand welcomed all visitors to the Tower House, and made his guests feel at home.³⁰

29. Shasta Courier, July 27, 1861, p. 2; Trinity Journal, Nov. 18, 1865, as printed in Boggs, pp. 426-7.

30. Shasta Courier, November 18, 1865, as printed in Boggs, p. 426.

Quite appropriately, Levi H. Tower's body was brought back to Shasta, where the Masonic Fraternity, of which he was an honored member, received it; and, on Thursday, November 23, Tower's body was taken to the Tower House for funeral services and burial. His grave can be visited today in the field to the southwest of the Camden House.³¹

The memory and reputation of Levi H. Tower did not fade rapidly in Northern California. Indeed, Tower received a noteworthy mention in Pen Pictures From the Garden of the World, Memorial and Bibliographical History of Northern California (Chicago), published in 1891. Excerpts from his biographical sketch give insight and perspective to Tower's place in history almost thirty years after his death:

This sketch would not be complete without a further account of the Tower House and of its original founder and former proprietor, who was one of those most energetic and enterprising men known to all in that day and highly esteemed. Among his early doings was the building of the Globe Hotel in Shasta, in 1851. In 1852 was the building of the present commodious Tower House and planting of the orchards, the trees being procured, some over the Isthmus of Panama and some from nurseries in Oregon, at extremely high cost. A few years later, mostly through his energy, the wagon road over the Trinity and Scott Mountains was commenced and built; also the first preliminary free wagon road from Tower House to Shasta and a bridge over Clear Creek by his means and efforts, where before nothing but mule trails existed. Many other enterprises of the early history of Shasta County he aided by his energy and means.³²

31. Ibid., November 25, 1865, as printed in Boggs, p. 427.

32. Pen Pictures, p. 644.

C. CHARLES CAMDEN

In contrast to his brother-in-law, Charles Camden remained behind the scenes in Shasta County, choosing not to participate in social or political functions which would place him in the public eye. The editor of Camden's biographical sketch, published in 1891, made specific reference to this trait, explaining that, "Charles Camden is not a man who desires notoriety--indeed, he shinks [sic.] from anything that would appear like it." Consequently, the main sources of information on Camden's life come from land and mortgage deeds, newspaper advertisements, and the two biographical sketches which Camden himself wrote at the ages of 74 and 84. Camden's recollections coincided almost faultlessly with the available contemporary documentation; he lived a long (95 years) and disciplined life, and, in his later years, prized himself for his vigorous mental state.³³

Throughout much of his fifty-odd years of residence in the area now known as the Tower House District, Camden maintained mining rights in Clear Creek and the surrounding vicinity. After his marriage to Tower's sister, and the official termination of his and Tower's partnership in 1852, Camden "made plans to do mining on a more profitable scale." Camden realized he needed "surface water," and to get it, he later explained, "involved ditches and a large expense."

Clear Creek was too flat to get water high enough from it. There was Crystal and Granite creeks (which names I have given), and I claimed the waters in them. Lumber for flumes and boxes was absolutely necessary, and none nearer than Shasta, at \$75.00 to \$100.00 per thousand. I concluded the cost was too great to do it then, so put it off until the next spring and summer and went on mining under the best conditions possible, which was after this plan, and the low water of that season favored it: In that day the creek had frequent riffles or small falls; I would cut little ditches from them and in a few yards would have fall enough to set my "tom" with a box or two. Near the creek the bars had generally been worked or worked at, and I often made big wages by working over that ground. I procured two wheelbarrows at \$30.00 each, hired two or three men at \$4.00 per day each and found,

33. Pen Pictures, p. 643.

and attended to the "tom" myself. In this way my income was large, seldom going below \$20.00 per day to the man. In the summer I surveyed my ditches and let the contract, so I could keep on mining; also let the contract to get out timbers for the saw-mill, which I built in the winter, and it was ready in February, 1853, except for the ditches which had to wait for the lumber for flumes, which was not yet cut. As soon as the flumes were in I was prepared to mine with much greater advantage and success, besides selling water to others. As I could not well attend to all branches personally I let contracts for the cutting and hauling of logs by the thousand feet; also the sawing in the same way. Still I was a very busy man, especially in winter time. In the summer the mill was stopped, as there was not enough water to run it and the mines. In a measure this was satisfactory, as I could give my entire attention to mining, which was imperative when operating in the bed of the creek, which I did every summer. This system of work I kept up for about eighteen years, with other things added.³⁴

Camden's placer mining provided a steady income of an average of \$10.00 to \$30.00 a day to the man. At the end of 18 years of mining the creek in the summers Camden had extracted \$80,000 worth of gold, a small fortune in itself.³⁵

While Camden clearly concentrated on his mining activities, he also operated a sawmill and ditches which he constructed "during the 'fifties,' from 1850 to about 1862, . . . the busiest and, perhaps, to me the most interesting period of my life." By 1860 his sawmill and ditches had already given Camden satisfactory profits, and in that year he advertised to sell the works:

34. Camden, pp. 159-161. The dictionary defines a flume as "an inclined channel for conveying water from a distance to be utilized for power, transportation, irrigation, etc. as in placer mining, logging, etc." Camden's claim for the water rights of Crystal and Granite Creeks appears in DB R, p. 314, RDO, SCC, Redding, Calif. His claim, dated November 21, 1854, officially stated he wished to conduct the waters from their natural course down the bank of Clear Creek for milling and mining purposes.

35. Pen Pictures, p. 643.

VALUABLE PROPERTY
FOR SALE

Consisting of
A SAW MILL,

In complete running order, with all necessary implements, and FOUR YOKE OF CATTLE; likewise about FIVE OR SIX MILES OF DITCHES, furnishing water on both banks of Clear creek, below the Tower House. Together with the undisputed right to the waters of Crystal, Willow and Granite creeks. This right is very valuable, as the waters are at a sufficient elevation to cover all diggings along Clear creek, and below Shasta.

The property is all paying, and undoubtedly will for many years to come, but having determined to give up business, I will sell on liberal and easy terms. I will sell the saw mill separate, if wished.

For particulars apply on the premises, near the Tower House.
Tower House, May 25, 1860. Charles Camden³⁶

According to the tax records that year, Camden had invested \$7000 in the sawmill, and had that year hewed 400

36. Camden, p. 160; Shasta Courier, May 26, 1860, p. 2. Just months before he advertised the sawmill for sale, Camden registered his claim at the Recorder's Office, "that it is my intention to place a permanent Dam across Clear Creek for the purpose of creating a log-pond and for diverting the waters through a floom [sic.] or Ditch for mining and other purposes." Deed Book S, p. 115. Camden evidently did not sell his mill and improvements in 1860, for in his autobiography he noted that he continued to placer mine and run the mill until 1868. Camden also exhibited in his autobiography a pride and detailed recollection of his ditches which will be discussed further in the description of structures on the Tower House property. In summary, Camden noted, "All of these enterprises were profitable and I allude to them to show that I spent much money as well as made it, and that I was a very busy man." Camden, pp. 160 and 170.

pine logs into 130,000 feet of plank and boards valued at \$4000. His sawmill was operating on water power with two employees whom, Camden later recalled, proved undependable. Most likely, after his six-month trip to Europe in 1859, with his wife, two daughters, and his Indian girl, Kate, Camden realized his willingness to give up the management of his secondary operations, to concentrate once again on mining.³⁷

Camden could well afford to give up his milling and ditches in 1860, for the census that year evaluated his personal estate at \$10,000. But Camden had, in addition to his mining ambitions, a new time-consuming project: road building. As Camden recalled, the county road supervisors approached him and several other affluent citizens, to build a better road from Shasta to the Tower House. Reluctantly at first Camden agreed to the proposal.

I obtained a franchise for twenty-five years (later it was extended to fifty years) and began work under my own supervision and management in January, 1861, and had it ready for travel the following May. There was, however, two miles of it that had been built over the Shasta divide by Crocker & Co., which I afterward bought for \$6,500.00. The total cost, including changes made afterward, contrary to expectations, was \$20,000. The investment turned out a good one and still is.³⁸

When completed, Camden's wagon road looped across the mountainous terrain, sometimes cutting through solid rock, and achieved an easy grade the length of the 13 miles. The road changes Camden alluded to included the improvement of bridges. In 1864 Camden improved and covered the Clear Creek

37. Eighth Census, Schedule 5, #15, Shasta County, Calif.; Shasta Courier, April 2, 1859, p. 2.

38. Eighth Census, Schedule 1, #797, Shasta County, California; Camden, pp. 159-60. Camden's recollection coincides with the contemporary records except in the dates. Camden and eight others placed an announcement in the Shasta Courier of December 1861 stating that they intended to meet at the Tower House in January 1862 to plan the construction of the "Turnpike Road." Boggs, p. 399.

bridge, and in 1867 he built a new bridge across Whiskey Creek made of the best timber, with a strong foundation to protect it from the heavy freshets. His purchase of the section of the road closest to Shasta in 1863 not only increased his prestige but gave him toll rights along the whole stretch of road. The Shasta Courier announced that only one toll would be taken along the Camden Turnpike, and the collection no doubt was at the Tower House, just beyond Clear Creek, for a receipt for money paid on tolls has been preserved, and is dated Tower House, November 1, 1866.³⁹

When constructing the turnpike from Shasta to the Tower House, Camden's company faced a natural obstacle course which had traditionally slowed the flow of traffic heading to the Tower House, and then on either west to Weaverville or north to French Gulch and Yreka. The improved road, then, promoted the settlement and development not only within Shasta County but also in the northern mining counties.⁴⁰

39. Pen Pictures, p. 644; the Shasta Courier of September 3, 1864, announced that the bridge across Clear Creek, at the Tower House, "has recently been much improved by being covered with substantial siding and a good roof. It is the most substantial bridge structure in the county, and the proprietors, for the excellent repair in which it is always kept, merit the commendation of the traveling public." As quoted in Boggs, p. 415; Shasta Courier, March 28, 1863 and August 17, 1867, as printed in Boggs, pp. 405 and 500. See illustrations for photograph of Clear Creek toll bridge. The receipt for \$45.00 paid by the Oregon Stage Co. in 1866 was printed in Boggs, p. 465.

40. The writer of Camden's biographical sketch in Pen Pictures, p. 644, specifically mentioned that the turnpike "greatly aided in the settlement and development of the county." Statistics, however, have not been compiled to indicate how much greater the traffic flow was after the construction of the road.

While Camden, according to the available county census records and directories, was a toll-road owner from 1860 through at least 1885, his interests strongly gravitated as well towards his real estate and stock market investments. In 1862 alone Camden purchased over 1000 acres in Shasta County near the Tower House, and on these land tracts he developed mining claims in gold, silver, and iron. He was also acquiring land around San Francisco, and as early as 1868 began spending his winters in Oakland, to provide his three girls with better schooling.⁴¹

Of particular credit to Camden's financial astuteness and to his mining success was his co-claim with William Magee and James Sallee to the ore of Iron Mountain near the Tower House, which included rich deposits of iron, silver, and copper. From c. 1880-1895 the partners mined iron and silver on the mountain, and finally sold all their claims to a British syndicate which mined copper there for nearly thirty years.⁴²

41. Index to Patent Grantees, Vol. 1, RDO, Shasta County Courthouse; the Shasta Courier published a Great Register which listed the citizens resident in Shasta County. The state Archives had the Great Register for 1867, 1872, 1875, 1876, 1880, which listed Camden as a toll road owner. The last recording found of Camden as such was in the County Directory, including Lassen, Plumas, Del Norte, Siskiyou, Sierra, Shasta, Trinity, Modoc, and Tehama Counties (San Francisco, 1885), p. 230; Camden, p. 170. Several of Camden's mining claims are listed in the Index to Miscellaneous Records, 2, RDO, SCC. As mentioned earlier, Camden in 1858 also purchased his brother-in-law Levi Tower's land tracts on the Sacramento River, and his Tower House property. See footnote 28 for the deed-book sources.

42. The sources on Camden's ownership of Iron Mountain differ in detail as to dates and names which explains the generality of this writer's comments. Pen Pictures, p. 644; Camden, pp. 171-72; Courier Free Press, August 21, 1912, p. 1; C.A. Logan, Mineral Resources of Shasta County, (reprint of part of Report of the State Mineralogist, Vol. 22, No. 2,) p. 142.

Camden was also an early investor in the Spring Valley Water Company and eventually became the company's largest stockholder in Northern California. Apparently, he made several of his friends wealthy when they took his advice to invest in this company.⁴³

At the conclusion of his long life, Camden's obituary writer stated:

The pioneer was easily the most prominent man in the business affairs of Shasta County from the earliest days. He was a man of the strictest integrity, and though prominent he could never be induced to accept a political office.⁴⁴

With all his prominence and financial success, however, Camden impressed people with his diffidence:

There is not a particle of ostentation or display about him--just a plain, substantial gentleman, and those who know him best will not attribute any vanity to him for having furnished the facts for the story of his successful life.⁴⁵

Camden's modesty and reserve did not, at the same time, hide his realization that he had made contributions to the development of Northern California. That he joined the Society of California Pioneers and wrote three different autobiographical sketches during his later life indicates his self-awareness. His own observation that he had strived to maintain through the years a vigorous outdoor life, a good climate, regular habits, a healthy body, and happy home helps one to understand the man whose mark on Northern California's history has been all

43. Courier Free Press, August 21, 1912, p. 1.

44. Ibid., p. 4.

45. Pen Pictures, p. 644.

but forgotten. Today Camden's home at the Tower House, one of the earliest historic structures still standing in the county, acts as a reminder not only of the man but also of the gold mining era which illuminated the development of Northern California.⁴⁶

46. Courier Free Press, Ibid., p. 1.

THE TOWER HOUSE AS A CULTURAL MICROCOSM

With the forceful backing and input of Levi H. Tower and Charles Camden, the Tower House Community developed during the latter part of the 19th century as a cultural microcosm. In addition to the early community involved in mining, gardening and hotel management, vacationers, political groups, and more hotel keepers and miners were attracted to the oasis Tower had planned around his hotel. By 1861 the population in the area had grown to sufficient numbers to designate the Tower House an electoral district; and since telegraph and stagecoach lines connected the Tower House with other emerging communities, the hotel also developed into a communications center.

A. A PHYSICALLY AND HOSPITABLY APPEALING PLACE

Perhaps the most repeated theme in the accounts about the Tower House throughout the century concerned the charm, physical and social, which the hotel environs offered, both to local residents and to the travelers along the road to Weaverville and Yreka.

As noted earlier, Tower planted orchards, grapevines, and gardens, and irrigated his cultivation into a lush, green oasis in a barren section of Northern California. The hotel, set within the shade of fruit and walnut trees, in a mountain valley near the banks of three creeks, provided relief from the oppressive summer heat, which, with regularity, broke the 100° mark. An especially vivid and colorful depiction of the scene was written in 1855 by a visitor to the Tower House:

Rusticating a few days for my health, at one of the most delightful places in this State, and the only spot in this section of the country for recreation; surrounded by majestic mountains, luxuriant verdure, flowers and rich fruit, with cool, bracing air, invigorating the system after the depressing effects of the great heat of the valley . . . when (the Tower House) . . . first comes in view from the mountain hill above the house, it seems like an oasis in the

desert, so burnt up and parched is the world about and around.¹

The same writer also spoke of the social character of the Tower House: "Mr. Tower's establishment is equal to any of our eastern watering places, and must so soon as 'tis well known, become a fashionable resort from the heats of the Valley; and the traveler will ever find it the most hospitable inn upon the road."²

The Shasta County correspondent's prediction about the future popularity of the Tower House for traveler and vacationer alike soon received testimony in area publications. That same year, 1855, in fact, an article in the Shasta Courier describing a trip to Weaverville made specific mention of the Tower House:

It is useless to say anything of the Tower House. Every one who has heard of Shasta has heard of the Tower House . . . but possibly every one does not know that there you can always find pleasant and agreeable society, attracted thither by the known comforts and pleasantness of the place.

Undoubtedly these established comforts at the hotel prompted the Union Democratic Senatorial Convention to meet there in the summer of 1861. Having commented on his stay at the Tower House, one convention participant concluded, "As a retreat we know of no superior, and cordially recommend it to all lovers of rustic pleasures as the ultima thule of comfort, neatness, and, what is equally important during this roasting weather, cool and pleasant breezes." The next year, when Grant Taggard bought out a share of the hotel's furnishings and leased the Tower House, he advertised "to inform its old friends and patrons and the public generally" that he wished to entertain them in the best style possible in Northern California. In that same year a scientist who traveled up and down California for four years remarked on stopping overnight at the Tower

1. Shasta Courier, August 25, 1855, p. 2. As further examples, both the June 9 and July 14, 1855 Shasta Couriers remarked on the excessive heat around Shasta.

2. Ibid., August 25, 1855, p. 2.

House both on his way to and return from Weaverville. "Towers," he wrote in his journal, is "merely a public house, and a very pleasant one at that. This is on the great Yreka road, many heavy trains are met, and the road is dusty almost beyond endurance." With such physical discomfort on the road, it is understandable how the Tower House took on such popularity soon after its opening.³

By 1869 the Tower House had established a solid reputation as a vacation retreat. When Andy Cusick purchased the Tower House from Charles Camden in the spring of 1869, the Shasta Courier commented, "The Tower House has long been noted as the most pleasant place of summer resort in this portion of the State, and we presume Andy will endeavor to render it still more attractive, if possible." In 1882 a descriptive circular for the county specifically mentioned that "The Tower House . . . has been a great resort for pleasure and health seekers," and in 1885 the local newspaper called it "a pleasant summer resort."⁴

With the improvement of roads and transportation came the boom of tourism, and the Tower House no doubt began to lose many of its regular summer visitors. But the hotel continued to provide overnight accommodations until its destruction by fire in 1919. In 1893, under John Shed's ownership, the Weekly Shasta Courier assured its readers he would "put the favorite old Tower House in perfect order and ready to accommodate tourist and guest in the best style." By 1914 the Courier

3. Shasta Courier, October 13, 1855, p. 2 and July 27, 1861, p. 2, and March 29, 1862, p. 2. Francis P. Farquhar, ed. Up and Down California in 1860-64, The Journal of William Henry Brewer, Professor of Agriculture in the Sheffield Scientific School from 1864-1903 (New Haven, 1930), pp. 325 and 331.

4. Descriptive Circular of Shasta County, California (Redding, 1882), p. 9; Shasta Courier, March 6, 1869, p. 2.

recognized the Tower House as "a historic place," and noted that it was "one of the famous stopping places in this part of the state."⁵

B. FRUIT PRODUCE CENTER

Tower's fruit not only won prizes for their exceptional size and flavor in his lifetime, but they continued to win acclaim for at least two decades thereafter. In the Descriptive Circular of Shasta County published in 1885, the writer made specific praise of the Tower House produce:

. . . and here, we believe, the first experiments in the county of raising fruit and berries were made by Levi Tower, proving a success beyond the most sanguine expectations; and the dried fruit from the orchard of Mr. Camden continues, to this day, to bring an extreme price in the market of San Francisco. Bartlett pears weighing four pounds are no uncommon production at this orchard.⁶

5. John Shed, the newspaper article also noted, made "frequent trips to and from the railroad [in Redding], carrying passengers in his easy-riding carriage." Weekly Shasta Courier, February 18, 1893, p. 3; Shasta Courier, April 14, 1914, p. 2.

6. Descriptive Circular (Redding, 1885), p. 10. See Chapter 1 for further details on the orchards' reputation during Tower's lifetime. Mrs. Hubbard owns a medal awarded to Tower by the California State Agricultural Society for growing the first peaches north of Sacramento. This writer saw the medal during the interview with Mrs. Hubbard at her home in Paradise, Calif., in May of 1972. Rosena Giles in Shasta County, California, A History (Oakland, 1949), p. 163, stated that a pear from the Tower House weighed 2-1/2 pounds. Unfortunately, she did not footnote this information.

More than likely in Camden's lifetime, (he died in 1912), the orchards at the Tower House remained well groomed, for Camden was a man known for his good business sense and ambitious nature. But after the Tower House itself burned down in 1919, and after c. 1940 when Camden's heirs no longer visited their summer house, then the famous fruit trees no doubt began to grow wild. Today only a few trees have been salvaged in the back field to the south of the Camden House. Cuttings from these trees will help to restore the orchard area to a closer representation of its original appearance.

C. MINING DISTRICT

From scanning the county newspapers for the first decades after Tower and Camden settled at the Tower House site, it quickly became apparent that the mining of Clear Creek affected the development of the Tower House area. As mentioned previously, Camden chose the Clear Creek diggings within a short distance of his home, but the most popular sites as early as 1853-4 centered in French Gulch to the north and Whiskey Creek to the southeast. No doubt in search of new diggings and attracted by the conveniences provided by the Tower House, miners had also found by 1856 rich deposits near the Tower House. In fact, the extensive placer mining at the site, the same writer reported, threatened to wash away some of Tower's beautiful garden.⁷

The mining community around the Tower House tended, according to one account, to use the hotel as a social center, or meeting place. In February of 1856 a kangaroo court of miners from near the Tower House passed judgement on a man suspected of stealing from them for some time, found him guilty, and punished him by a rope whipping. The centrality, space, and restaurant facilities at the hotel made the Tower House a logical location for such impromptu but urgent matters.⁸

7. Shasta Courier, March 12, 1853, p. 2 and April 1, 1854, p. 2, and March 1, 1856, p. 2.

8. Ibid., February 23, 1856, p. 2.

By 1859 the gold diggings at French Gulch had become among the richest in the county; at least no mining district surpassed that of French Gulch. Within the next decade sufficient numbers had moved to the area so that the registers of the county showed more miners than any other occupation living in the Tower House District. In addition, to accommodate the growing population, more than one hotel keeper officially was listed within the Tower House territory, whatever acreage the area encompassed.⁹

The extent and duration of mining near the Tower House was not determined during this writer's research, but it seems likely that by 1868 when Camden chose to move to Oakland and give up his placer diggings on Clear Creek, most of the miners had moved on to seek their fortunes in less settled areas.

D. VOTING PRECINCT

Research uncovered at least one reference to the Tower House as an electoral precinct. The Shasta Courier of September 1861 recorded the votes of both the French Gulch and Tower House precincts in the election of the Governor, State Senator, and Assemblyman. No doubt a more careful investigation of county records and newspapers would reveal the duration of years the Tower House continued to be populous enough to stand on its own as a voting precinct. More than likely, when the mining endeavors ebbed on Clear Creek in the late 1860's, then French Gulch and Tower House amalgamated under the former name.¹⁰

9. Ibid., February 20, 1859, p. 2; Great Register 1867, Shasta County, no pagination. Out of 27 residents of the Tower House District 20 were miners, and two were hotel keepers.

