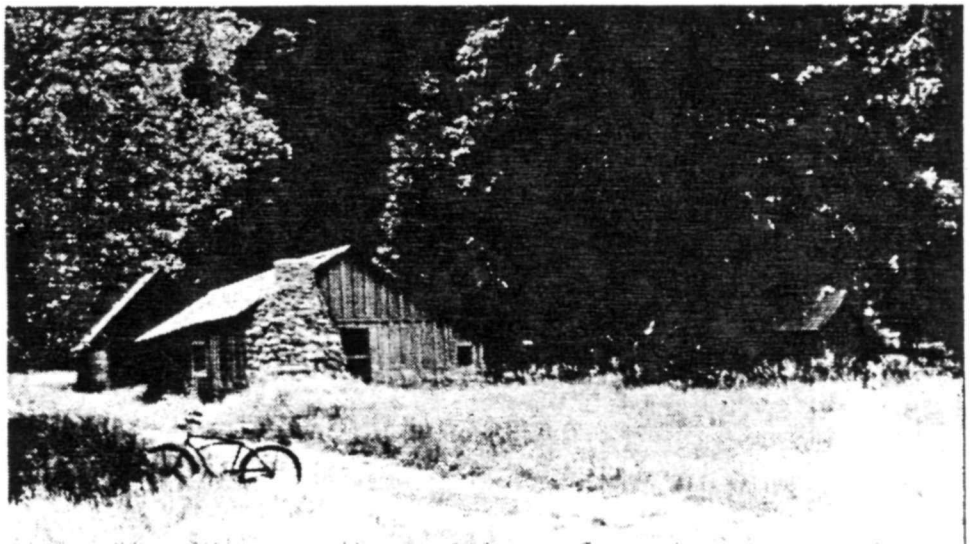


**BUCKNER HOMESTEAD
STEHEKIN, WASHINGTON
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY**

1985



LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



View of the Buckner homestead looking west from the Rainbow Creek trail.

IDENTIFICATION

NAME(S)

Common Buckner Orchard/Homestead

Historic Buzzard Homestead

LOCATION

USGS Quadrangle