10. Shasta Courier, September 7, 1861, p. 2.

E. COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

In 1858 not only a stagecoach but also a telegraph line opened between Shasta and Weaverville. The Tower House stood along the line of telegraph poles, and probably functioned as a telegraph office; it also stood at the junction of three county roads, and served as a stagecoach stop. Its strategic location along these lines fostered its growth as a communications center for the travelers over the roads, and for the neighborhood residents. In April 1858 the Shasta Courier reported that three buggies had made the first trip over the new wagon road to Weaverville. and that Samuel Francis of the Tower House had been the driver of one.¹¹

With the introduction of stagecoaches over the new road, the California Stage Company appealed to Charles Camden, the Tower House owner, and Levi Tower, its lessee, for provisions at the Tower House to maintain fresh horses. An agreement was reached on November 1, 1858, that the stagecoach company could lease a stable and yard on the south side of the wagon road, just to the west of the Tower House.¹²

Stages from the Tower House north to Yreka were not in operation in 1858 because the road had not yet been improved. By 1862, however, the California Stage Company not only had a stage line running north, but it also owned the road from the Tower House to the Callaghan Ranch, near Yreka. The President of the company realized the need for improved roads, and pledged up to \$100,000 to keep the road in a condition that would attract all the trade by that route. At the same time, Charles Camden

11. In the boundary description for the stable and yard leased to the California Stage Co. in 1858, there is a telegraph pole which served as a landmark. Leases, Vol. 1, p. 1, Shasta Co. Courthouse. Shasta Republican, September 25, 1858, p. 2 notes that the Northern California Telegraph Co. completed this line on June 1, 1858. Shasta Republican, April 3, 1858, p. 2. The Shasta Republican, April 24, 1858, notes that stages were to begin as of or before May 1, 1858.

12. Leases, Vol. 1, p. 1, Shasta County Courthouse.

had agreed to invest his funds in improving the road from the Four-Mile House, outside of Shasta, to the Tower House. These commitments to finance the maintenance and improvement of the county roads came in the wake of an announcement that a railroad would be laid from Sacramento to a new town which would be built 12 or 14 miles below Shasta. The creation of this town threatened to drain off the trade to the north and west which Shasta had controlled for over a decade. The Shasta Courier in editorializing about the potential problem assured its readers that the roads, if well maintained, from Shasta via the Tower House to Yreka provided far the most expeditious route. The argument didn't hold true for many years, however, for the growth of Redding as a railroad center by the late 1870's had already begun to take its toll on the continued existence of Shasta.¹³

Despite the growing competition with railroad and road development throughout the northern region, the stagecoach line through Shasta to the Tower House and on to Weaverville and Yreka continued until c. 1915. In 1882 and 1885 the Shasta County information booklets noted that a stage from Redding via Shasta, connecting at the Tower House and proceeding on to Yreka via Scott Valley, provided daily mail facilities to that section of the county.¹⁴

The hilly road to the Tower House from Shasta presented a problem during the winter months, however, when the ground

13. Shasta Courier, February 15, 1862, as copied in Boggs, p. 401. For more information about Camden's investment in county roads, see Chapter 1.

14. Descriptive Circular, (1882), and Shasta County, California (Redding, 1886), p. 8. Judge Richard B. Eaton, who studies Shasta County history as a hobby, and who has lived in Redding for many years, provided the date 1921 for the last stagecoach to run between Weaverville and Shasta. [Interview with Eaton, May 1972, Redding, California]. The county courthouse records no doubt would verify his information.

softened and froze, leaving ruts and potholes in the dirt surface. In 1919 the Shasta Courier reported that the "Tower House Road" would be gravelled for winter travel, and that the county planned to do everything possible to keep the road open throughout the winter. It was not until 1921 that the county finally paved the road, but by this date the traffic no longer had cause to stop over at the Tower House, summer or winter, for in January 1919 the famous historic hotel burned to the ground, ending an era of active trade and communication at the Tower House.¹⁵

15. Shasta Courier, September 26, 1919, p. 1. Interview with Eaton.

THE STRUCTURES AND GROUNDS OF THE TOWER HOUSE DISTRICT

A. PHYSICAL LAYOUT IN 1850-52

When Camden happened upon the Tower House site in 1850, he found only one log cabin. Four streams--Crystal, Willow, Mill (Granite), and Clear Creeks--converged in the vicinity, to form a liquid boundary on three sides of the site. Bally, a high, conspicuous mountain rising 6,209 feet above sea level, carved out a geographical border to the south.¹ A mule trail from Shasta divided here at the banks of Clear Creek, to head north and west to the rich gold mining regions near the towns of French Gulch, Yreka, and Weaverville.

In 1852 Samuel Francis owned and operated the Free Bridge House on the Town House location; no doubt he took over Schneider's interests and log house, for Tower's original purchase was from Samuel Francis, and the building he bought, according to Camden, "was just a long log house containing the bar, dining room and lodging place."²

B. STRUCTURES IN THE HISTORIC PERIOD, 1852-1913

Early in 1852 Tower purchased the Free Bridge House property with the intention of continuing and expanding the trading stand's facilities. Several hundred yards to the south-east his partner and brother-in-law-to-be constructed a small frame cottage. During the nearly 15 years Tower lived on the property, and the 50 intermittent years Camden resided at the site, the number of structures located around their homes increased. Following is a list of the historic structures, set down, when possible, with a physical description and history.

1. William Henry Brewer in his travels up and down the coast of California stopped twice at the Tower House, and entered in his journal that he had taken time to climb Mt. Bally. Farquhar, ed., p. 331.

2. Camden, p. 155.

Free Bridge House

As mentioned previously, the Free Bridge House was no more than a log cabin serving as a trading post and inn, most likely entirely for prospecting miners. The southeast corner of the Tower House, as seen in photographs of the late 19th century, may have been the original structure adapted as the bar of the hotel (see illustrations). In addition to the house, the 1852 deed transferring the Free Bridge House to Tower mentioned:

Corrals

No exact information as to their location, size, or construction exists.

Free Bridge

The bridge over Clear Creek which Samuel Francis no doubt constructed most likely stood in the same location as the bridges built and/or improved first by Tower and then by Camden. The Free Bridge no doubt was only a simple hewed-log crossing capable of supporting mule trains and light wagons.

Tower House

In 1852 Levi Tower began construction of the Tower House, and in March 1853 the Shasta Courier announced the structure's completion: "Mr. L.H. Tower has also built a large and elegant house at his old stand, the Free Bridge House." Tower the next year advertised, "Having completed his commodious building, and furnished it in the best possible manner, he is enable to promise the very best accommodations."

Historic photographs included in this report clearly illustrate the exterior architecture of the Tower House. For the relatively undeveloped area, Tower's prominent three-story 21-room hotel at the junction of the roads to Yreka and Weaverville presented a welcome attraction. According to Camden's recollection, his brother-in-law started construction in the spring and summer of 1852, building first the dining room and kitchen. He even hired carpenters from San Francisco under contract to help hew and split the lumber.

Local newspapers paid more attention to the gardens Tower planted than to the hotel he built. Consequently, the only written information found on the Tower House turned up in a lease of the hotel from Chester Vergnes to Fritz Oding in 1911. At that time the hotel was divided into 14 bedrooms, a parlor, dining room, laundry, kitchen, bar room, dance hall, and store. Whether this was the arrangement in Tower's day can only be speculated, but it would appear that Tower had equipped the hotel with a dance hall and bar room, since he threw a large ball in 1854 for the neighbors who came from as far away as Red Bluff.³

In January 1919 the Tower House burned to the ground. At the time Fritz Oding owned the hotel and with the complete loss sold the land back to the Camden heirs. In 1969 Mrs. Hubbard sold the site of the Tower House as part of the Camden Homestead to the National Park Service.

Clear Creek Bridge

In December 1853, even before the Tower House had been completed, Tower announced his intention to apply for a toll bridge over Clear Creek. The next year Jason Tower re-entered the same announcement in the Shasta Courier. Nothing is known about the structural characteristics of these early bridges.

In 1858 the Shasta Republican announced that "the new bridge across Clear Creek at the Tower House" would soon be completed. Again, the physical nature of this bridge is unknown.

In 1864 Charles Camden improved and covered the Clear Creek bridge, and made it a toll bridge on the Camden Turnpike. Historic photographs exist showing the old bridge and its relation to the Tower House (see illustrations).

The covered bridge lasted until the turn of the century. It seems most likely that the Shasta-Tower House road, which

3. See Chapter 1 for details and sources. Agreement Book 7, p. 148, RDO, SCC; the lease also listed the furniture in the Tower House in 1911, some of which probably dated to Tower's lifetime.

was apparently improved in 1911, stood on the trace of Camden's long-established turnpike road, and that the present stone pillars date to 1864 when Camden improved and covered the bridge.

In 1931 the State purchased property from Carl Oding so that a new state highway could be constructed just to the north of the existing one. The bridge then located now stands over Clear Creek.⁴

Sawmill

According to his Autobiography, Camden completed the sawmill in February 1853, "except for the ditches which had to wait for the lumber for flumes, which was not yet cut" (p. 156). Camden applied for the water rights to Crystal and Granite Creeks in November 1854 so that he could "conduct them from their natural course in a ditch down the bank of Clear Creek for milling and mining."

In 1860 Camden advertised the mill for sale. According to his Autobiography, Camden sold it in 1868, when he moved to Oakland for the first time.

Only a vague idea of the structural characteristics of the sawmill exists from two early paintings of the Tower House area. The earlier of the two, painted at some time prior to 1864, shows three structures in the approximate location that Mrs. Hubbard said the sawmill stood. In the painting they appear to stand on either side of Mill Creek, one on the west side, and two on the east. The structure on the former side appears to have been a long, narrow frame building where, presumably, the actual cutting of the logs took place. The two on the latter side seem to be storage sheds for the finished planks and boards which are lying about in stacks near the buildings. The identified 1867 painting of the Tower House and vicinity by Weindesford shows two structures in about the same location, one of which definitely looks like the long narrow frame structure in the earlier painting.

4. For newspaper citations, see Chapter 1. The interview with the local resident, David Oding, son of Fritz Oding, owner of the Tower House from 1914 until it burned in 1919, was conducted by Historical Architect David Henderson in October 1972. Land Survey Book 3, p. 47, RDO, SCC.

According to Mrs. Hubbard the sawmill was still standing during her ownership, and it was she who tore it down on account of danger to others. Certainly it still was standing in 1907 when the right-of-way granted to E.P. Sherk passed near the old sawmill. The same deed mentions a lumber shed and mill yard, neither of which shows any physical remains today.

Blacksmith Shop

The blacksmith shop was among the earlier buildings constructed near the Tower House, but the date of its construction has not been established by the available documentation. The early painting of the Tower House clearly shows the structure's location across the wagon road from the hotel, and alongside the hill and road to French Gulch.

The first written mention of the blacksmith shop appeared in the 1869 sale of the Tower House by Camden to Andrew Cusick. The deed makes quite clear that the blacksmith shop stood on the west side of the road: the property line ran from the corral gate, which stood to the north of the public highway:

Thence with the fence of said corral in a N.E. course to the corner of the corral Thence, with the fence of the Corral in a N.W. course to the upper corner of the same. Thence same course, across the French Gulch road about 75 feet Thence on the upper side of the Blacksmith Shop in a S.W. course about 255 feet to the N.W. corner of the garden near the stage barn.

(See Appendix D.)

In 1881 Camden registered his agreement with the same Andy Cusick permitting him "to erect on his ground near the Blacksmith Shop a small house to be used by his brother and relatives." No other specific mention of the blacksmith shop could be located in the records, but an interview with a local resident who lives near Shasta strongly suggests that Fritz Oding's son tore down the blacksmith shop around 1929-30 and constructed another structure, now standing on the same location, for a storage shed.

The retaining stone wall behind the present shed to the west of the French Gulch Road may date to the historic period, and may be part of the foundation walls of the blacksmith shop.

Corral and Barn(s)

As previously noted, corrals were associated with the Free Bridge House; these may have been the same as those mentioned in a Tower House advertisement of 1854, which stated that the establishment had not only a corral but also an abundant supply of barley and hay. Finally, a lease of 1858 specifically located the Tower House corral gate as north of the road and across from the hotel.

While historic paintings and photographs confirm that barn-like structures did stand on the site, no documentary evidence has been uncovered to confirm definitely that a barn or stable accompanied the corral. Possibly archeological probes could help clarify the function of the building complex which stood across the wagon road from the Tower House in early paintings. The earliest known painting shows not only the complex of barn-like structures but also some of the chickens which a Shasta Courier correspondent in 1853 confirmed Tower owned in quantity. A barn on this location possibly would also have provided some sort of shelter for the horses, asses, mules, cattle, and swine recorded in Tower's ownership in the 1860 census.

A photograph of the Tower House District from the east c. 1880 clearly shows a number of large barn-like structures in this field. Mrs. Hubbard recalled that as a small child she chased the stagecoaches which came to the Tower House and changed horses at the barn. A local historian in Shasta County, May Southern, wrote in her notes on the Tower House around 1929-30 that, "Up to a few years ago there was standing an old red barn, the upper story of which was used as a ball room where the elite of Shasta and French Gulch danced the cotillion and waltzed and quadrilled the night away." These social gatherings of the 20th century, after the Tower House burned down, make an interesting continuity with the elaborate affairs at the hotel during Tower's lifetime.

California Stage Coach Stable

In 1858 Camden and Tower leased to the California Stage Coach Co. a lot for the uses of stable and yard for their horses on the condition that they maintain a substantial fence around the lot. This structure and fence appear in the Weindesford painting of

1867, in accordance with the lease property description, just to the west of the Tower House, on the south side of the road heading to Weaverville. (See Appendix C.) No evidence of this structure remains.

Firehouse

According to Mrs. Hubbard's memory, a firehouse stood near the Tower House in her childhood. The location of this structure has not been determined, but a small frame structure across the wagon road from the Tower House in the Weindesford painting may have been the firehouse, if it did indeed exist.

Camden House

By November 11, 1852, Charles Camden had constructed a small frame cottage on Philena Tower's plot of land adjoining her brother's. An unidentified, undated painting of the Tower House District in its less developed years shows the Camden House as a one-story, rectangular cottage with the front doorway centered on the structure (see illustrations).⁵

How long before Camden made his first of two additions to the house has not been specifically determined, but an 1867 painting showing the house with a gable and wing on the east side of the original cottage at least narrows the years to between 1852-1867. Since by 1860 Camden had achieved comfort and wealth through his mining and sawmill endeavors, and had expanded his family to four with the birth of two daughters, it seems most logical that the architectural changes were made in or before this year.

The third addition which continued the second story and gabled roof across the length of the house completed the historic structure. The date of this renovation again has not been established, but the only only historic photographs of the house show it with a full second story. It seems likely that this

5. Camden clearly added on to the original cottage, for he noted in his Autobiography, "on November 11, 1852, there was a double wedding in the cottage I had built in the garden, which now constitutes a part of the present home." p. 158.

portion of the house was added between 1880 and 1900. Although Camden and his family were living in Oakland during the winters, his family was expanding to another generation and Camden no doubt wanted to accommodate everyone in the style and comfort he had earned through long years of hard work.

In the spring of 1899 Camden gave the house to his married daughter, Grace Richards. He and the Richardses lived at the Camden House from 1898 or '99 until 1902, and thereafter they visited the house during the summer and fall months. A reliable caretaker was hired to live on the property during the months the family was absent.⁶

In 1902 Mrs. Richards' niece, Philena Wetmore, aged 7, visited the Camden House for the last time until her graduation from high school in 1913. Camden died in 1912, Mrs. Richards in 1933; Mrs. Hubbard (Philena), the only living member of the Camden family, inherited the house from Mrs. Richards, and she sold it to the National Park Service in 1969. She and her family visited the house in the summers during the mid-1930's, but in 1940 they moved to Colorado and never passed time there again. As Mrs. Hubbard reminisced, they then had "to let the place go--except for watering etc." Three different caretakers guarded the property until 1969.⁷

Through her reminiscences on her childhood at the Camden House, Mrs. Hubbard has provided the only available information pertaining to the changes her aunt made to the house from c. 1900 through 1913, the year chosen to close the historic period. Although her memory appears to be quite specific, it must be remembered that she now is 78 years old, and nearly 70 years have

6. Camden transferred the "Tower House Ranch" to his daughter "for and in consideration of . . . love and affection" on May 12, 1899. Deed Book 64, p. 635, Shasta Co. Courthouse. Mrs. Hubbard to this writer, Nov. 13, 1972, p. 2.

7. Hubbard to Toogood, Ibid. Philena Hubbard, née Philena Wetmore, is the daughter of Mary Wetmore, née Mary Camden, deceased.

passed since she last visited the house as a child and nearly 60 years since she returned after her 1913 graduation.

From Mrs. Hubbard's recollection, most of her aunt's changes to the house were done to its interior c. 1913-14. She wrote her lawyer in February 1972 that, "the livingroom used to be two rooms (even when I was a little girl): a small livingroom and a bedroom, occupied by my grandparents. It was not until 1914 that my Aunt made this bedroom into a part of the livingroom." In the same letter, however, Mrs. Hubbard noted that, "the kitchen of the house was part of the original 'cottage in the garden,' as my grandfather called it," a statement which indicates the shortcomings of Mrs. Hubbard's memory, for according to two National Park Service historical architects, the present kitchen was not constructed until c. 1913.⁸

In addition to the kitchen, at least two other modifications were made to the house prior to 1914, with the addition of "a little room in [the] upstairs hall--for a bath tub and lavatory," and the introduction of French doors from the living room to the porch. Later modernizations included electricity, indoor plumbing, and a screen to enclose the porch, of which only the latter alteration distracts substantially from the historic scene.⁹

Today the Camden House stands in very poor repair, the front porch in near collapse, the windows and doors ripped out and boarded up, and the interior badly damaged from a water leak. In 1955 or 1956 Mrs. Hubbard hired a builder to give an estimate for the structure's maintenance and repair, but finding that the cost came to \$15,000, more than she wanted to spend, she left the house abandoned and deteriorating. Since 1969 National Park Service has done close to nothing on improving

8. Hubbard to Frank Cibula, Feb. 22, 1972, p. 4. This letter is in the files of Whiskeytown NRA. If it is accurate to assume Mrs. Hubbard was 18 at her high school graduation, her birth date would be in 1895, two years after her grandmother passed away.

9. Hubbard to Cibula, Ibid.

the structure's condition. Vandals have taken their toll, as have the elements. Emergency maintenance measures need to be taken.¹⁰

Camden House Outbuildings

Three small frame structures stand just to the south of the Camden House. Architecturally they appear to have been built about the same time, but logically they were constructed according to expanded needs. To facilitate discussion of these structures, they have been labeled A to C, running from west to east.

a. Structure A

In describing this structure Mrs. Hubbard wrote, "The out-building directly opposite the kitchen was a one story affair and used as a 'summer kitchen.' Later on, a second story was added and used as a bedroom for the caretaker." Again this statement points up the inaccuracies of memory, for Architect Henderson has concluded that this structure could date no earlier than the mid-1860's. Although Camden made no mention of a summer kitchen in his autobiography, the explanation that such a building stood directly behind the house is both logical and in keeping with period styles. Perhaps the original summer kitchen was torn down and rebuilt on the same location. The earliest painting of the district, which has been dated to pre-1864, does show a small frame outbuilding behind Camden's original house, but the construction of board-and-batten does not match the present Structure A. Consequently, positive identification of the structure as a summer kitchen cannot be made, nor can an exact construction date be established. Nonetheless, the structure reflects a prime historic period and fits into the setting of the district.

Mrs. Hubbard's recollection that the second story was built as a bedroom for the caretaker does coincide with the architectural findings. This addition was probably made sometime around 1902, after the family moved away from the Camden House to return only in the summers. After Mrs. Hubbard ordered the construction of

10. Hubbard to Cibula, Ibid.

a new caretaker's cottage to the northwest of the house in about the 1950's, Structure A no doubt was boarded up for protection. Today the building stands in relatively good condition and can be adapted to park use.

b. Structure B

According to Architect Henderson's opinion, Structure B was built approximately at the same time as A, (c. 1865). Although no documentary evidence has been uncovered concerning its historic use, Mrs. Hubbard recalls it served as a tool shed, while Judge Richard B. Eaton claims the structure was used for servants' quarters. Of the two recollections, this writer would be inclined to favor Mrs. Hubbard's.

c. Structure C

As with the other two outbuildings behind the Camden House, Structure C did not appear in period photographs or documentation for identification. According to Mrs. Hubbard it served as a wood shed. According to the architect, the shed dates to c. 1913, considerably later than Structures A and B.

Pump House

A small frame structure standing to the southwest of the Camden House has for National Park Service use been labeled the pump house. Mrs. Hubbard recalled that the structure was built by her uncle Mr. Richards in c. 1913 as a place to make gas, but she did not describe the type or process involved. The building remains in good condition, and could be adapted for interpretive use.

Footbridge

Behind the Camden House to the southwest stand the remains of a footbridge across Willow Creek to the back field. The bridge was built by the Richardses in c. 1913.

Carriage House

About 300 yards to the southeast of the Camden House stands a dark-green, gabled, frame structure which most likely was a

carriage house at its construction c. 1913. The structure remains in relatively good condition.

Tenant Farmhouse and Barn

Constructed in the eastern end of the back field, the tenant farmhouse and barn complete the pastoral setting which dominated the theme of the Tower House District in the late 19th century. Mrs. Hubbard recalls the existence of the structures as early as 1913, but documentation strongly suggests that the buildings were present by 1909. A legal right-of-way granted by Mr. Richards to E.P. Sherk that year follows closely the present dirt road along Clear Creek to the back field and beyond to the Bickford mine:

along the Southwesterly bank of Clear creek and between said creek bank and the orchard fence or hedge to the bars and bridge at the entrance to the mill-yard; thence through mill yard between horse-barn and chicken house, passing close to lumber shed in front of dwelling house, across bridge over inverted siphon water pipe near old saw mill, . . . and to the mining claim
(See Appendix E.)

It seems highly unlikely that the horse barn and dwelling house standing in 1909 would have been torn down and replaced by 1913. Furthermore, it would be logical to suppose that these structures were constructed even earlier than 1909; perhaps the Richardses leased the land for farming sometime after the family moved to Oakland on a permanent basis in 1902.

Levi H. Tower Grave

To the southwest of the back field stands the grave of Levi H. Tower. Buried in 1865 in what was to be a family graveyard, Tower's headstone stands alone in a small yard enclosed by a picket fence. The stone marker is in good condition and the writing still legible.

Irrigation System

As early as November 1852, only months after his purchase of the land, Tower had built his first ditches for irrigating

the orchards and gardens he planted around the hotel. He offered his sister, Camden's wife, full rights to this irrigation ditch, and in 1858 he and Camden gave the California Stage Company free access to the water from the ditch nearby when they leased the land to the company for stables.

During the 120 years since its construction, the irrigation system has been altered and improved, presumably by Camden, his heirs, and by the National Park Service. According to Mrs. Hubbard, Mrs. Richards arranged for the construction of the clean-out house which still stands over the ditch along Crystal Creek about one mile west of the Tower House site. This 1913 addition was designed to extract pine cones, leaves, and other debris from the ditch.¹¹ Some of the flumes in the woods along Crystal Creek may be as old as the 19th century, but a study of these remains has not yet been made. The water tank on the hill to the northwest of the Tower House site dates only to some thirty years ago. The continuity of the irrigation system on the property has enabled the National Park Service to take advantage of the existing facilities in their efforts to revive the remnants of the historic orchard.

For over two decades Camden needed water power for his sawmill and placer mining, and to provide it he built miles of flumes and ditches. He took considerable pride in his work and devoted substantial space in his Autobiography for this description:

Between 1855 and 1858 I made the upper [sic] ditch from Crystal creek down to the Tower house, and built a high trestle at the upper end of orchard across Clear creek, on which I put three lines of twelve-foot bored pine logs. Each line was 900 feet long. This log pipe line connected the ditch on the west side with the one on the east side, forming an inverted syphon (for the ditches were about seventy-five feet above the trestle on which the logs were laid), which I believe was the first work of the kind in the State, whether of wood or iron. Also at about the same time I built a flume fifty feet high from my ditch near "Canada's" house to one I had made on the north side of Clear creek, to convey water onto a point below called

11. See Architectural Data Section for a description of the construction of the clean-out house.

"Riggs Point." Also I built a high ditch from Granite or Mill creek to cover the Jackson and other claims. (p. 160.)

The first ditch Camden mentioned might be one which still is being used for irrigating the orchard in the back field.

The landmark Camden mentioned to describe his flume and ditches near Clear Creek cannot be identified today. The ditch may have been part of the 5 miles of ditches Camden tried to sell along with his sawmill in 1860. No substantial evidence of these ditches remains today.

The Historic Road

The present remains of the concrete trace of an old road running at a diagonal before the Camden House is presumed to be approximately the same route that the old dirt wagon road from Shasta to the Tower House took before the county paved the road about 1911. This road route appears to have remained constant from the days of the first mule trails until the present highway was constructed several hundred feet to the north in the 1930's. Early maps support the northwesterly angle of the approach to the Tower House as evident in the road trace, and historic photographs also lend support to this trace being close to the wagon road route.

C. POST-1913 STRUCTURES

French Gulch Road Shed

A shed now standing on the west side of the road leading to French Gulch at first was thought to be the original blacksmith shop, as historic paintings indicate this location for it. Architect Henderson's survey of the building in conjunction with the testimony of a local resident confirms that this building was constructed in c. 1930 on the site of another building which was torn down the same year.

Garage

According to Mrs. Hubbard's recollection, the frame structure closest to the eastern edge of the house lot was built after

1920 by Mrs. Richards as a garage for her car. The foundations of the building are in a precarious condition, and would require considerable funds for restoration.

Historic Grounds

Existing documentation indicates that orchards stood in the back field, between the Tower House and the Camden House, and in the field to the north of the old wagon road from Shasta to the Tower House. Tower's orchards included apple, pear, peach, and cherry trees. His gardens added other fruit: muskmelon, watermelon, and grapes. He grew hay and oats for the teams of horses and trains of mules passing by or staying overnight at Tower House. He needed pasture fields for the cattle, oxen, and horses of his own; these pastures may have been in the back field under the orchard shade, as they were at the turn of the century according to Mrs. Hubbard's recollection.

Tower planted a row of black walnut on either side of the road as it approached from the covered bridge over Clear Creek to the Tower House. Historic photographs give an idea of the great height to which these shade trees reached. In the 1930's some of the trees suffered from a disease, and in the 1950's Mrs. Hubbard had the remaining walnut trees cut down so she could sell the wood to a man who wanted it for gunstocks.¹²

Camden's family also took a personal interest in the beautification of their grounds. The lawn was shaded with fig, apple, walnut, and cherry trees; at least in the early 20th century rose arbors added color and fragrance to the front yard. Mrs. Hubbard recalled that as a child she picked wild cherries which grew along the banks of Willow and Clear Creeks.

By the late 19th and early 20th centuries the verdant growth around the Tower House District set a pastoral scene

12. An article in the Redding Searchlight of February 15, 1938, p. 4, written by Mrs. Hubbard mentioned that, ". . . about thirty years ago, some students came from the University of California to see these trees, and at that time stood and looked with wonder at their age." My appreciation to Veronica Satorious for bringing this article to my attention.

of considerable richness. The beauty of the grounds climaxed a deliberate effort by two pioneers to improve the environment around them. It is only hoped that a restoration of this scene will help to provide a window to the history of the Tower House District, a history which proved to be both typical and unique in the development of Northern California.

D. THE EL DORADO MINE

According to preliminary research, the El Dorado Mine, discovered in 1885, stood on 40 acres of patented land about 1/4 of a mile southwest of the Tower House. The mine was worked for 7 years, from 1912-1919. In 1926 it was part of the French Gulch Mining District, and was owned by James G. Conner who was leasing it to Messrs. Statton and Van Slyke of French Gulch.¹³

At some as yet undetermined time the mine became known as the Bickford Mine; all National Park Service correspondence until very recently has referred to the mine with this name. The Park Service has taken steps within the last year to put the mine back in operation for demonstration purposes.

Four structures--a residence, stamp mill, open shed, and greenhouse--have been erected in the immediate vicinity of the mine. It is planned that the history of this mine will be developed further in the preparation of the Historic Resource Study for Whiskeytown National Recreation Area scheduled for fiscal year 1973.

13. C.A. Logan, Mineral Resources of Shasta County, reprint from Report of the State Mineralogist, Vol. 22, No. 2 (1926), p. 171.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

LEVI H. TOWER AS A REAL ESTATE INVESTOR

DATE	GRANTEE	LOCATION OF LAND	AMT. OF LAND	COST	DEED BOOK	PAGE
April 5, 1852	Samuel Francis	at and around the upper crossing of Clear Creek	160 acres	\$575	A	187
May 5, 1852	John Gilmore	at the crossing of Clear Creek	160 acres	\$912	A	243
December 19, 1852	John L. Smith	land along Clear Creek near Free Bridge	160 poles by 160 poles	\$200	A	463
***** (See below)						
November 14, 1855	Daniel Cram & wife	parcel of land in Town & County of Shasta		\$750	E	235
January 5, 1856	Edward M. Jemison	tract of land on east side of Sacramento River	160 acres	\$500	E	325
April 14, 1856	Fanny Clark	Trinity House lot		\$3000	E	420

***** Camden's Autobiography (p. 155) mentions that Tower constructed the Globe Hotel in Shasta some time in 1852. The Shasta Courier, June 18, 1853, p. 1, reports a "terrible conflagration" in Shasta, and lists among the worst hit in the town, Levi H. Tower, who, the writer estimated, lost some \$3000 in the fire. Presumably, the Globe Hotel burned down, although the deed books fail to list any purchase of town lots by Tower before 1855.

APPENDIX B

LEVI H. TOWER'S FALL FROM FINANCIAL SECURITY

DATE	SELLS TO	MORTGAGES TO	LAND INVOLVED	COST	DEED BOOK/ MORTGAGE BOOK	PAGE
June 3, 1853	Benjamin B. Young		Parker House lot in Shasta	\$250	C	77
June 9, 1856	Charles Camden		Trinity House lot in Shasta	\$4000	E	467
December 20, 1852		C. Donahue	Property known as Free Bridge House	\$800	A	464
August 24, 1 1853		Isaac Swab	Parcel of land known as Tower House and lands	\$2000	C	102
February 28, 1 1854		T.I. Chalenor S.G. Cronninshield D.R. Cobb P. Bennett J. Smith I.R. Alvord J. Madison C. Bruce O. Geltner H. Brown A. Haznard Wm. Patten Hartless & St. Clare H. Hanscome	property on Clear Creek known as the Free Bridge or Tower House	\$3000 \$1300 \$2000 \$500 \$550 \$1000 \$2000 \$800 \$700 \$361 \$675 \$1100 \$3000 \$1200 \$18,186	C	244

APPENDIX B, cont.

DATE	MORTGAGES TO	LAND INVOLVED	COST	OUTCOME	DEED/ MORTGAGE BOOK	PAGE
March 3, 1854	Thomas W. Dawson	Tower House	\$2500.60		C	240
May 25, 1855	Charles Camden Jacob Fritz Edward Hindman J.M. Rhodes & Co. Richard Waring Wilder S. Dodge Phoebe Colman		\$4000 \$400 \$600 \$4160 \$900 \$1100 <u>\$1225</u> \$12,385		C	686
August 25, 1855	William Schock	Tower House	\$1100		E	114
November 19, 1855	Daniel Cram				E	236
November 3, 1856	Charles Camden	Tower Ranch	\$2000		F	191
May 13, 1856	Charles Colcurn	Shasta lot	\$1225		F	211



APPENDIX C

Camden and Tower Lease With
California Stage Co. for Stables, 1858

Lease

Charles Camden
and

Levi Tower
to

Nov. 1, 1858

California Stage Co.

This indenture made the 1st day of November A.D. 1858 between Charles Camden owner and Levi H. Tower lessee of Shasta County State of California of the first part and W. Mayhew of Tehama County State of California agent for the California Stage Co. of the second part--Witnesseth that the parties of the first part for and in Consideration of Covenants and Acquirements herein after mentioned & Contained on the part and behalf of the Party of the Second part to be Kept and performed have granted and Leased and Demised unto the said party of the second part for the uses of the California Stage Co. their Executors administrators and assigns, all that Certain piece or lot of ground inside of the following boundaries Commencing at the Corner of the garden fence north by west from the Tower House and Running S.W. by the garden fence to the Brink of Crystal Creek thence up the bank of said to a large oak stump about 82 feet. From thence N.E. to the fence near a telegraph pole, from thence down the front to place of beginning to have and to hold the above described premises for the uses of stable and yard from this the 1st day of November A.D. 1858, forever or all time that it shall be used for the purposes herein designated, giving and permitting the parties of the first part their heirs[?] and assigns priviledged [sic.] to remove and hold all manures that is made at the stable free of cost as Likewise the privilidge [sic.] of a small hog pen, say 40 feet square at the End of the Stable where the manure will be Discharged, the parties of the Second part, shall at these Cost Keep a substantial fence around the lot, and it is granted and Required by the parties of

the first part their heirs [?] and assigns, that the parties of the Second part their heirs [?] and assigns may at all times have and Conduct from the ditch nearby water for the use of the stable free of Cost. Providing always, nevertheless, that the parties of the Second part shall not use the premises herein mentioned for any other purpose whatever, nor under any pretense sublet it to any other person or persons for any other purpose, and if in the Event of any time hereafter the parties of the second part their heirs [?] and assigns, should not have use for the premises hereby granted, for the purposes herein stated the lease shall cease and end, and the parties of the first part their heirs [?] or assigns, shall and may ----- [?] without cost or delay, In Witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands and Seal the day and year first above written.

Sealed & Delivered
in the presence of
Witness
H. Brownnell
D. Dumm [?]

Chas. Camden
L.H. Tower
W.P. Mayhew

Know all men by these presents that the California Stage Company for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars to its in hand paid by Louis McLane [?] of San Francisco California have sold and by these presents do grant convey assign transfer and set over unto the said Louis McLean [?] the foregoing Indenture of Lease to have and to hold the same according to its Terms.

In witness whoseof the said California Stage Company have hereunto caused its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed and the name of the president to be subscribed thereunto on this ninth day of June, A.D., Eighteen hundred and Sixty Six.

California Stage Co.
By
A.G. Richardson, Prest.

APPENDIX D

Camden Sells Tower House, March, 1869

Charles Camden	Dated March 2nd 1869
to	Covered by USRS to the amount
Andrew Cusick	of \$2.00 duly cancelled

This Indenture made the Second day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Sixty nine Between Charles Camden of the County of Shasta and State of California of the first part and Andrew Cusick of Same County and State of the town of Shasta the party of the Second part; Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the Sum of Two Thousand Dollars in Gold coin of the United States of America to him in hand paid by the Said party of the Second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged has granted bargained sold aliened remised released conveyed and confirmed and by these present doth grant bargain Sell alien remise release convey and confirm unto the Said party of the Second part and to his heirs and assigns forever, all that certain lot piece or parcel of land Situate lying and being in the Said County of Shasta and State of California and bounded and particularly described as follows to wit: commencing at a point ten feet from the North West corner of the dwelling house of Said party of the first part and about 5 feet East by North from a cherry tree near by. Thence North East to a post in the fence on the S.W. Side of the road leading from Shasta to Weaverville & about 25 feet above the gate leading into the house of the party of the first part about 151 feet. Thence Northerly & with said fence about 100 feet to the upper post of the gate leading into the Tower House garden and about 11 feet South of the corner of the Tower House. Thence N.E. across the public Highway to the Corral gate. Thence with the fence of said Corral in a N.E. course to the corner of the corral. Thence, with the fence of the Corral in a N.W. course to the upper corner of the same. Thence same course across the French Gulch road about 75 feet. Thence on the upper side of the Blacksmith Shop in a S.W. course about 255 feet to the N.W. corner of the garden

near the Stage barn. Thence S.W. & with said fence & including the same about 175 feet to a cluster of young white oak trees on the bank of Crystal Creek (blazed). Thence down & along the high bank of said Creek about 130 feet to a white oak tree on the bank of said creek blazed on 4 sides. Thence N.E. about 27 feet. Thence in a direct line to the place of beginning. Also the right of water from the upper ditch Sufficient in quantity for the use of the Tower House property and for irrigating purposes of the land above described but no more with the condition and upon the consideration that the party of the Second part will pay one half of the expenses of keeping the said ditch and flumes down to the Tower House in order and repair.

Together with all and Singular the tenements hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining and the reversion and reversion remainder and remainder rents issues and profits thereof, and also all the estate right title interest homestead property possession claim and demand whatsoever as well in law as in equity of the said party of the first part of in or to the said premises and every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances except the perpetual right to convey the necessary water for my dwelling house & grounds thereto belonging. To have and to hold all and Singular the said premises together with the appurtenances unto the said party of the Second part his heirs and assigns forever and the said party of the first part for himself and his heirs executors and administrators do hereby covenant and agree to and with the said party of the Second part his heirs executors administrators and assigns that he has not made done committed executed or Suffered any act or acts thing or things whatsoever whereby or by means whereof the Said premises or any part or parcel thereof now are or at any time hereafter shall or may be impeached charged or incumbered in any manner or way whatsoever.

In Witness Whereof the Said party of the first part has hereunto Let his hand and Seal the day and year first above written.

Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of Chas. Camden.

APPENDIX E

Camden Property, 1909

Shasta County Courthouse, Deed Book 102, p. 425

Grant of Right of Way

A.C. Richards

to

June 12, 1909

E.P. Sherk, et. al.

Beginning at the big gates to corral on Camden ranch near the Westerly end of the County bridge over Clear creek, and running thence in a Southerly and Southwesterly direction through said corral, through the ford of both branches of Crystal creek, along the Southwesterly bank of Clear creek and between said creek bank and the orchard fence or hedge to the bars and bridge at entrance to the mill-yard; thence through mill-yard between horse-barn and chicken house, passing close to lumber shed in front of dwelling house, across bridge over inverted siphon water pipe near old saw-mill, through gate at upper side of mill-yard and along the Westerly bank of Granite or Mill creek, crossing bridge over irrigating ditch, and to the mining claim now operated by the parties of the second part; said roadway being one-half (1/2) mile in length more or less.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

No further research will be necessary for the structures in the Tower House District with the exception of those structures associated with the Bickford or El Dorado Mine. The research to prepare the Historic Resource Study scheduled in fiscal year 1973 for Whiskeytown National Recreation Area will cover a more detailed history of the El Dorado Mine.

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA

By

David G. Henderson

IV. ARCHITECTURAL DATA

PREFACE

The writer thanks Superintendent Leon Mitchell and his staff for their generous cooperation, both during the field study of the district and the preparation of this report.

He also appreciates the able assistance of Restoration Specialist James S. Askins during the physical investigation of the structures.

INTRODUCTION

With the exception of the remnants described below, all structures from the early part of the historic period have vanished. First of these were the log cabins used by Camden and Tower. Soon after came the most famous structure, the Tower House hotel, enlarged 1852-53 by Tower from an earlier inn, the Free Bridge House. Also at this time, Camden built his sawmill and the first of his extensive series of flumes, trestles and ditches. Tower built a new toll bridge in 1853, succeeded by another in 1858. Camden in 1864 improved and covered a bridge at this same location.

In 1858, with the beginning of stagecoach service, a stable was built near the Tower House for the stage company. Numerous other structures were built then or in subsequent years, most of them across the highway (now California 299): barns, blacksmith shop, stable, firehouse, corrals, etc. A carriage house and stable no doubt stood near the Camden House. None of these structures can be positively identified or located.

The present Camden House incorporates part of the cottage Charles Camden built in 1852. The house also includes the addition Camden built between 1852 and 1867.

About 1867 two 1-1/2 story outbuildings were erected behind the Camden House, one possibly a summer kitchen, at the site of an earlier structure; the other apparently a tool house. Quarters were subsequently included in the upper floors. Both structures were board-and-batten, in contrast to the Camden House which had clapboards.

Still standing at Clear Creek are the stone piers from Camden's 1864 covered bridge; the bridge itself vanished about 1900.

The final remnant from the early period is the Levi Tower graveyard, where Tower was buried in 1865. The picket fence is of modern vintage.

The next significant era in the historic period was c. 1900, when the Camden House was enlarged to two stories

and part of the original clapboards replaced. The interior was modified, as were the interiors of the outbuildings.

The last historic period construction occurred in 1913, the year after Camden's death, under the direction of his daughter Grace Richards. A kitchen wing was added to the house and a front room converted to a screen porch. The two outbuildings were covered with siding, and the interiors of all three buildings further modified.

Also built at this time were two board-and-batten sheds behind the house, a board-and-batten carriage house in the lower yard, a footbridge across Willow Creek, and a vehicular bridge across Clear Creek. Further south were built a frame tenant house and a barn, both apparently near the sites of earlier structures. A clean-out house and trestles were constructed for the irrigation system.

Post historic period structures include a frame garage in the lower yard, c. 1928; a frame shed at French Gulch Road, c. 1930, built on the site of an earlier structure; a wooden water storage tank, c. 1935.

The historic old road trace, from the 1864 bridge piers thence past the Camden House was paved in 1921 as a state highway. Since 1931, however, access has been from the new highway, via a dirt road under the bridge over Clear Creek. This road continues south to the El Dorado Mine.

Although some fine old trees remain, the grounds are overgrown and retain only faint traces of orchards or other features. One of the most important of these, the walnuts flanking the old road, were removed in 1956.

Although not part of the Camden-Tower story, the El Dorado Mine, started in 1885, is important in regional history. It was last owned and operated by Frank Bickford who sold it to the Park Service in 1968. The principal structures are a frame stamp mill, a semi-open shed and several pieces of apparatus, possibly dating from the turn of the century. Modern structures are a greenhouse, dwelling, an open shed and a concrete water tank.

A. DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION OF STRUCTURES

For convenience of analysis four groups of structures are defined in the district: (1) the Camden House, related buildings and structures; (2) the irrigation system; (3) the barn and tenant house; (4) El Dorado Mine. To aid in orientation a brief site description is given for each group (see maps).

CAMDEN HOUSE AREA

Principal feature of the entire district is the Camden House dating from 1852, a two-story white frame hip-roofed structure with front porch, facing northeast directly on California Highway 299 about 200 feet away. A short distance to the west is the intersection with the French Gulch Road to Yreka. On the south side of 299 just beyond this juncture stood the Tower House, and further on there were two additional structures, probably stables.

Part of the Tower House may have stood on the present highway; the state right-of-way extends well back from the paved road. To the north is the abandoned state highway hugging a bluff and on the same alignment as the old historic road westward to Weaver-ville. Below 299 this abandoned highway runs southeast about 200 feet in front of the Camden House to a dirt road skirting Clear Creek. Across the road and flanking the creek are two stone piers, foundations for the toll bridge improved and covered by Charles Camden in 1864. The road continues to a bridge spanning Willow Creek where it enters Clear Creek, then passes through a meadow past the barn and tenant house to the El Dorado Mine. The north end of this road passes under the present highway bridge and connects via a sharp cut-back to 299 directly opposite the Camden House.

The trace of the old highway was flanked until 1956 by the remains of a double row of black walnut trees, planted by Levi Tower and one of the well-known attractions of the district.

Below the bluff at the northwest corner of the intersection of 299 and the French Gulch Road is a one-story frame shed built about 1929. Historic research indicates that on and near this site may once have stood the Tower House blacksmith shop and stables. To the northwest is a wooden water tank (see Irrigation

System); a short way up the hill is the grave of Kate Camden, an Indian servant in the Camden household. Across the French Gulch road were several other structures, and the remnants of an orchard planted by Levi Tower are still present.

The yard on three sides of the Camden House is overgrown, chiefly with wild sweet peas, partly obscuring a concrete walk and some shallow stone irrigation ditches. Present are several exotic trees and shrubs, including the Chinese locusts so ubiquitous throughout this area. There is no suggestion of the attractive cultivated appearance of the place during Camden's occupancy and earlier periods. At the lower end of the yard near the road skirting Clear Creek is a grove of trees including a huge live oak and containing two frame sheds, c. 1913 and c. 1928, last used as garages. This shady spot is in pleasant contrast to the open ground prevalent elsewhere. Close behind the structures is thick brush at the steep bank above Willow Creek. A white picket fence encloses the north and east sides of the yard.

Strongly reminiscent of Levi Tower's activity is the remnant of an orchard extending about 200 yards from the Camden House yard northwest to the Tower House site, also overgrown. Southwest of the house below the orchard is a footbridge over Willow Creek, built c. 1913 by Grace Richards, one of Camden's daughters. The bridge also carries an irrigation pipeline. A path leads through an old apple orchard between the creek and a meadow, terminating at a small graveyard containing Levi Tower's grave.

At the rear of the Camden House and connected to it by a wood deck are two gable-roofed 1-1/2-story frame structures, dating from c. 1867. The structure to the southwest was used originally as a summer kitchen; later, a caretaker's room was added above; eventually it became a guest house. The other building was first used as a toolshed, then for servants' quarters and storage. Parts of the deck area are covered with a light metal roof, and there is a laundry tub between the two buildings.

Near the guest house is a very small shed built c. 1913 and used by Austin Richards, husband of Grace, to manufacture gas. This shed may have later been used as a pumphouse with the advent of electricity about 1928. A short distance beyond

is a concrete structure which once housed an effluent treatment system. This was also built by Mr. Richards, a civil engineer, about 1920.

At the south corner of the house beyond the wood deck is a frame structure originally used as a woodshed, also built c. 1913 by Mrs. Richards. One half is open at the front, separated from an enclosed portion by a low partition. A wood ramp originally extended from the edge of the deck to the shed.

Between the shed and the back wall of the house is a huge live oak tree about 40" in diameter which butts against the house. A large branch has fallen on the adjacent shed, damaging the roof. The branch should be removed, and an investigation should be made to determine if the tree is sound enough to remain without damaging the house itself.

The ground behind these buildings and to either side slopes down to Willow Creek, and is covered with a dense tangle of vines and third-growth trees. There are also several large trees choked by vines.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM

This is an outgrowth, still operating, of a system built by Charles Camden and used by him and Levi Tower. Water is conveyed from Crystal Creek several miles west to the tank previously mentioned, thence to the Camden House and across Willow Creek to the meadow beyond. The park has recently added new piping to reclaim the cultivated lands developed by the two historic figures.

MILL CREEK TENANT FARMHOUSE AND BARN

These buildings stand in the far corner of the meadow southwest of Willow and Mill Creeks, flanking the dirt road leading south to the El Dorado Mine. The frame house, on the east side, was built about 1913, and is close to Mill Creek and not far from the site of Camden's sawmill.

The barn, about 150 feet away on the west side of the road, is a rather handsome frame structure and the largest in the historic district. It dates to the same period as the house.

Both the house and the barn were built for Mrs. Richards under the direction of a local master carpenter, Billy Plass, for use by Frank Ponte, the tenant farmer on the estate from 1912 to 1928. The two buildings were apparently built near the sites of similar earlier structures.

EL DORADO MINE

About 1/4 of a mile south of the above buildings is an old gold mine and several related structures, last owned by Frank C. Bickford who sold the property to the U.S. in 1968. However, the mine was started in 1885 and was known as the El Dorado Mine. Mr. Bickford had been operating the mine when he sold it, and the park will give demonstrations of the stamp mill process as an interesting experience for visitors.

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CAMDEN HOUSE AREA--Detailed Description

Camden House and Outbuildings

The Camden House evolved through four distinct phases of alteration and enlargement subsequent to construction of the original cottage in 1852. These changes occurred: (1) prior to 1867, referred to as "1867"; (2) between 1867 and 1900, referred to as "post-1867"; (3) c. 1900; and (4) c. 1913. In 1933 minor changes were made, consisting of installation of asbestos shingles on the main roof, and interior redecoration. No changes were made after this date.

The house as it stands today consists of a hip-roofed two-story central element built onto an earlier 1-1/2-story addition to the original house, and a one-story later addition at the opposite (northwest) side. Clapboards were used on the earlier portions, and two types of drop siding on the later construction. Wood shingles were used on all roofs; however, the one-story kitchen addition was later covered with metal decking and the other roof surfaces with asbestos shingles. A covered porch runs along the front, or northeast side, with a recessed portion at

the east corner. The railing is missing. Behind this is an enclosed screen porch. At the south corner where the grade drops sharply, stone walls enclose a small cellar. A wood deck at the rear connects the house to two of the outbuildings. The brick chimney is covered with parging.

There are three six-light casement windows at the first floor, and two six-light vertically sliding windows at the second floor. All other windows are six-over-six double hung windows. On the center of the rear wall at the second floor is a protruding boxlike structure enclosing a water closet. The roof of the two-story element includes a deep moulded cornice, with elaborate brackets flanking the windows.

The original 1852 house was a one-story, gable-roofed cottage of two rooms, with wood shingle roof and hand-split clapboard walls. Traces of the rafters can be seen on the wall framing of the 1867 addition. An early painting shows a lean-to extension to the rear at the northwest end, with an exterior chimney. This extension was connected to a small gable roof shed with board-and batten-siding and shingle roof. The painting also shows a chimney at the center of the cottage ridge; however, there is no indication of this in the floor framing or the ground below. Probably the chimney did not extend to the ground, but was supported by framing at the loft level.

This illustration reveals a center door and two symmetrically placed windows at the front wall, and two similar windows at the northwest end. The windows are six-over-six double hung; they and the door have pedimented heads. A small shed roof shelters the front door. The door is comprised of two vertical panels, a separating horizontal panel, and two rectangular panels at the bottom, and is 1-1/4" thick.

These windows and the door (with transom) still exist in the front and end walls of the central portion of the present building. The hand planed clapboards on the front wall under the porch are also original, as is the floor and wall framing; the former split logs and the latter two sawn faces. The original ceiling joists were replaced with the 1900 second story addition. Also replaced were the floor boards, and the walls, originally covered only with oilcloth, were later covered with boards. The partition between the two rooms was removed during the interior alterations c. 1900.

Another early painting offers a close-up view of the east corner. It shows a 1-1/2-story, gable-roofed, four-room addition at the southeast end of the bungalow, forming the head of a T. A covered porch and railing extended across the entire front side, with a recessed portion under the upper floor of the addition. A six-over-six window appears in the recessed wall and in the adjacent southeast end wall of the bungalow. Two six-over-six windows appear in the sidewall of the addition, with a six-light sash centered over them at the second story. There is a six-over-six window centered in the gable, with a pedimented header as in the cottage windows. The roof has a deep projection at eaves and gables. The door and two flanking six-over-six windows appear as in the earlier painting. A stone wall and access door below the floor line show at the southeast side. This wall was apparently laid up dry or in mud mortar, since an early 20th century photograph of the adjacent rear stone wall, presumably built at the same time as the southeast wall, shows no mortar.

Although changes were made later to the southeast end at the first floor, this 1-1/2-story addition is definitely a part of today's house, the roof being modified to accommodate the second-floor addition to the original cottage. This can be further verified by comparison of the present house with an early 20th century photograph and with the painting. The original roof framing is still in place under the new roof constructed during the second-story enlargement.

A third historical painting, dated 1867, also shows this addition to the original cottage, and provides the most definite evidence of the date of the addition. While some structural evidence suggests the possibility of a somewhat later period, say 1875, the span is too short to be conclusive, and assuming the authenticity of the 1867 date on the painting, it is accepted as the construction date.

The clapboard siding on the rear wall is original, but was removed from the side and front walls (probably c. 1900) and replaced by drop siding. Parts of the porch floor framing and the roof framing are original; however, the floor boards have been replaced, and tongue-and-groove, beaded ceiling boards were added at a later date. The first- and second-floor framing is original.

The front room on the first floor has been converted to a screen porch, and the stair behind it rebuilt. Wall and ceiling boards in the room behind the stair have been replaced; the random-width, tongue-and groove-floor boards are original. The changes are described under the 1913 alteration. The tongue-and-groove, board-and-batten door to the closet in this room is original, but the door into the room is a replacement.

The front bedroom on the second floor retains its original random width, tongue-and-groove boards at floor, walls and ceiling. The entrance door is a replacement, but the closet door and the connecting door to the 1900 addition are original beaded, board-and-batten doors with original hardware.

The rear bedroom has been substantially altered. The partition enclosing the stair has been removed, and boarding on all walls replaced. The wood railing installed after the partition was removed is missing. A later partition was installed to enclose a bathtub and lavatory. Within this enclosure there is evidence of a former closet, which had rough-sawn board walls to the rafter line, and oilcloth above. The rough boards and the open rafters were later covered with planed boards. Flooring in this rear room area is random-width tongue-and-groove boards as in the front room. The partition between the front and rear rooms is original (moved slightly to accommodate the new stair), as is the door to the closet opposite the stair.

The original wood base in all rooms in the 1867 addition has been replaced, probably at the time wallpaper was applied. Windows in the 1867 addition are original.

Sometime after the 1867 addition was completed, a shed roof addition, the full width of the present dining room and flush with the rear wall of the 1867 building, was built onto the rear of the 1852 cottage. A rafter from this construction, embedded in the later northwest wall of the dining room, indicated that the roof was built over the lower part of the 1852 roof. The plate carrying the rafter for this addition is still embedded in the rear dining room wall. Also, the framing condition at the corner of the 1867 structure indicates conclusively that the shed roof structure was a later addition. The post-1867 shed roof addition replaced the original smaller shed roof structure at the rear of the cottage.

This smaller structure must have connected to the 1867 addition when the latter was built, or been extended to meet it, to permit access to the stair and rear first-floor room of the 1867 addition.

Possibly at the time of the 1867 addition, or shortly after, the oilcloth was removed from the interior walls of the cottage and boards applied.

The post-1867 shed roof addition had a small porch attached to it at the northwest side. This started at the west corner of the 1852 house and continued to the south jamb of the door into the present pantry. The boards in this area are original interior finish boards of the same type and color as the second floor of the 1867 addition. In contrast, the boards on each side are replacements, installed when the drop siding was removed to accommodate the 1913 kitchen wing. How far this porch--possibly a pantry or kitchen--extended to the northwest can only be determined by archeological investigation under the floor. These original boards also show the outline of a large cupboard.

The third and most elaborate change occurred about 1900, and brought the house (except for the kitchen wing) to its present appearance. Roofs of the 1852 cottage and the post-1867 addition were removed, as well as the northwest half of the roof of the 1867 addition. Walls were carried up to create a second story, capped by a new hip roof enclosing a spacious attic, the south-east roof surface merging flush with the remaining 1867 roof surface. A new chimney and fireplace were constructed, replacing earlier construction at the same location. A wider frieze was installed at the 1867 addition to match the frieze of the new roof cornice. This alteration eliminated the pedimented headers in the front and rear gable windows of the 1867 structure, since the heads of the new second-floor windows were set at the same height as these 1867 gable windows.

The second-floor plate line of the 1900 enlargement was set at the same elevation as the 1867 structure. Since the latter contains 6-inch floor joists, and the 1900 structure 10-inch joists, the second floor of the new structure is 4 inches higher. An opening was cut into the wall of the rear 1867 bedroom, giving access to a hall and thence to the two bedrooms of the new addition. The projecting boxlike structure enclosing a water closet also

connected to this hall. In the hall ceiling is an access panel to the attic. A connecting door was installed between the 1867 front bedroom and the new adjoining master bedroom. This door is board-and-batten construction, tongue-and-groove, beaded boards, and plain casing: all other doors on the second floor of the 1900 enlargement are four-panel, moulded panel with moulded casings. The sash in the water closet compartment are three light horizontal sliding; all other windows are six-over-six double hung with moulded casings. All second-floor doors and windows of the 1900 enlargement are original.

Floors and ceilings throughout are 3-3/8" tongue-and-groove fir (ceiling boards have bevelled edges), both flat and vertical grain. Wall boards are 5/8" x 12" ponderosa pine. Walls were covered with muslin, then papered. Later wallpaper was applied over the first. The original wood base has been replaced. Door-knobs have been removed; all other door and window hardware is original.

At the first floor new ceiling boards were installed, the same as used on the second floor. Presumably wallpaper was applied also, however this cannot be definitely established, since the wall boards were removed, as described below in the 1913 period.

Whether a partition existed or was added in the rear room (the present dining room) in 1900 cannot be determined, since all physical evidence is gone (see below). A portion of the railing at the northeast end of the porch may have been removed at this time. However, this cannot be definitely established, since the early photo showing this change is undated.

It was probably during this period that the original clap-board siding on the southeast wall and northeast gable wall of the 1867 addition was replaced by drop siding, most likely due to heavy weathering in this exposure.

The last alterations of any consequence were made about 1913 by Grace Richards. The principal change was the addition of a one-story, shed-roof kitchen wing at the northeast end. The drop siding of this wing differs in profile and exposure from the drop siding on the 1900 enlargement. A boxlike structure was built on the northwest wall of the wing to house an

electric distribution panel when electricity came into the area about 1928.

The front wall of the front room of the 1867 addition was removed and replaced by a wire screen partition, and the ceiling, wall and floor boards replaced. The window from the 1867 addition was relocated next to the adjacent window in the southeast wall. The window in the southeast 1852 bungalow wall was removed and double doors installed. The two interior doors were relocated.

New floor framing was installed at the dining room, running parallel to the long dimension of the room with nailer blocks to accommodate new 3-3/8" tongue and groove fir flooring. The same flooring was laid at the living room over the original framing. A casement window was placed in the wall of the closet in the rear room of the 1867 addition, and a water closet installed.

False ceiling beams were installed in the living and dining rooms and new screen porch, as well as heavy flat cornices of the same depth. Wide, rather heavy casings replaced the original members at windows and doors, and were applied at new openings. Similar material was used to create a new mantelpiece and flanking bookcases at the living room fireplace, and for construction of storage cabinets in the dining room. The fireplace facing was replaced. A new baseboard was installed, consisting of a 1" x 8" piece topped by an inverted ploughed cornice mould. This detail also replaced all baseboard on the second floor. Wall boards were replaced in living and dining rooms and the rear 1867 room, and wallpaper applied.

At the first floor, five-panel doors were installed in new openings, and replaced all existing doors except the front door and the closet door in the rear 1867 room. Half-glazed doors were installed at the stairway and at the front 1867 bedroom on the second floor.

A major alteration was reconstruction of the stair in order to create an easier rise. This lengthened the run, resulting in extension of the stair into the dining room. Reconstruction included a new rail, with square newel posts and balusters. At the second floor one original partition was moved slightly and the other removed. A new partition was erected near the head of the stair to enclose a bathtub and lavatory.

Piping details indicate that lavatories may have been installed at this time in the bedrooms; however, this cannot be confirmed since the fixtures have been removed. Gas jets were installed.

At the exterior, porch floor boards have been replaced, and tongue-and-groove, beaded ceiling boards installed. An c. 1920 photo of about this period shows a wood deck between the back of the house and the outbuildings, also a ramp and a flight of steps. However, the materials and detailing indicate that the present structure is a later replacement.

The 1933 work consisted primarily of installation of new asbestos shingles on the roof over the old wood shingles. Additional roofers were added, as well as 1-5/8" x 3-5/8" posts to support rafters. Gutters were added and the chimney parged. The entire house was painted and the interior repapered. In some cases the previous paper was removed, in others left in place. Cove and picture moulds were installed in all bedrooms. The stone walls at the basement were mortared at this time, or at least repointed, with Portland cement mortar.

Turning to the condition of the house today, the most serious structural problem exists at the front or northeast corner under the porch. The posts supporting the porch roof and, more importantly, the corner of the whole second floor structure above are near collapse. Likewise, the girder and lower posts under the main posts are rotted and near failure. The beam supporting the second floor may also be weakened. These conditions quite possibly have been aggravated by removal of the first-floor wall to create the screen porch.

The balance of the porch structure is deteriorated beyond salvage, except for some of the floor framing and some of the rafters. The flooring is nearly all gone.

The other major structural problem is caused by the huge oak at the rear of the house. The top is leaning against the protruding structure which housed the water closet. The trunk pushes against the stone cellar wall. As previously mentioned, a large section has split off and dropped on the adjacent woodshed.

The first-floor framing, supporting posts, and stone or concrete pads are generally sound, although minor settlement has occurred in a few places. The floor of the kitchen wing slopes markedly. Some members are water stained; however, this looks minor and is probably due to flooding which occurred when pipes froze and burst during the winter. This caused some staining of roof framing and is also visible on the wall surfaces. The walls themselves appear generally plumb and sound, and the second-floor and roof framing is still in good condition.

Other than the details cited, the condition of the house generally is one of deterioration due to neglect and some vandalism. There are leaks in the roof due to broken shingles or cracked roof boards, a few holes in the walls, plus loose pieces of siding here and there. Rot exists at numerous points at the roof eaves, and cornice and other trim is loose or badly weathered in places. As previously mentioned, asbestos cement shingles have caused deflection in rafters not designed for such loads, but it is surprisingly small. The chimney above the roof is deteriorated beyond salvage.

Vandalism has consisted principally in removal of door-knobs (white glass or white porcelain) and other hardware, wall-mounted light fixtures, and lavatories from the bedrooms. Plug-in electric heaters were used in the last stage of occupancy, and these are also gone. The stair railing has vanished. A few windows are broken and doors damaged where they were pried open. One door is missing at the first floor.

The four frame structures behind the Camden House are of board-and-batten construction, set on wood beams and posts on stone footings. Roofs were wood shingles, now replaced (except for pumphouse) by corrugated galvanized steel. The two middle structures, last used as quarters, were covered with drop siding of the type used on the 1913 changes to the house. For convenience these buildings are identified by letter (see map). From northwest to southeast they are:

Building A -- Pumphouse
" B -- Guest Cottage
" C -- Servants' Quarters
" D -- Woodshed

A wood deck of 1" x 6" boards laid on 4" x 4" beams supported by 4" x 4" posts connects the guest house (Building B) and the servants' quarters (Building C) with the Camden House. The deck drops down 1'-8" at the corner of the servants' quarters, which is entered from both levels. Wood steps, now missing, gave access to the deck from the dining room, and a second flight, also missing, gave access to the rear yard at the southeast end of the servants' quarters. Near this point and skirting the huge oak was a wood ramp, now vanished.

A metal roof on wood frame connects the door of the guest house with the kitchen door of the main house; a similar structure with enclosing walls stands at the rear of the deck between the servants' quarters and guest house. A laundry tub is still in place here.

Structural details indicate that these buildings were erected at the same time as or not long after the 1867 addition to the house. When they were covered with drop siding in 1913, wider frieze and barge boards were also applied. The wide casings at doors and windows are similar to the casings on the 1913 kitchen addition to the house. Original exterior doors have been removed from both buildings and replaced by four-panel doors. Also in each building, a small sliding or casement window has been replaced by a larger double-hung six-over-six window. Gutters were also added to both buildings.

The guest house was apparently a summer kitchen originally. The addition of a stair to the loft, as well as two six-light casement windows in the gables, created a bedroom for a caretaker. A bathroom was later added at the first floor when the building was converted to a guest house. These changes appear to have been made about 1900.

At about the same time a stair was constructed to the loft of the servants' quarters (originally a tool house) from the upper level of the deck. Two sliding six-light windows were added at the gables. A small compartment for a water closet was added next to the stair. The entire interior has been lined with 1/2" fiberboard.

The pumphouse (Building A) northwest of the above buildings, built c. 1913, is unusual in that it contains two doors in a

structure only 6-1/2 feet square. One of these is a board-and-batten, tongue-and-groove, beaded door taken from the house. As previously stated, the structure was originally used to manufacture gas. The roof is still shingled.

At the opposite end of the row from the pumphouse is a one-story shed-roof structure, erected about 1913 and originally known as the woodshed (Building D). It is of board-and-batten construction, and the roof covering is now corrugated steel replacing the original wood shingles. A 7-foot-high partition was erected at a later date, creating a small workroom. This space has a wood floor; the other, larger space, which is partly open at the front, has an earth floor. There is a sliding six-light window in each space, and the door to the workroom, of board-and-batten, beaded, tongue-and-groove construction was removed from the main house. The space between the woodshed and the corner of the Camden House is quite constricted.

The pumphouse, guest house and servants' quarters are in generally good condition, except for details such as marring caused by exposed pipes and electric conduit. Pieces of trim or siding are missing or loose, and hardware, light fixtures, and the lavatory have been removed. Settling has occurred, mainly due to shifts in stone footings; however, the wood supporting structures appear basically sound.

The woodshed (Building D) is in the worst condition, due mainly to damage caused by a large branch from the nearby oak tree falling on the roof, which is also rotted in places. The supporting dry stone wall has largely collapsed.

The two structures (Buildings E and F) at the east end of the yard near the dirt road skirting Clear Creek are of board-and-batten construction. Both were built by Grace Richards, and are painted green, possibly in an attempt to camouflage them which is quite successful. The one nearest the road (Building F) is a rectangular shed-roof structure with corrugated steel roofing, and was built about 1928 for use as a garage. It is in an awkward position, butting against a large oak tree. The other, a small carriage house, nearly square in plan with a gable shingled roof, was built about 1913. It contains two sliding six-light windows at each side wall and the rear wall, and unusual double-folding doors at the front. The building was

probably used for carriages, and the appearance of the ground suggests there may have been a stable nearby, and possibly an earlier carriage house. The area contains a number of trees creating a shady condition much of the time. The trace of a lane is discernible running up from a gate in the picket fence bordering the dirt road.

At an unknown date in the past the flooding of Clear Creek deposited a large quantity of silt in and around these two structures, burying the sills and the bottom of the siding to a depth of nearly two feet. This has caused rotting all along the perimeters of both structures, which are fairly dilapidated: roofs sag, walls are out of plumb, and doors have fallen or been pulled off. The gable-roof building has shingles or roof boards missing and some framing members are damaged or have been removed. In addition, the branches of a small tree have penetrated the roof.

Footbridge

Just below the pumphouse (Building A) and the concrete sewage structure is a wooden footbridge on concrete piers across Willow Creek, carrying the pipeline installed by the park to irrigate the meadow beyond. This bridge was built in the 1913 era. It replaced an earlier bridge on stone piers which dated well back into the 19th century.

The present bridge has no railing and is in a deteriorated, unsafe condition.

Covered Bridge Piers

The earlier footbridge may have been related in time to the stone piers still standing on either side of Clear Creek, near the garage and small barn. These piers carried the toll bridge covered and improved by Charles Camden in 1864 as part of his toll road to Shasta. The bridge was still standing at least until 1900. Differences in age between the upper and lower stonework indicate additions. The pier on the east side is topped by a later block of concrete, probably to ease the grade transition from the road beyond. Both piers bear evidences of the steel bridge built about 1911.

The piers have no cracks and generally appear to be in good condition, with no settling evident.

Shed at French Gulch Road

A board-and-batten structure with corrugated steel shed roof, this building is located on the northwest side of French Gulch road just above California 299. It was built about 1929 for general storage by Carl Oding, son of the last owner of the Tower House. The shed is built into a bank with stone walls at the banks. The front or road side has two pairs of doors.

The most significant aspect of this building is the fact that a much larger structure was torn down to permit the shed's construction. No clear evidence about the older building has been uncovered, but this site is approximately where the Tower House blacksmith shop stood. The present stone walls apparently were the lower walls of the previous structure, and a section of stone wall from the older building still exists north of the present shed. The early age of these walls is shown by the use of mud as mortar.

Half of the rear stone wall has collapsed, due to earth pressure from the bank behind. The framing of the structure is quite nondescript, with excessive use of material and amateurish construction techniques. The exterior of the shed is generally dilapidated.

Levi Tower Graveyard

Just beyond the northwest end of the meadow, approximately 300 yards northwest of the footbridge, is a small graveyard about 15 feet square containing the grave of Levi Tower, Charles Camden's brother-in-law. Although Tower died in San Francisco, his body was returned here for burial following his death in 1865.

The graveyard is enclosed by a low picket fence about 30 to 40 years old. It is not known whether there had always been an enclosing fence around the graveyard, or whether other burials were made. Tower's grave is marked by simple head and foot stones, there being no markers of any kind to indicate other graves. The National Park Service has partially cleared the graveyard, which is surrounded by brush and third-growth saplings.

Willow Creek Bridge

This structure over Willow Creek just above its confluence with Clear Creek was built about 1913. It has been altered and added to since then, and is of heavy timber construction. The bridge is in good condition.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM--Detailed Description

An interesting example of continuity with the past, this system, with numerous additions, alterations, and repairs over the years, exists today as the working survival of one of the earliest water systems in the region. It was originally built by Charles Camden to serve his placer mining and sawmill operations and for farm irrigation. It was equally important to Levi Tower's prize orchards and gardens.

Still operating entirely by gravity, the system irrigates through sprinklers the Camden House yard and adjacent old orchard remains. From here a pipeline built by the National Park Service and crossing the footbridge over Willow Creek leads to an extensive sprinkler system serving the remains of the southwest orchard and the adjacent meadow, now being reseeded as a pasture area for park patrol horses.

The new piping connects at the Camden House orchard to an old gate valve. From this point a pipe runs under California 299 and the bank beyond, thence up the hill to the water storage tank previously mentioned. A pipe extends from the tank along the bluff overlooking 299 for about one-half mile, then tunnels under the highway and is carried on a suspension structure over Willow Creek just above its juncture with Crystal Creek. It shortly terminates at a small clean-out structure near the road to the State correction department labor camp. Water flows to this structure down a ditch from a diversion dam on Crystal Creek. Roughly halfway to the dam, the water is carried over rough terrain on several hundred feet of wood or metal flumes supported by wooden trestles, built under Mrs. Richards' direction about 1913.

In Camden's era a system of ditches and flumes conveyed water from Crystal Creek, south of the highway and skirting

Willow Creek, down to the orchards, pasture and sawmill. No physical evidence of this system remains.

The two principal structures in this system--other than piping, ditches, etc.--are the storage tank and the clean-out house. The tank, located uphill from the French Gulch Road sheds, is a cylindrical redwood structure 7-1/2 feet high, bound with steel rods and topped by a conical board-and-batten roof. Water flows into the tank through an 8" black steel pipe from the clean-out house about 1/2 mile west, then out of the tank in a 6" black steel pipe, controlled by two gate valves, thence down the hill and under California 299 to the Camden House. Date of construction is unknown, but the tank is still in good condition and should be serviceable for another 6-8 years at least.

The clean-out house is a small shed-roof structure, with drop siding walls and corrugated steel roofing. It is in good condition, and has had a number of minor additions and alterations since built by Mrs. Richards in 1913.

The house contains an ingenious device consisting of rows of curved blades mounted on a shaft. Also mounted on the shaft is a large wheel and chain device connected to another drive shaft and differential from a very old vehicle. The latter mechanism has paddles attached to it: water flows over these from the ditch running down the hill to the house, and the differential drives the shaft carrying the curved blades, which remove pine needles, sticks, etc., from the water supply.

MILL CREEK TENANT FARMHOUSE AND BARN--Detailed Description

The road from the bridge over Willow Creek south of the Camden House provides a charming approach to the meadow forming a valley floor within enclosing hills. In the distance are the two structures, framed by large trees. To the left of the road are pleasant glimpses of Mill Creek. From the house and barn a very lovely view is obtained of the meadow toward the northwest, terminated by the hills. Past the house and barn the road continues about 1/4 of a mile southwest to the El Dorado Mine. The area generally was used by Charles Camden for farming and pasture, and his sawmill was located on Mill Creek a few hundred feet south of the farmhouse.

The latter structure, built c. 1913, is a wood frame building, roughly L-shaped, one portion being 1-1/2-story with gable roof and the other one-story with hip roof. Walls are drop siding over boards-and-battens. A porch once surrounded the front and two sides, but the center section has collapsed due to destruction of the supporting posts by vandals. However, the house proper has apparently not suffered structurally from this. There is also a small back porch enclosed on three sides. The roof was originally wood shingled, and these were covered about 30 years ago with hexagonal asphalt shingles, except the high gable. Both are badly deteriorated. There are four rooms, kitchen and bathroom on the first floor. The south corner of the porch near the kitchen was enclosed by screening some years after the house was built; the result is unsightly and intrusive. The second floor contains 2 bedrooms in the 1-1/2-story gable-roofed portion. The attic floor of the adjoining one-story hip roofed portion is about the same level as the second floor and opens onto it. A lower roof covers the bathroom, rear porch and kitchen, and continues around the corner to join the main porch roof.

The house is structurally in good condition (aside from the collapsed porch), with walls plumb and floors generally level. Roof framing is sound, despite leaks where shingles have deteriorated or blown off. Floor framing is stable except for a few spots where settling has occurred. Floor boards and framing members of the porch have rotted in some places along the edges; however, the main floor framing beyond appears dry and tight. Most of the rafters and roofers of the collapsed porch roof look salvageable. Stone piers are apparently still solid. Some rot has occurred at roof edges.

There are no window screens, and two screen doors are missing. Some windows are broken, a few pieces of trim are broken or missing, and a few holes exist in the walls. Paint, though worn here and there, is generally tight. The porch floor, of mixed 1" x 12" and 1" x 6" boards, is unpainted.

The interior of the house, except for some collapsed boards in the bathroom ceiling, is in good condition. Ceilings and floors are tongue-and-groove boards, with linoleum in kitchen and bathroom. Trim is generally sound, and paint tight. The walls are covered with wallpaper which is stained and discolored.

The water closet and bathtub have been removed. The kitchen sink and range are beyond rehabilitation. Hardware is original.

Mill Creek runs close to the rear of the house. What must have once been a very pleasant yard surrounding the building is now grown wild, although several large trees still give character. The National Park Service has done some clearing of the yard.

The barn across the road is a large structure, 50 feet by 50 feet and about 30 feet high, comprised of a heavy timber frame enclosed by board-and-batten walls and a corrugated steel roof. Like the farmhouse, the barn was built c. 1913. Level ground and regular tree spacing nearby suggest strongly that an earlier barn had stood very close to the present structure.

The building has an impressive form and interesting lines and proportions, being composed of a high, gable-roof center section and two flanking but asymmetrical shed-roof sections. The barn has weathered to an attractive gray on the exterior, and was apparently never stained. The east section, open at both ends and without a floor, was possibly used for storage of wagons and heavy implements. Remains of hardware still exist, probably from former gates. The center (and widest) section at one time had two wood floors, since removed, one just above grade and another about 10 feet higher. The upper level was probably intended as a hayloft but never completed. This is reinforced by the opening in the gable above: there is no sign either of a door or a track for a pulley to carry hay. An opening was cut at the ground level below, but no door installed. The west section is divided into stalls, four small (5-foot) and four large (10-foot).

The framing system is still basically sound and intact; however there are two conditions which are potentially troublesome. The framing of the center section, key element in the whole structure, has been subject to some racking action due to removal of the two floor structures, particularly the upper one. Also, since most of the board partitions on the east and west sides are gone (except for the low partition at the stalls), the stiffening action supplied by these boards is lost.

The other major problem exists at the east wall. Stone piers and the posts above have become displaced, causing sagging

and settling of the entire wall. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the boards are loose, a few are broken or missing, and all the battens are missing, as they are also at the gable end walls of this section. In addition, portions of the sills and posts are cracked or rotted at the base of the east wall.

This latter condition exists at other places around the building perimeter, due chiefly to timbers being in contact with the ground. Brush and weeds perpetuate dampness and prevent good ventilation.

Aside from the above, there are numerous cracks, holes and loose boards here and there, plus doors that sag. The corrugated steel roofing has lost most of its galvanized coating due to weathering, and is rusted in numerous places. Also, corners of some sheets have curled up slightly where nails have fallen out.

The barn has a pleasant setting, framed by large trees, facing the meadow on two sides, the road on another, and backed up by a steep hill near the entrance side.

EL DORADO MINE--Detailed Description

This site, about 1/4 of a mile south of the barn, has as its nucleus a mine started in 1885 as the El Dorado Mine. A major fault discovered in the rock formation over the mine shaft prevented extensive operation without prohibitively expensive shoring. This will also, unfortunately, prevent visitors from going very far into the mine.

From the shaft opening a rail line for an ore car runs about 60 feet to a roofed heavy platform supported by log posts. From the platform a "grizzly", or ore chute, drops into a board-and-batten shed housing the stamp mill. This lively and irregular structure is most interesting visually, suggesting a piece of apparatus as much as a building. The shed roof is covered with corrugated galvanized steel.

Near the stamp mill structure is a long open shed constructed of bare log posts, beams, and rafters. A rough board enclosure serves as a tool crib; nearby are the remains

of a forge. At the southwest end is a board-and-batten enclosed space which functions as a combined office and workroom. The entire structure is covered with corrugated steel roofing.

The park staff has started putting this complex in operating condition and will eventually conduct regular demonstrations of the mining and stamp mill processes for visitors. The park has been aided by a retired mining engineer familiar with this area, Mr. Walter Hester, who was formerly a V.I.P. in the park and recently transferred to Lava Beds National Monument.

Just beyond the mine structures are a small greenhouse and a modern vacation-type house. The National Park Service expects to refurbish the house for staff occupancy pending decision on use of the residential structures discussed earlier in this report. On the hillside above the house is a concrete tank which collects water for distribution to the house and mine shed. An additional open shed of recent vintage is located further down the road.

This entire mine site has an intimate, secluded character created by the thickly wooded hill behind the structures and the heavy growth bordering Willow Creek across the road. This quality is in pleasant contrast to the open meadow at the barn and tenant house further up the road.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE AND TREATMENT

CAMDEN HOUSE AREA

Camden House

Generally, it is recommended that the first floor be used for information-orientation, interpretation and sales, and the second floor be used for administrative purposes and quarters. The public should not be admitted to the second floor or the cellar.

The major restoration problem will be the porch, particularly the east corner. Some of the floor framing members, rafters and ceiling boards are salvageable, but the greater part of the porch will have to be rebuilt. Fortunately much of the material, though badly rotted, can be preserved as a guide. The porch rail needs total reconstruction. Particular attention should be given to the beam supporting the gable wall above the porch. The wire screen wall will need to be repaired, and a door into the living room provided.

Asbestos roof shingles and the wood shingles underneath should be removed, as well as the intermediate roofers installed with the asbestos shingles, and new wood shingles applied. Braces should be provided under rafters at the wall plates, and all roof members checked for necessary repair or replacement. Additional bracing will be needed at the juncture between the 1900 and 1867 roofs. In this regard, particularly careful examination should be made of the roof and second-floor ceiling framing at the east corner. This portion has sagged, as has the second floor underneath, due to failure of supporting members at the porch level. Eaves, cornices, and brackets will require some repairs and replacements. The deteriorated chimney above the roof should be removed and reconstructed to the same configuration. Gutters and downspouts should be removed.

The corrugated steel roof on the kitchen addition should be removed and the wood shingles replaced. Gutters and downspouts should be removed.

In addition to repairs or reconstruction of porch supporting members, the entire first-floor framing system and supporting

posts should be carefully inspected, and sections replaced or shored up where damage or settling has occurred. Stone pads should be placed under all posts. Regrading should be accomplished at the perimeter of the house to prevent rot of walls and sills.

The entire exterior of the house requires spot patching and painting. Minor repairs will be needed generally to loose or broken siding, trim, etc. Where possible, doors and windows should be repaired rather than replaced.

At the interior, wall and floor boards should be removed at the locations where serious flooding occurred, to determine the condition of framing members beneath.

It is suggested that the original portion of the house--the present living room--be partially refurnished and be used as the historical interpretive center of the park. The adjoining screen porch could be used as a rest area.

The stair should be rebuilt to its approximate original location, to remove this intrusion from the interpretive space; however, it will not be a period reconstruction.

The former dining room could be used for information-orientation, natural history interpretation and sales.

It is recommended that the rear room of the 1867 addition be used as an office for the historian-interpreter. Alternatively, this room might be used for exhibits and the 1913 kitchen used as an office, a library or curator's workroom. If development of the interpretive program warrants and the second floor can provide sufficient office space, the kitchen might be used as a stand-up rear-projection A/V room or for exhibits.

Structural openings should be made in these three rooms to show visitors the evolution in construction methods.

At the second floor, it is recommended that the two front rooms be used as offices and the two rear rooms adapted as a staff apartment. A new bathroom should be installed, incorporating the existing water closet compartment. This could be used both by apartment occupants and office staff, thus elimina-

ting traffic down the stairs and through the exhibit area. A new partition will be necessary at the stairwell, and the existing bathtub enclosure will need to be removed. Sound-deadening floor covering should be installed throughout the second floor.

While the second floor would not be exhibited, the two front rooms, the west room (proposed living room-bedroom), and the hall could be easily restored. All that is required is replacement of the base, relocation of the door from the present bathroom to the proposed east office, and a new casing at the connecting door between the proposed offices. Painting, new wallpaper and floor finishing would be necessary in any case.

These will also be required at the first floor. Wallpaper from c. 1900 should be used throughout.

New plumbing and electrical systems will be needed. Electric heating panels are recommended, particularly on the first floor since they can be more readily concealed or made unobtrusive. Door and window hardware is needed throughout. A central air-conditioning system should be installed.

Outbuildings

At the rear of the Camden House, the guest house (Building B) should be adapted for use as staff quarters. The first floor should be remodeled to provide a small living-dining area, kitchenette and bathroom. The second floor could function as is as a bedroom-study.

The first floor of the adjacent servants' quarters (Building C) is recommended for conversion to public toilets. These could be easily reached from the steps at the rear of the Camden House. The present stair from the upper level of the deck would be retained to provide access to a proposed storage-study collection area on the second floor of the servants' quarters.

Corrugated steel roofing should be removed from both buildings and new wood shingles installed. Floor framing and supports should be carefully examined and necessary repairs

and shoring accomplished. Electrical and plumbing systems are needed--electrical heating units are recommended as for the Camden House. Missing hardware needs replacing. Otherwise, the buildings are sound and need only general rehabilitation.

While it is not important historically, a reconstructed deck is necessary to serve these structures. Wood steps should be provided from the house to the deck and from the deck to the rear yard. A reconstructed ramp at the southwest end of the deck would be useful, particularly to the handicapped. The present roof structures connecting the buildings should be demolished.

The small pumphouse (Building A) nearby should not be opened to the public, but used for storage or other practical purpose. The early period front door should be removed and used in the Camden House. The structure requires only minor rehabilitation.

The woodshed could be used as it was most recently in the past, with storage in the open section and the workroom continued in that use. Board-and-batten doors should be provided at the opening. Repairs will be needed to the roof, and the deteriorated corrugated steel roofing should be removed and wood shingles installed. The dry stone foundation walls will require rebuilding. An electrical system will be needed, including an electric heater for the workroom.

When the restored site is in operation there will be a need to conceal private cars or government vehicles used by employees, to prevent such vehicles' becoming an intrusion and distraction in the historic scene. It is recommended that these vehicles be housed in the c. 1913 carriage house (Building E) and the c. 1928 garage (Building F). These buildings could also accommodate equipment such as mowers.

Repairs will be needed to roof framing members, and the wood shingle roofing at the carriage house must be replaced. The large accumulation of silt needs to be cleared away and the sills shored up and walls plumbed. Extensive replacement of boarding and sills may be necessary because of rotting; however this can only be determined by uncovering the entire

sill perimeters of the structures. Doors need rehangng, and the floors should be of earth concrete.

While rehabilitation of these structures will be comparatively expensive, if they were demolished a contemporary structure would be needed to conceal the vehicles, which would in itself be intrusive.

It is worth repeating here that this portion of the site is basically very attractive, and with relatively little rehabilitation could be made into a delightful shady grove for a picnic or lunching area. (See GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS-SITE IMPROVEMENTS.) A stabilized turf lane from the restored buildings to the dirt road will be necessary.

Footbridge

This structure is necessary to provide visitors a route from the Camden House to the reestablished meadow and orchards, to Levi Tower's grave and to the Mill Creek tenant farmhouse and the barn.

As previously noted, the present wood bridge dates from c. 1913 and replaced an earlier structure, date unknown, which had stone piers. No documentary or physical evidence has been uncovered establishing the location of any other bridge in this vicinity.

The wood framing of the existing bridge is too deteriorated for repair in place. A new bridge should be constructed, using the existing concrete piers. Handrails will need to be added for visitor safety.

The reconstructed bridge will carry the irrigation pipeline recently installed by the Service, as does the present structure. Assistance and advice should be sought from a carpenter in the vicinity familiar with local style and tradition for bridges of this type. In this way continuity of character and method will be preserved. However, no specific bridge should be reproduced.

The concrete piers should be carefully examined for evidence of settlement or potential failure and necessary strengthening and shoring accomplished.

Covered Bridge

The two stone piers flanking Clear Creek approximately 150 feet south of the concrete bridge carrying California 299 over the creek constitute the only physical evidence of the bridge improved and covered by Charles Camden in 1864. An c. 1880 photo shows a covered bridge at this location. The piers are directly aligned with the abandoned concrete state highway skirting the front yard of the Camden House, indicating that this old concrete road dating back to 1921 was built on the alignment of the historic Weaverville-Shasta toll road. A sign on the bridge in the 1880 photograph says "Toll Bridge."

The covered toll bridge was an outgrowth of the toll road which was of vital importance to this region and more specifically to the business operations of Charles Camden and Levi Tower. Its reintroduction would greatly aid in telling the story of this district to visitors. And it would serve a vital functional need for access and parking (see GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS-ACCESS AND APPROACHES).

A new covered bridge should be constructed using the existing piers. The bridge would merely represent a generalized type: no attempt should be made to reproduce the specific historic structure that stood at this location. The reason for this is that sufficient data cannot be obtained to ensure an accurate reconstruction.

The piers should be carefully analyzed by a structural engineer and any necessary corrective work accomplished prior to bridge construction.

Shed at French Gulch Road

The frame portion of this c. 1930 structure is of no significance historically, and rehabilitation of the building for maintenance or similar use is not recommended because of the excessive cost. Also, this is an awkward and dangerous location for such activity. Most important, this kind of activity right in the "foreground" of the historic scene would be a serious intrusion and distraction.

The stone wall portions of this building, however--as well as a stone wall remnant just north--are very probably of considerable historical significance. It is known that these walls were part of an earlier building that may have been the combined barn-blacksmith shop-stable which played an important role at the height of the Tower House operation.

It is therefore recommended that this structure be stabilized to protect the stone walls inside, and the walls themselves shored and covered. The isolated remnant of stone wall should also be shored and covered. Grading should be accomplished to prevent further undermining and cave-in of the stone wall sections.

In the meantime historical and archeological investigation should be accomplished to identify these features and thus provide the basis for possible further action. If it is established that these remnants are historically significant, it may be desirable to exhibit them to visitors. However, this can only be determined when and if traffic on California 299 can be controlled or practically eliminated so that crossing it will not be a hazard to visitors.

Levi Tower Graveyard

The site should be cleared, and some form of ground cover reestablished--the same material as used when Tower was buried in 1865, if this can be determined. The tangle of brush and vines surrounding the graveyard should be cleared as part of the general site development.

Prior to reestablishing ground cover an archeological investigation should be made to determine if the graveyard contained other burials. A further effort should also be made to establish this through documentary sources.

Willow Creek Bridge

This structure is basically sound, adequate, and requires only routine maintenance.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM

This system has evolved over a long period of time, with each succeeding user making necessary repairs or modifications with the best materials and methods at hand. The purpose remained the same--to provide water for the needs of the day. "Preservation" has been aimed at keeping the system going in the most efficient manner possible, not at imitating or perpetuating the hardware of previous generations when later devices could do the job better. A common tie has been maintained by dependence on the natural force of gravity to run the system--no artificial power has been used.

The use by the National Park Service of a modern piping material (polyvinyl chloride) is an excellent example of this principle of continuity. It is recommended that the Service simply maintain the present system, making repairs and replacements in whatever manner will best do the job. No reproduction of earlier parts of the system should be undertaken.

As a parallel to this policy an effort should be made to secure information on the system throughout its various evolutions. This would make an extremely interesting story for visitors in conjunction with the system as it exists today. In this connection it would be valuable to identify and mark other routes the system followed in the past.

MILL CREEK TENANT FARMHOUSE AND BARN

Farmhouse

The house has a strategic location for a protection role. By its siting it commands a good view of the dirt road circling through the meadow from the bridge over Willow Creek, and also looks over part of the meadow further to the northwest. It is directly opposite the barn, and faces immediately on the road continuing south to the El Dorado Mine. The house is located roughly halfway between the Camden House and the mine.

Other features reinforce the structure's usefulness as a protective center. It has four good-sized rooms and a bathroom and small kitchen on the first floor. An unusual and valuable

feature is the four exterior doors: thus part of the first floor could be readily adapted as quarters and part as a ranger station with no exterior alterations.

It is recommended that the large rear room be designated as a bedroom, with part of the present space being used to create a new bathroom and closets. The center room could become a dining room, with the present bathroom being converted to a kitchen. A new door should be provided from the dining room to the rear porch. The front corner room could be used as a ranger station, with the kitchen at the rear being converted to a small private office.

On the second floor, one of the two large storage areas could be converted to a bathroom. Closets should be built between the bedrooms. Ample storage space could be created in the attic of the one-story portion of the structure which is at the same level as the second floor.

The major structural job will be the rebuilding of the collapsed front section of the porch. This should present no difficulties since the identical adjacent sections are intact and can be merely copied during reconstruction. Most of the rafters and roofers are salvageable. The front wall of the house should be carefully examined for signs of strain due to the collapse. The later wire-screen section at the side porch should be removed, as it is an inconsistent and unsightly intrusion which violates the integrity of the house.

Another major project will be replacement of roofing at both the porch roof and roofs of the house itself. All asphalt and old wood shingles should be removed and replaced by new wood shingles. Only minor repairs to roofers should be necessary. Roof framing, though apparently in good condition, should still be checked for evidence of deflection or displacement. Minor repairs and replacement of some rotted sections at eaves will be necessary.

The first-floor structure appears generally sound and level, with the exception of a few places which need shoring up; however, the whole underfloor structure should be given a careful inspection. Stone pads should be placed under all

supporting posts. Portions of the porch floor framing will need rebuilding due to rot, and later floor boards will have to be replaced. New steps will be needed at the front entrance and the northeast side.

The exterior generally will need only minor repairs, patching and painting. New window screens and two new screen doors will be required.

The ground should be graded away from the perimeter of the building to keep water out. Also, a few inches should be kept open between sills and ground to ensure dryness and ventilation.

Aside from interior alterations and replacement of wall-paper, painting, and floor finishing, little repair work is required inside the house. Ceiling boards need replacing in the bathroom, and the enclosure should be removed from the stairway. New electrical and plumbing systems, bathroom fixtures and kitchen equipment will be needed. Electric heating is recommended, and a central air conditioning system should be installed. A small amount of hardware is needed to replace missing items.

Barn

It is recommended that the barn be used to stable horses for the park's mounted patrol and also horses provided by the concessioner. The latter would be used for horseback riding, as is now provided and as is recommended in the master-plan. The plan also identifies the Tower House Historic District as a trailhead for a horseback trail into the backcountry.

It is further recommended that historic vehicles such as a stagecoach, carriage, wagon, and a sleigh be acquired and used by the concessioner to provide both transportation and an interpretive device for visitors. This operation could also include an optional service to bring visitors to the Camden House from the proposed parking area east of the new covered bridge. Horses for these vehicles would also be stabled in the barn, and the vehicles would be kept there.

The barn could stable four park horses and eight concessioner horses, and space could also be provided for a small park main-

tenance shop and vehicle storage. This space could easily be converted later if necessary to provide additional stalls.

A combined concessioner office-waiting room and toilets for visitors should also be provided in the center section.

To restore the structural integrity of the barn, two major projects are necessary. One is the reconstruction of the ground floor, the hayloft floor above, and the boarding enclosing the sides of the center section. The other is the rehabilitation of the east section: this will require plumbing of the east wall, repair or replacement of sills, posts, braces and footings, renailing of all boards, and new battens throughout.

While the structural framing appears sound, for safety reasons all joints should be inspected, tightened and renailed where necessary and defective pieces replaced. Miscellaneous repairs, patching and replacement will also be necessary on the exterior board-and-batten sheathing, doors, trim, etc.

The corrugated steel roofing, while still serviceable, is worn, corners of sections are loose, and a number of areas are rusty. All sections should be nailed tight, thoroughly cleaned, and the entire roof painted.

Electrical, plumbing and heating systems will be necessary.

EL DORADO MINE

As in the case of the irrigation system, the mine and its related structures and apparatus have evolved through the years in response to changing techniques and the requirements of a succession of owners. Thus the complex today represents a continuity of gold-mining practices in this area since 1885.

Though weathered and worn, like the miners who worked them, these structures are essentially intact, preserving their basic integrity. They have a straightforward honesty, and there is, fortunately, no self-conscious attempt at "design"--this is their charm and delight. This character should by all means be preserved.

The structures today are substantially unchanged from their condition when the property was sold to the National Park Service by Frank Bickford in 1968. They should be simply maintained in this condition with whatever repairs are necessary to put the equipment in operating condition. Every effort should be made to support the Service's intent to present regular demonstrations of the mine's operations to visitors.

Advice and assistance should be sought from Mr. Bickford and Mr. Walter Hester, the mining engineer previously mentioned. An oral history from Mr. Bickford telling the story of the mine's construction and operation would be of great value to the interpretive program and also in maintaining the mine.

The greenhouse should be simply preserved as it stands. When the tenant house is available for staff housing, the modern vacation house at the mine site should be removed.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

V. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

THEME

No definitive year is prescribed for re-creation of the historic scene in general or rehabilitation of the Camden House and other buildings in particular. Rather, the period 1900-1913 is suggested as a general guide to overall preservation of the district as a whole. This time period would permit inclusion of the 1913 kitchen addition to the Camden House and construction or modification of its principal outbuildings, and rehabilitation of all other significant structures. It would also be a reasonable goal for grounds rehabilitation, since it is unlikely that sufficient data could be obtained to reestablish the general appearance of an earlier period.

It is further suggested that the interpretive focus be on the early (c. 1900) part of the period, in order to keep the site story related as closely as possible to Charles Camden.

ACCESS AND APPROACHES

To prevent hazard to visitors and to keep intrusive traffic and parked cars away from the grounds of the Camden House and the Tower House site--the prime area of the district--it is recommended that a parking area be created just south of the highway east of Clear Creek. An existing clearing reached by a gravel road could easily accommodate 75 cars which would be well screened from historic sites.

Visitors would then walk through the covered bridge over Clear Creek to the Camden House interpretive center, following the old toll road trace. The old lane leading from this road to the lower Camden House yard should be reestablished. Visitors could also ride in concessioner wagons, which would stop at the gate in front of the Camden House, continue on to the Tower House site, then double back to the lane and enter the yard. From here wagon trips could proceed down the dirt road over Willow Creek, then up the meadow to Towers' grave, or south to the barn, tenant house and the El Dorado Mine.

An interesting and attractive access could be provided visitors from the east (the great majority) over a restored historic road trace extending eastward from the parking area to the proposed new south park road.

A peak period bus service is proposed in the master plan, from the visitor center at the east end of the park over the new road to developments along the lake. To reduce automobile traffic over the restored road trace, this service might be extended to the proposed parking area.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Levi Tower was as famous for his orchards and gardens as he was for his hotel, and the entire area became known as an oasis in a hot, dry, barren land. The concept likewise in this report is to treat the whole district as a still pleasant place, creating a definite mood and feeling. In this context recreation of an attractive natural scene is as important as preservation of structures. However, no literal restoration of specific features is intended, rather creation of an appropriate character or quality. The most intensive effort should focus on the Camden House-Tower House area, the center of cultivation. As previously mentioned the time period 1900-13 is suggested as a general guide.

A major feature which should be reestablished is the double row of black walnut trees which would flank the restored toll road trace. These should be extended as close to the Tower House site as possible. The picket fence should be reconstructed at the northeast and southeast sides of the yard. Additional information will be needed to determine what kind of fencing was used elsewhere. The walk from the Camden House to the old road was flanked with thick beds of flowers, succeeded by ornamental fruit trees, then lawn--these should be reintroduced. The pleasant ground at the southeast corner, containing several large shade trees, should be considered for a small lunching or picnic area. If the locations can be established, the sites of the former carriage house and stable in this area should be marked. A stabilized turf lane will be needed to serve the staff vehicles stored in the small barn.

A portion of the orchard between the Camden House and the Tower House site should be reestablished. When the foundations, if any, of the Tower House are located they should be uncovered or the outline of the building marked. It would also help visitors in visualizing the historic scene if the site of the California Stage Company stables, a short distance northwest, were identified.

The entire Camden House-Tower House area has been overgrown for many years and is now a tangle of vines, weeds, dead trees, etc. Thus a large volume of general cleanup will be necessary. In this regard, trees of relatively recent growth immediately next to the Camden House should be removed. The problem of the huge live oak which butts against the rear of the house should be the subject of a special investigation.

Private automobiles should not be permitted beyond the proposed parking area. The road along the northeast side of the meadow should be treated with stabilized turf to make it less conspicuous.

Two combined historic and nature trails are particularly recommended. One would lead from the rebuilt footbridge, along Willow Creek (with a spur to the Tower Grave) to the upper end of the irrigation system. The other would lead from the proposed parking area eastward following the restored historic toll road trace. Wagon rides could be operated over part of this old road trace, as well as over the road trace along the edge of the meadow to the Tower Grave.

The orchard should be partially reestablished in the meadow, with the lower part near the barn kept open for pasturing horses. General clearing and rehabilitation should be accomplished near the barn and the tenant house. A path should be reestablished to the latter.

When it has been located the site of the sawmill, which stood on Mill Creek south of the tenant house, should be marked.

No clearing or restoration is recommended for the grounds across California 299 on either side of the French Gulch Road. Continued natural growth will help conceal the nonhistoric shed on the west side. In the interim, archeological investigation

can proceed at this site and at the barn site on the east side. If findings warrant, these sites may be exhibited to visitors in the future; likewise it may be desirable to reestablish part of the orchard on the east side. However, these actions should be undertaken only when safe crossing of the highway by visitors on foot can be assured.

UTILITIES

All electrical distribution and telephone lines should be run underground.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Top: Aerial view from south. Meadow and Camden House
in foreground, California Highway 299 and French
Gulch Road beyond.

Bottom: Aerial view to southwest. Proposed parking area,
center, flanked by Clear Creek and California
299. Camden House at extreme right, Barn, left.

1972 Photos by Henry La Sala, N.P.S.



Top: Close-up aerial view of proposed parking area, with Clear Creek and meadow beyond. Note bridge over Willow Creek, upper right.

Bottom: Aerial view from north. California 299 in foreground, French Gulch Road extreme lower right, Camden House beyond. Clear Creek at left, meadow and Barn in background.

1972 Photos by Henry La Sala, N.P.S.



Top: Aerial view to northeast over meadow and Clear Creek to California 299. Clearing below highway is proposed parking area site. Note Camden House at extreme left.

Bottom: Aerial view to south. Clear Creek and lower meadow in foreground, Barn and Tenant House, background. Road continues south to El Dorado Mine. Note pasture fencing erected by park, 1972.

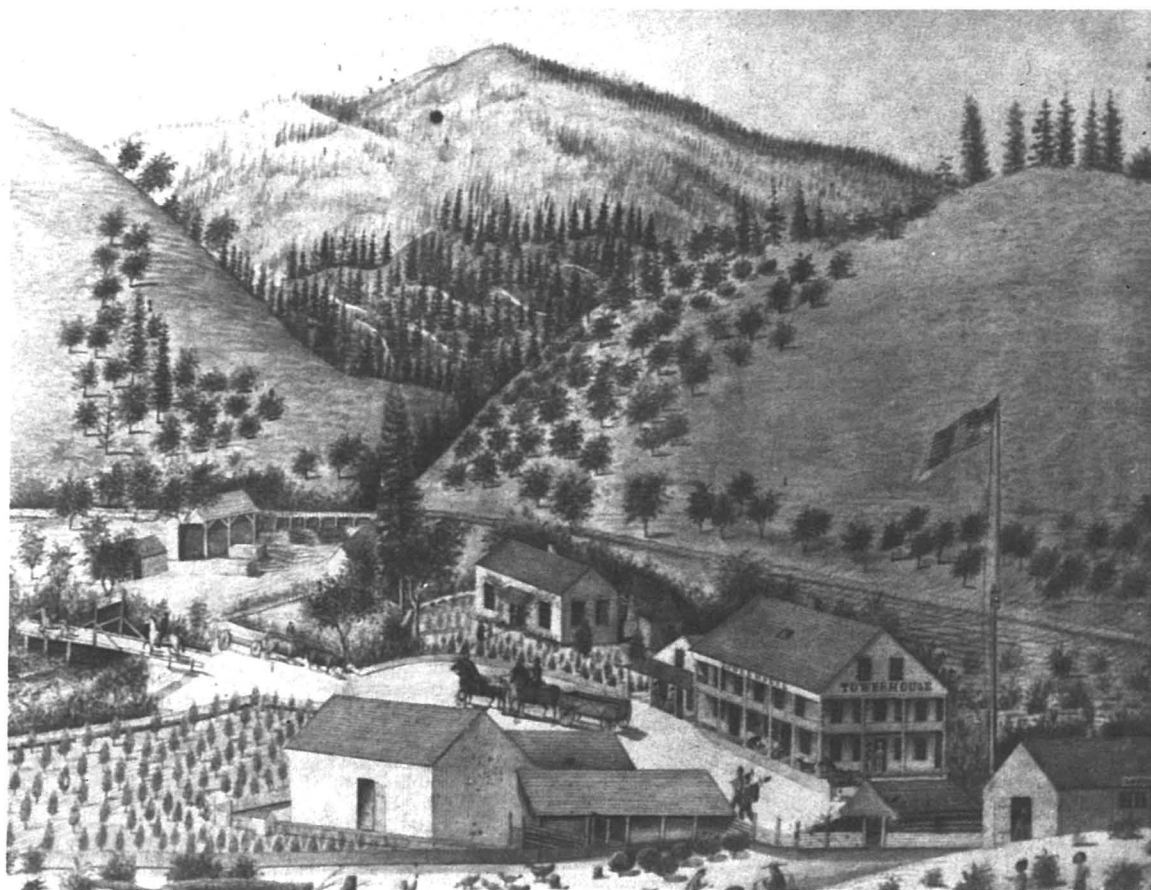
1972 Photos by Henry La Sala, N.P.S.



Early painting (before 1867) of Tower House Historic District, looking southwest. Clear Creek and sawmill, left rear; Charles Camden's "Cottage in the Garden", center rear.

Portions of the lower stone walls of the building at extreme right on French Gulch Road may still survive, as part of a c. 1930 shed. (See p. 150.)

Photo courtesy Mrs. Philena Hubbard. Date and painter unknown.



Top: Painting of Camden House looking west before 1900, showing gable-roofed addition at left. Note pediment over gable window.

Photo courtesy Mrs. Philena Hubbard. Date and painter unknown.

Bottom: Tower House Historic District, looking west, about 1880. The Tower House is visible at far end of the road, Camden House to the left. Covered bridge over Clear Creek in left foreground. Buildings at right not positively identified.

Photo courtesy Shasta State Historical Society, Boggs Collection. Photographer unknown.

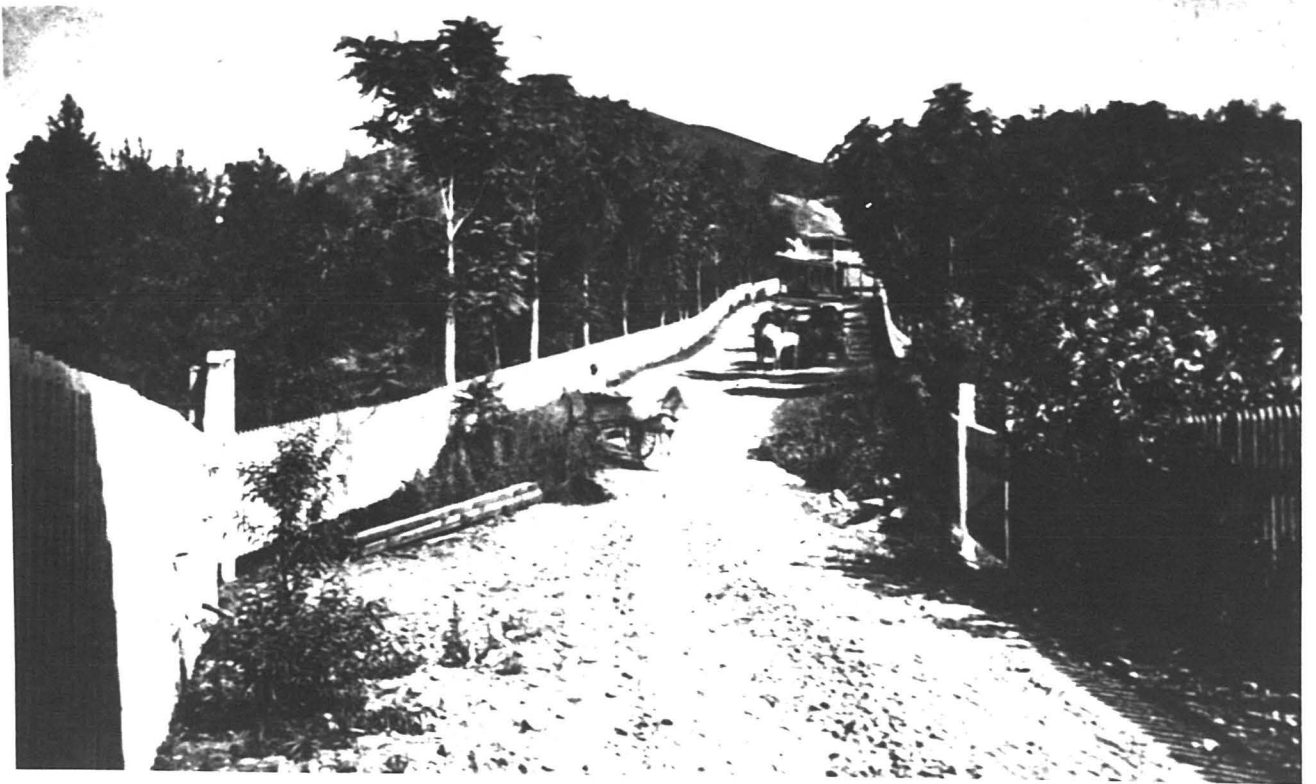


Top: Tower House from northeast, c. 1880.

Photo courtesy Shasta State Historical Society,
Boggs Collection. Photographer unknown.

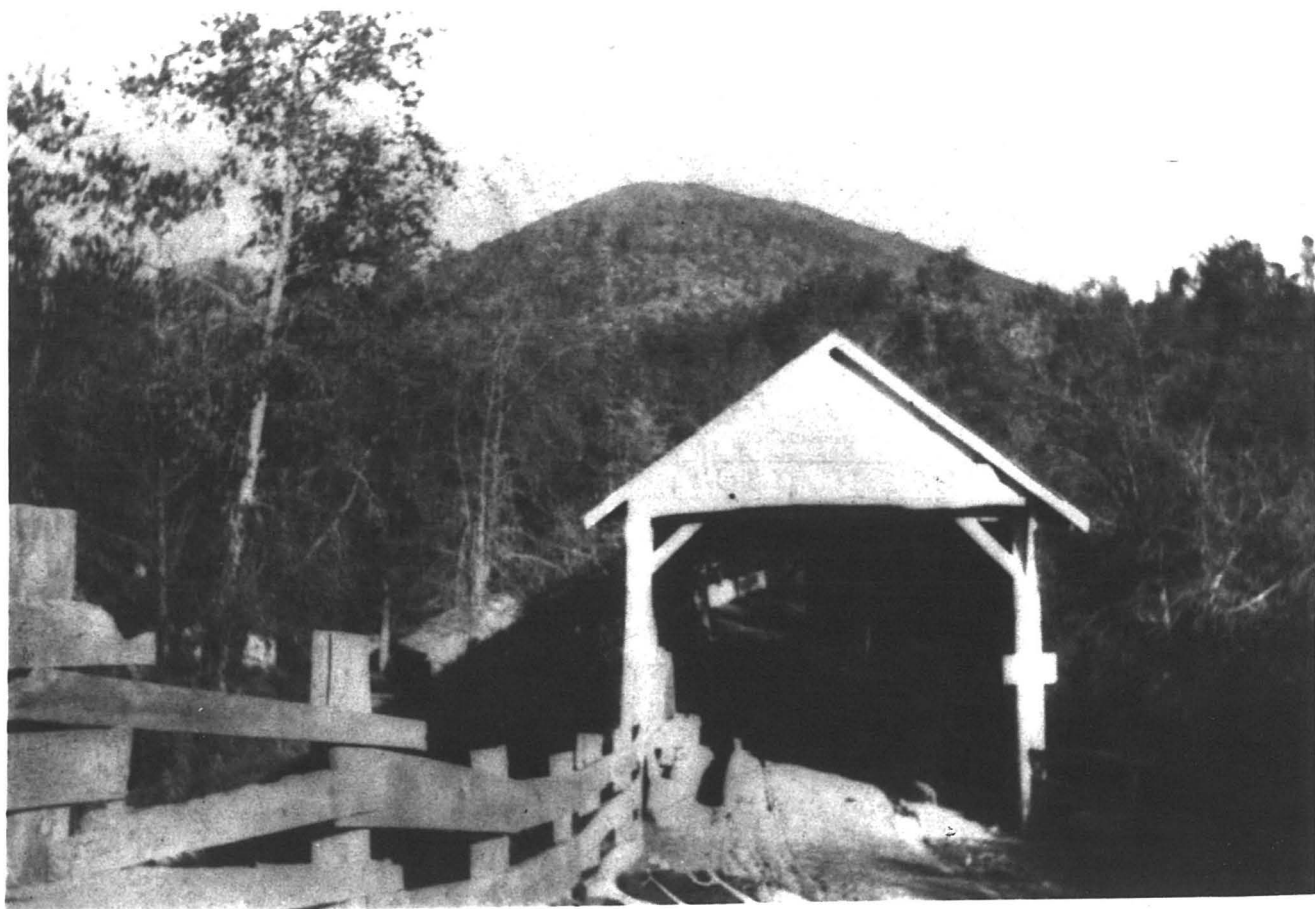
Bottom: Toll road looking northwest from covered bridge,
c. 1880, toward Tower House. Gate at left leads
to Camden House. Note double row of black walnut
trees.

Photo courtesy Mrs. Philena Hubbard. Photographer
unknown.



Toll bridge from east side of Clear Creek, c. 1890.
The bridge was covered and improved by Charles
Camden in 1864, removed c. 1900.

Photo courtesy Mrs. Philena Hubbard. Photographer
unknown.

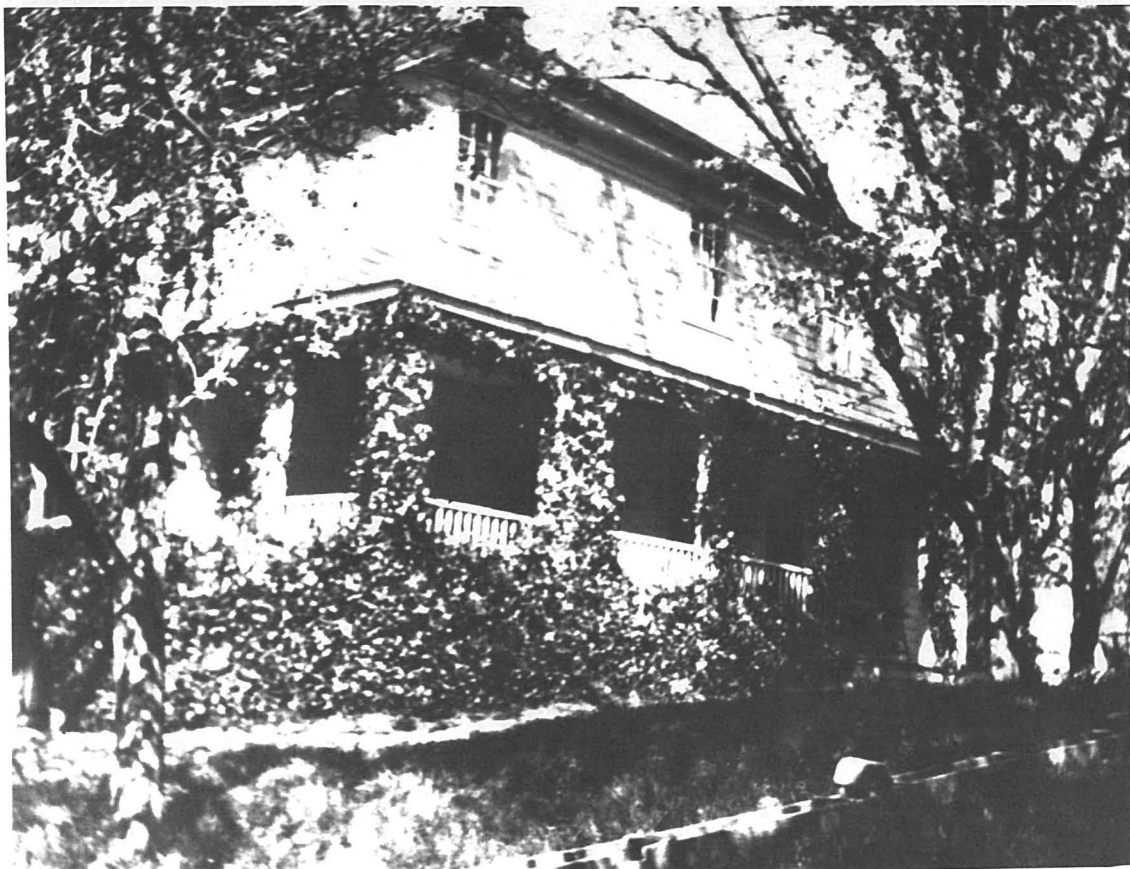


Top: Camden House, looking west, early 20th century.
Note irrigation structure in foreground.

Photo courtesy Mrs. Philena Hubbard. Photographer
unknown.

Bottom: Toll bridge piers flanking Clear Creek, looking
east. California 299 bridge at left.

1973 Photo by Henry La Sala, N.P.S.



Top: Camden House, view from northeast, taken at abandoned 1921 concrete highway which follows the alignment of the Old Toll Road.

Bottom: Camden House, from northeast. Under the porch to the right is the remainder of the 1852 bungalow; to the left is the 1-1/2-story 1867 addition.

1971 Photos by F. Ross Holland, Jr., N.P.S.



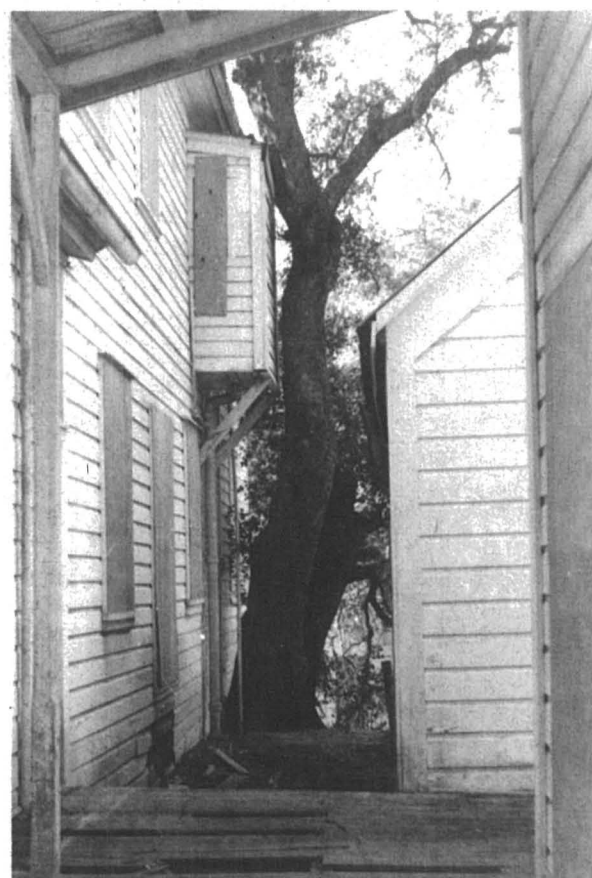
Top Left: Camden House, from southeast, showing c. 1867 addition.
Woodshed (Bldg. D) at left.

Bottom Left: Camden House, from north, showing c. 1913 kitchen addition.

Right: Camden House, looking southeast, showing second floor enlargement,
left. Structure at near right is the Guest House (Bldg. B); at
far right is the Servants' Quarters (Bldg. C).

1972 Photos by David G. Henderson, N.P.S.



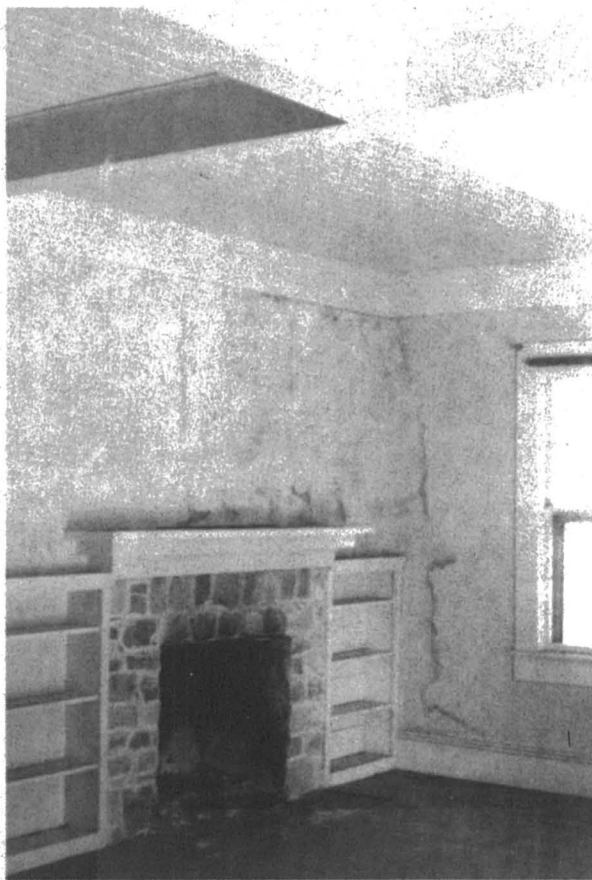


Left: Camden House interior, first floor, 1852 section (present living room), showing c. 1913 remodelling.

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Right: Camden House interior, first floor, c. 1900 section (present dining room). Room on right is the rear of c. 1867 addition. Stair extended c. 1913.

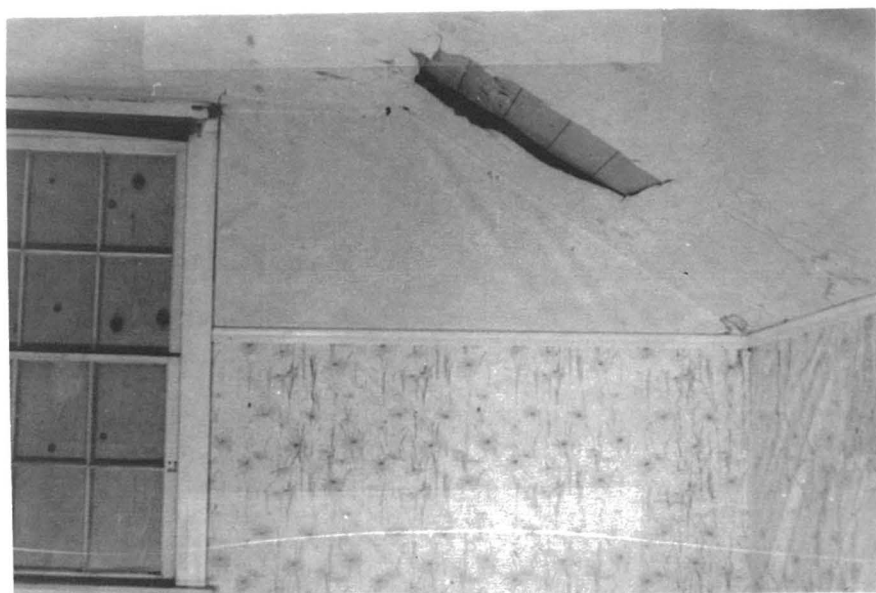
1972 Photos by David G. Henderson, N.P.S.



Top: Camden House interior, second floor, Master Bedroom,
c. 1900, looking northwest.

Bottom: Camden House interior, second floor, Front Bedroom,
c. 1867 addition, looking northeast.

1972 Photos by David G. Henderson, N.P.S.



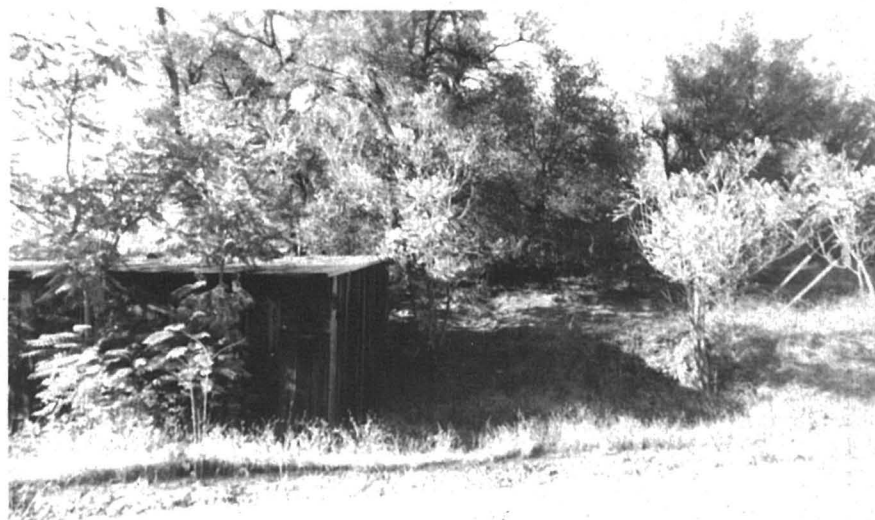
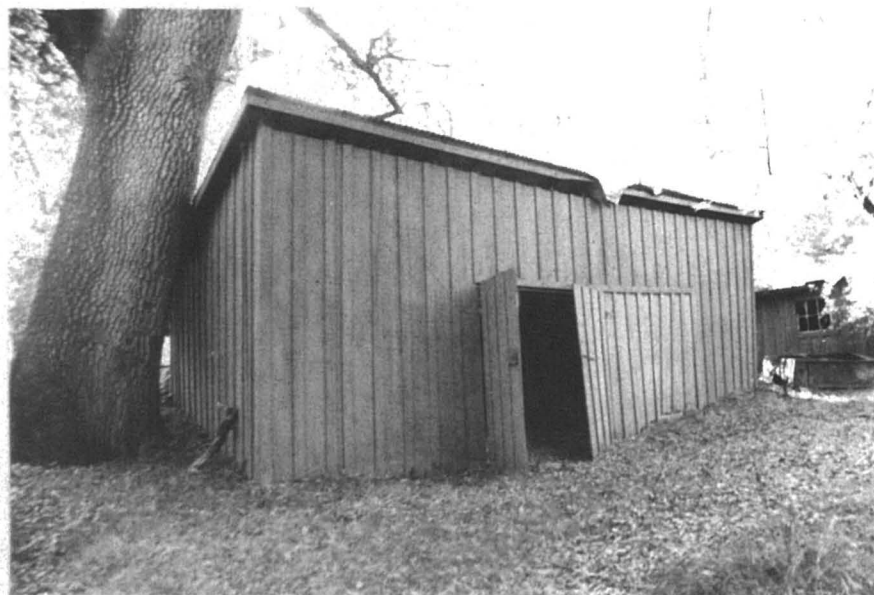
Top Left: Woodshed (Bldg. D), c. 1913.

Top Right: Carriage House (Bldg. E), c. 1913.

Bottom Left: Garage (Bldg. F), c. 1928.

Bottom Right: Shed at French Gulch Road, c. 1930. This structure may incorporate stone walls from an early structure (see early painting of district, p. 141).

1972 Photos by James S. Askins, N.P.S.

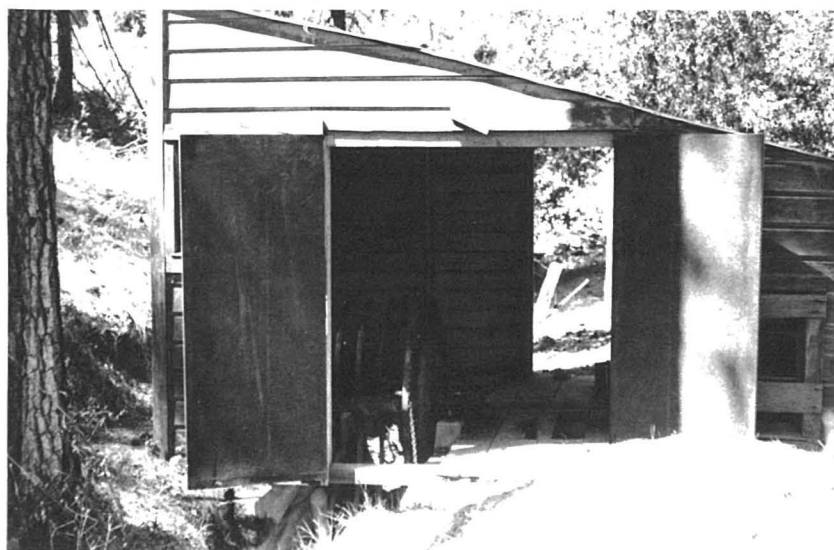


Top: Footbridge across Willow Creek, looking north.
Camden House is just out of picture at right.
Concrete structure in background is c. 1920
effluent treatment facility.

Middle: Levi Tower graveyard.

Bottom: C. 1913 clean-out house on irrigation line
near Crystal Creek.

1971 Photos by F. Ross Holland, Jr., N.P.S.



Mill Creek Tenant Farmhouse, c. 1913, from west.
Photo shows appearance before porch was damaged (see
next page).

1971 Photo by F. Ross Holland, Jr., N.P.S.





Top Left: Mill Creek Tenant Farmhouse, c. 1913, from northwest.

Top Right: Mill Creek Tenant Farmhouse, c. 1913, from southeast.

Bottom Right: Mill Creek Tenant Farmhouse, c. 1913, from south.

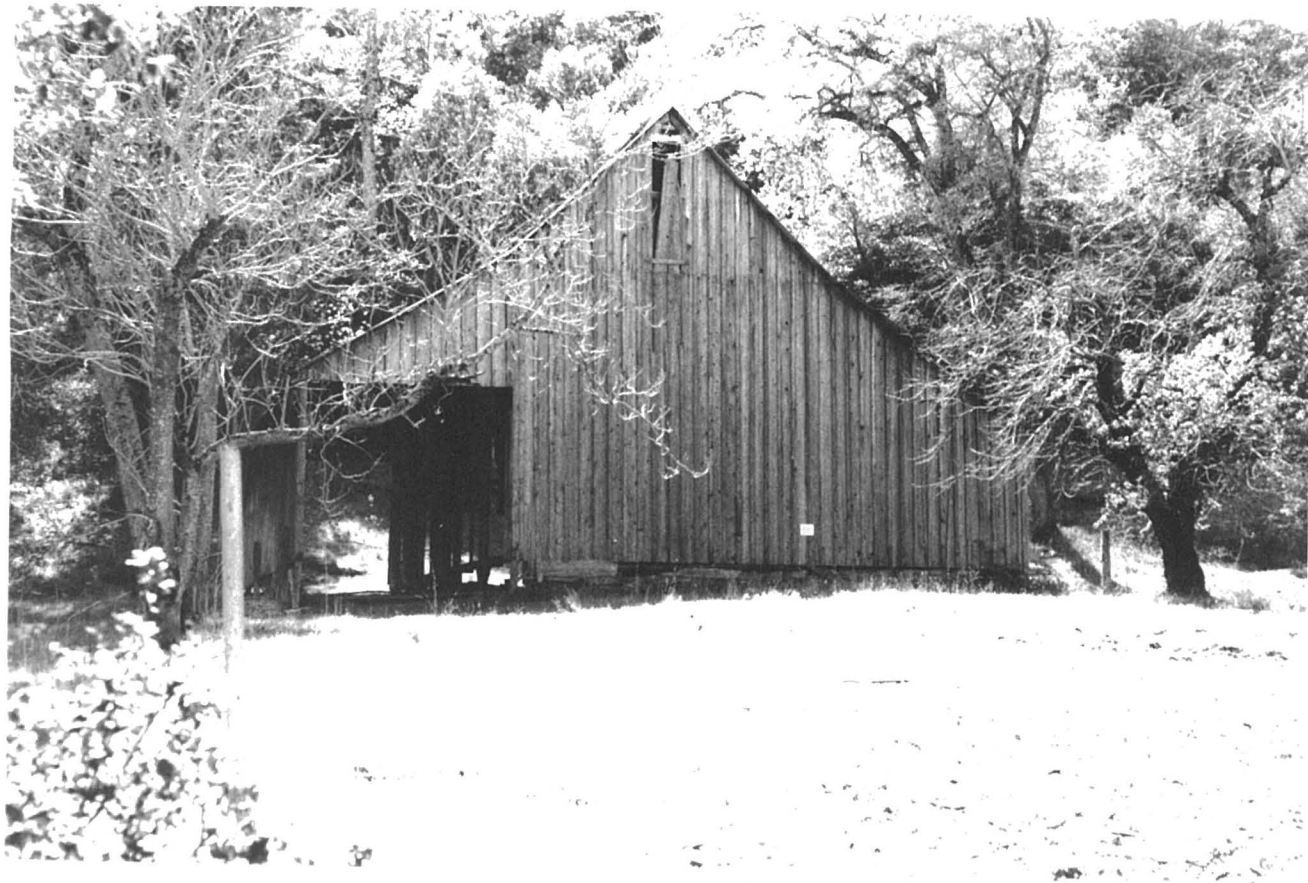
Bottom Left: Mill Creek Tenant Farmhouse, c. 1913, from southwest. Note later screen enclosure and asphalt shingles.

1972 Photos by David G. Henderson, N.P.S.



Barn, c. 1913, from northeast.

1971 Photo by F. Ross Holland, Jr., N.P.S.



Top Left: Barn, c. 1913, from north.

Bottom Left: Barn, c. 1913, from southeast. Note lack of battens
at near wall.

Right: Barn, c. 1913. Framing of center section. Note stubs of
missing lower floor beams, also notches for beams and braces above.

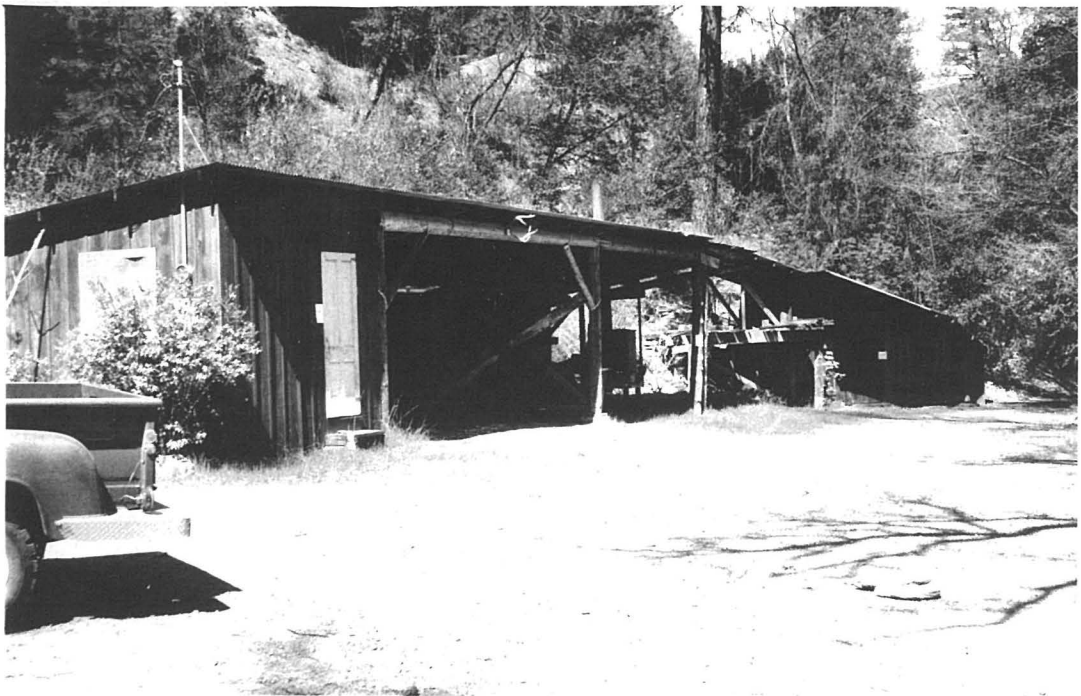
1972 Photos by David G. Henderson, N.P.S.



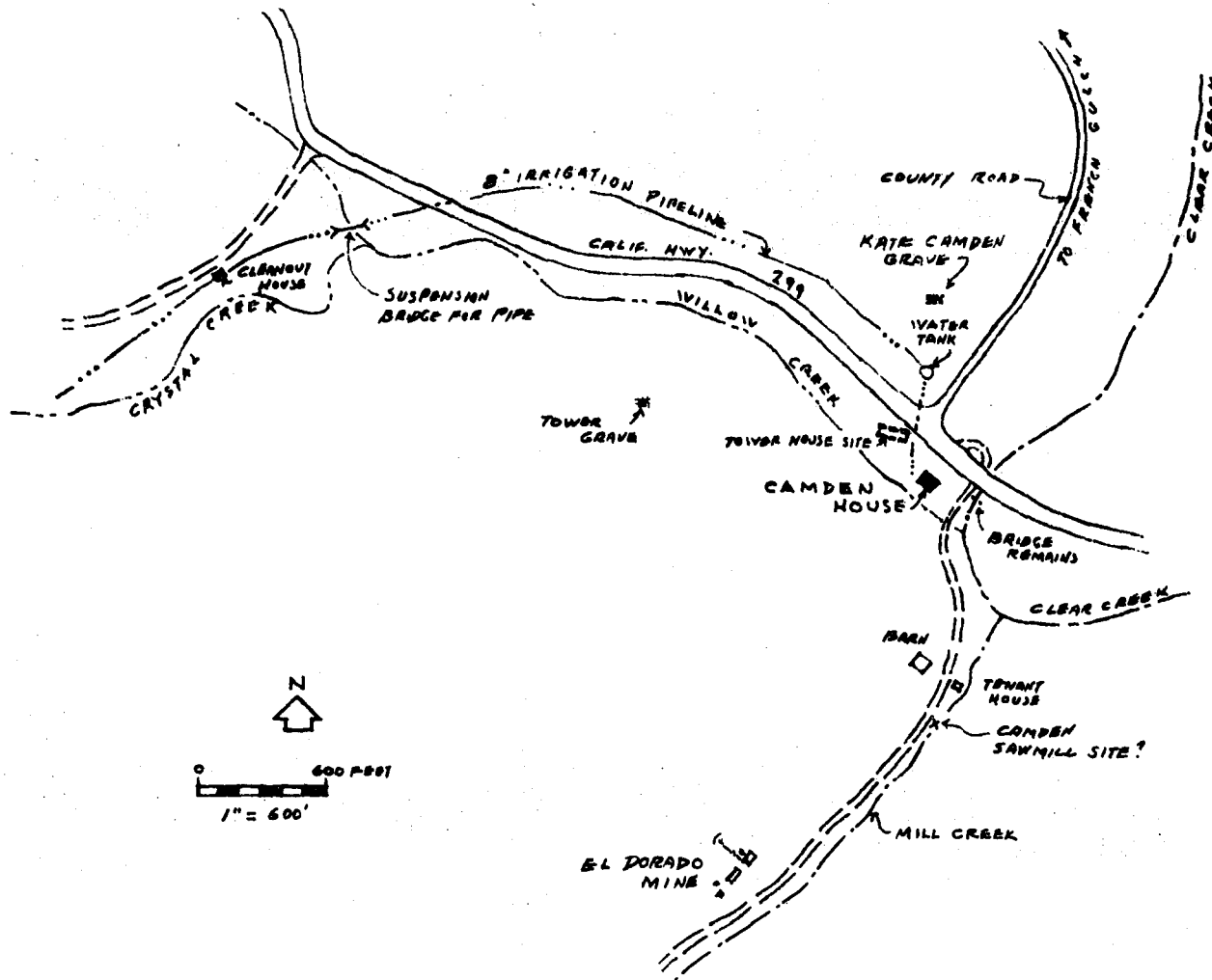
Top: El Dorado Mine. Stampmill shed, right, and platform for ore cars. Mine opening is about 60 feet behind platform.

Bottom: El Dorado Mine. Service shed, with stampmill shed at right.

1971 Photos by F. Ross Holland, Jr., N.P.S.



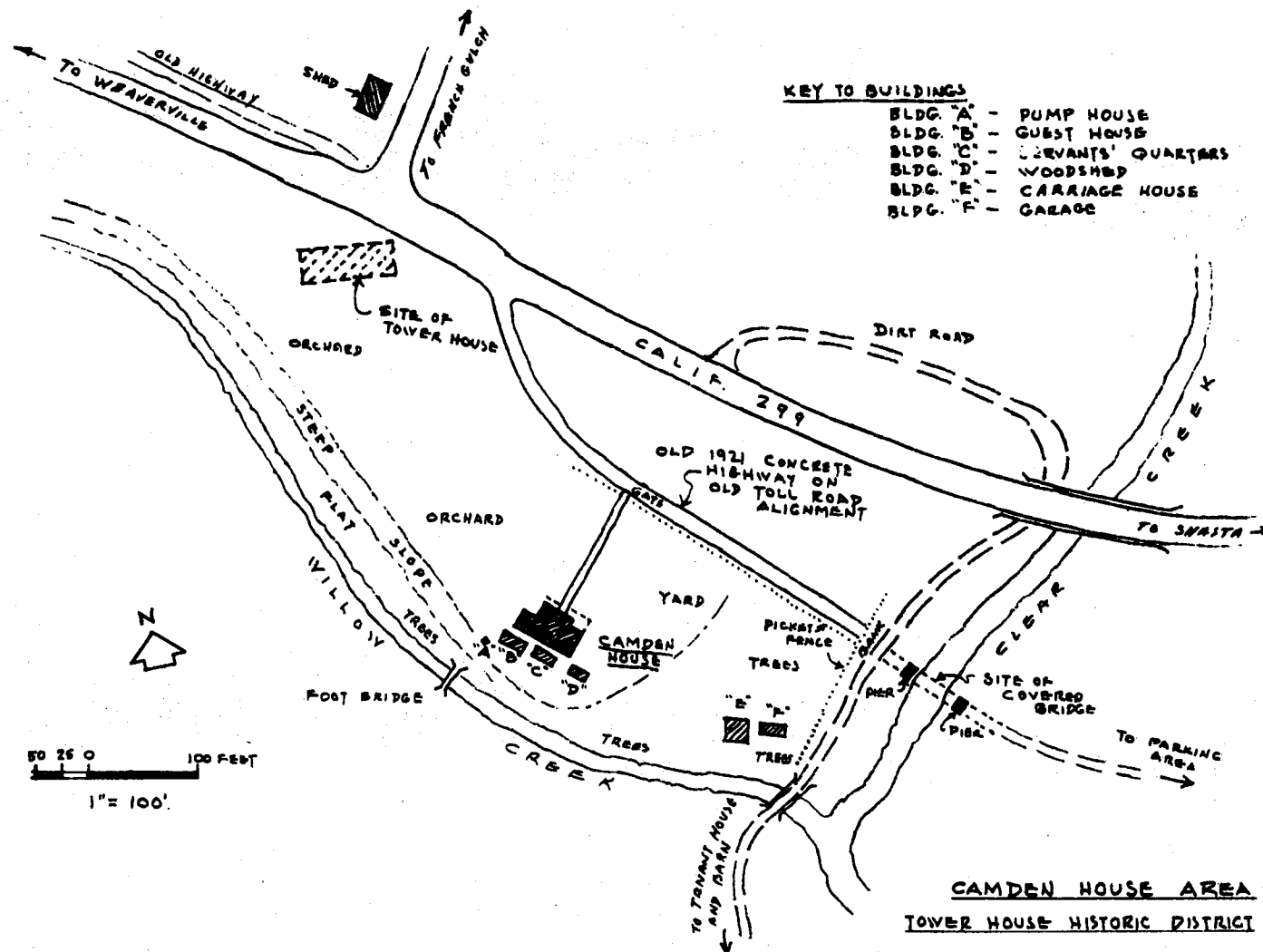
MAPS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

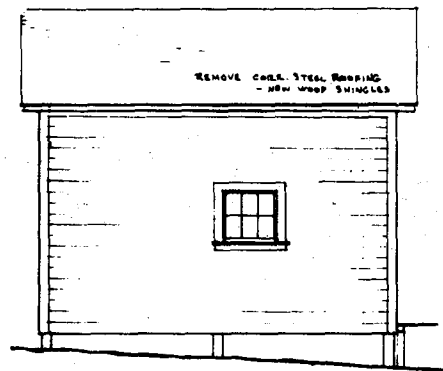


TOWER HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT

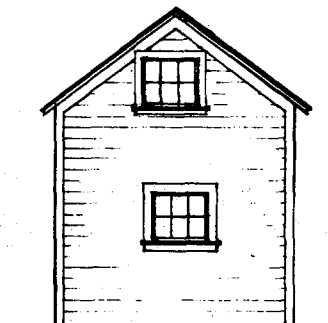
WHISKEYTOWN N. R. A.

DRAWING NO. 1





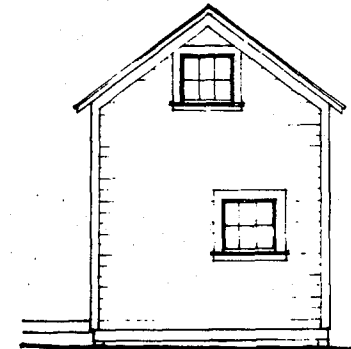
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION



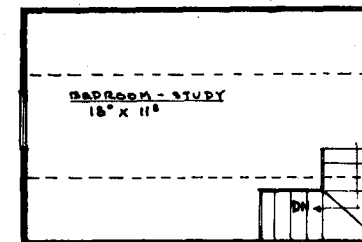
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION



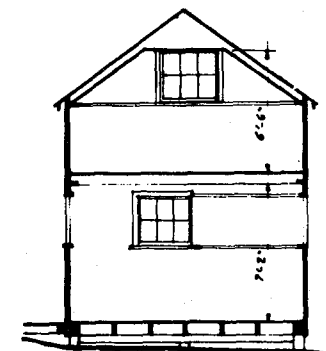
NORTHEAST ELEVATION



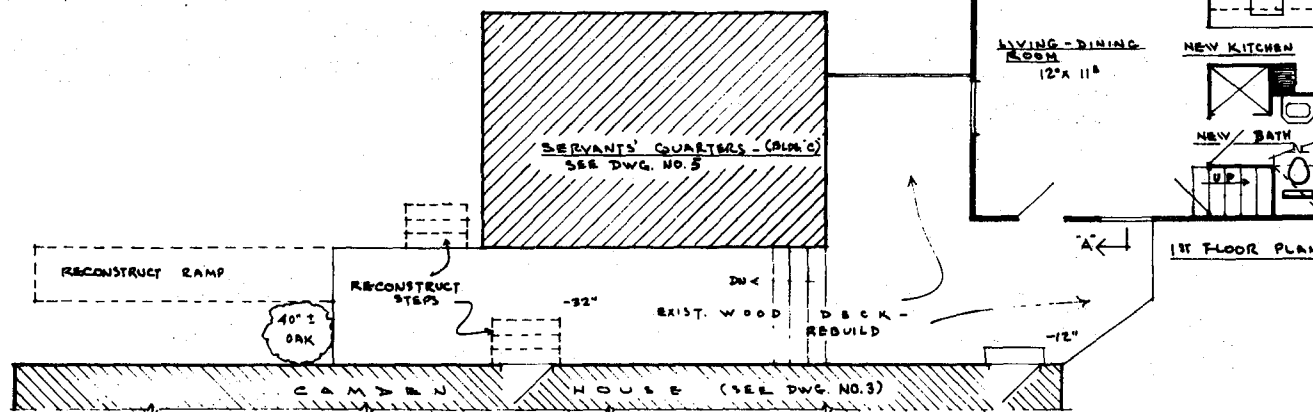
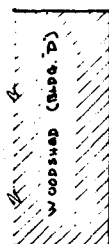
NORTHWEST ELEVATION



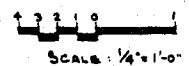
2ND FLOOR PLAN



SECTION A-A

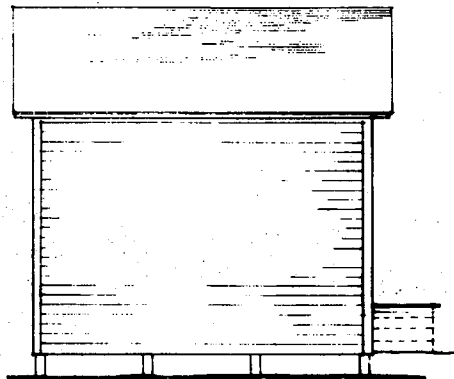


1ST FLOOR PLAN

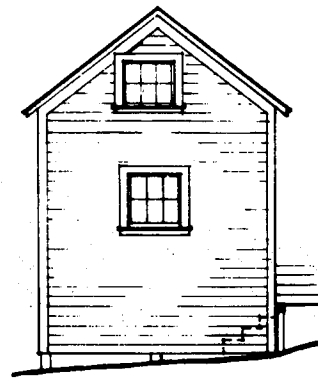


GUEST HOUSE - BUILDING "B"
- CAMDEN HOUSE OUTBUILDINGS
TOWER HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WHISKEYTOWN N.R.A.

DRAWING NO. 4



SOUTHWEST ELEVATION



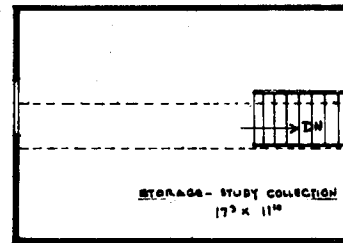
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION



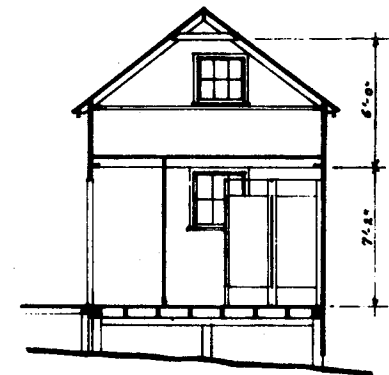
NORTHEAST ELEVATION



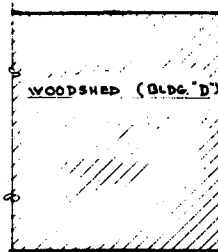
NORTHWEST ELEVATION



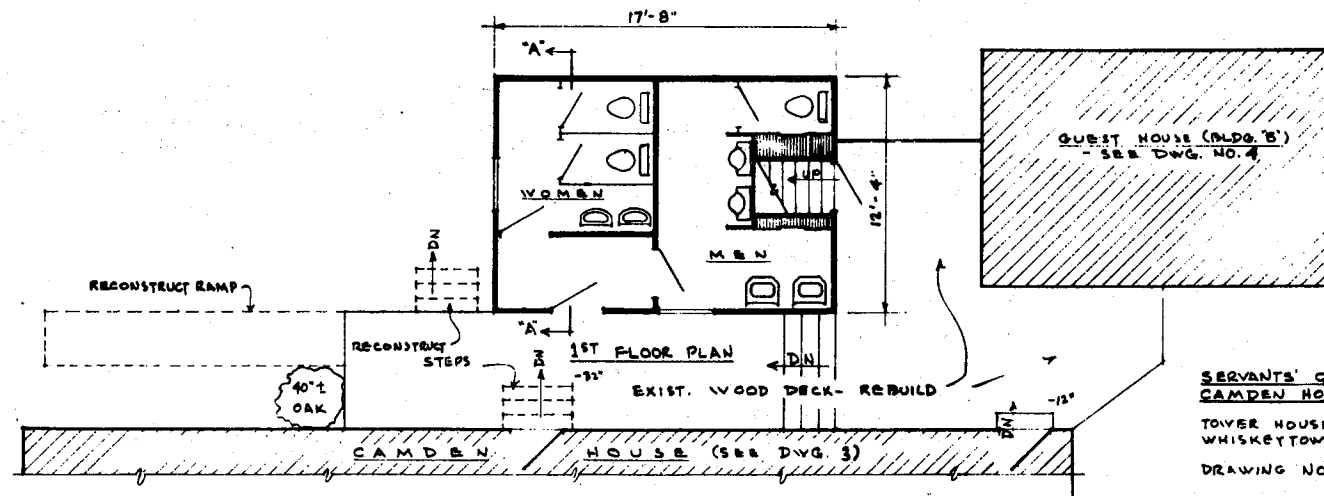
2ND FLOOR PLAN



SECTION "A-A"

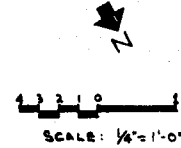


WOODSHED (BLDG. D)

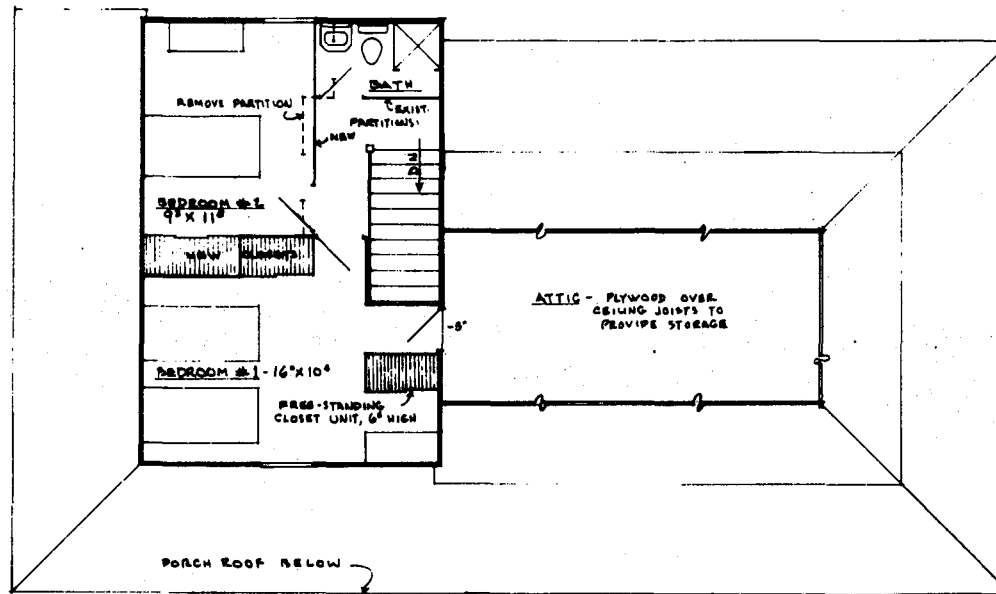


1ST FLOOR PLAN

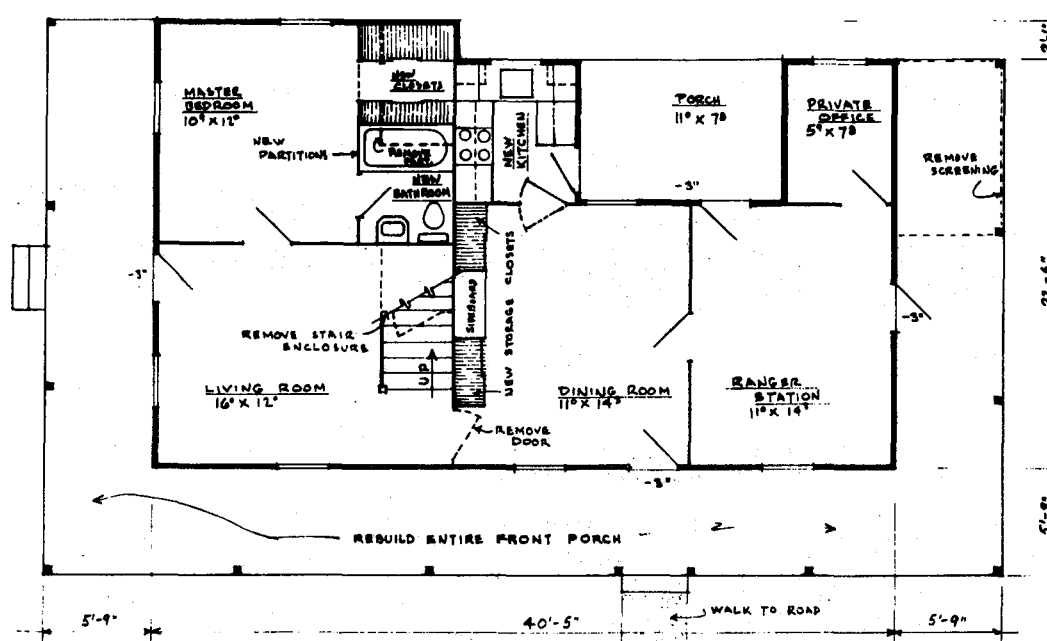
GUEST HOUSE (BLDG. B)
- SEE DWG. NO. 4



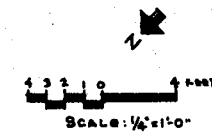
SERVANTS' QUARTERS - BUILDING 'C' -
CAMDEN HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WHISKETTOWN N.R.A.
DRAWING NO. 5



2ND FLOOR PLAN



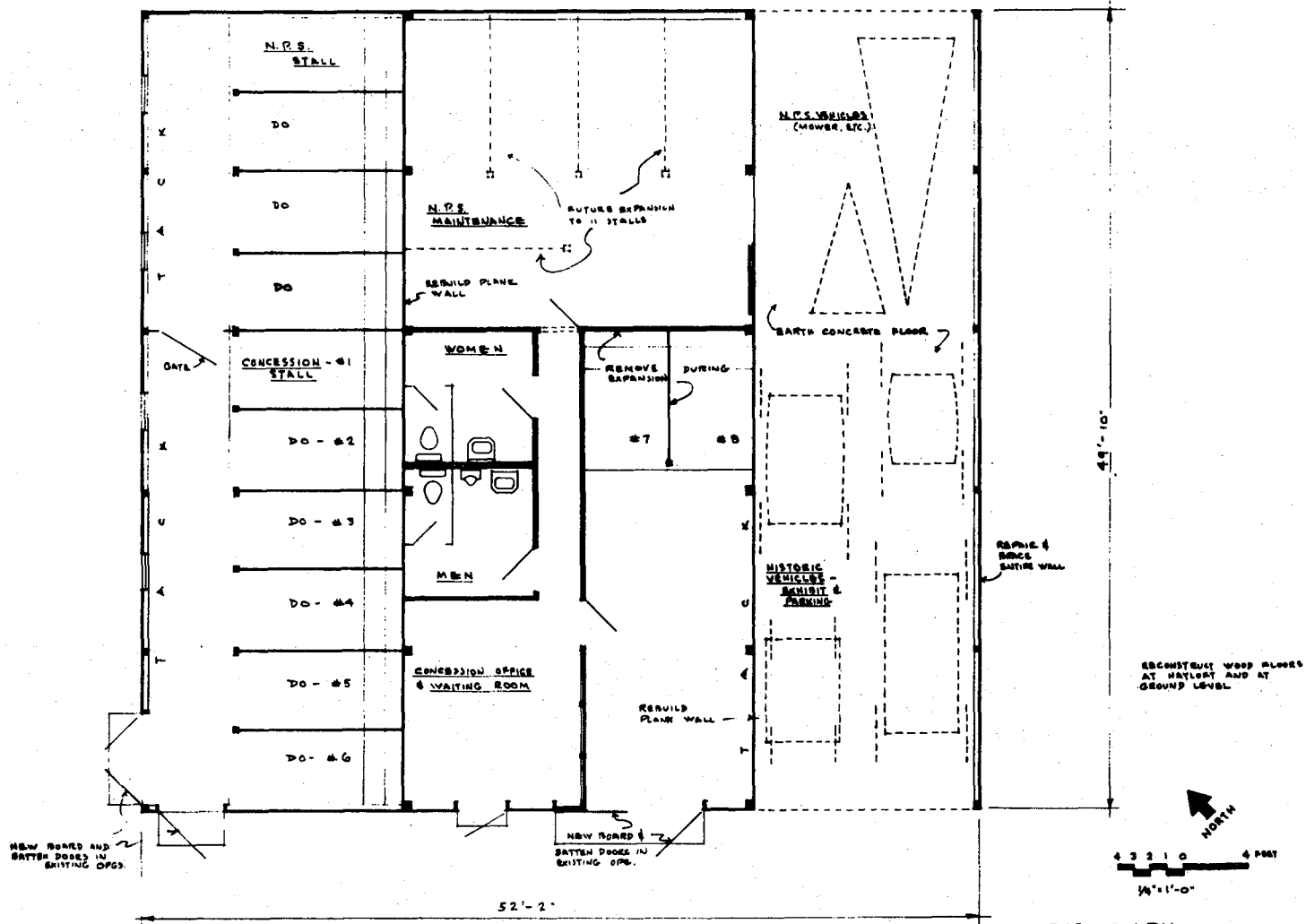
1ST FLOOR PLAN



MILL CREEK TENANT HOUSE
TOWER HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT

WHISKYTOWN, N.E.A.

DRAWING NO. 6



THE BARN
TOWER HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT
WHISKEYTOWN N.R.A.
DRAWING NO. 7

US NPS - Denver



DSC014710

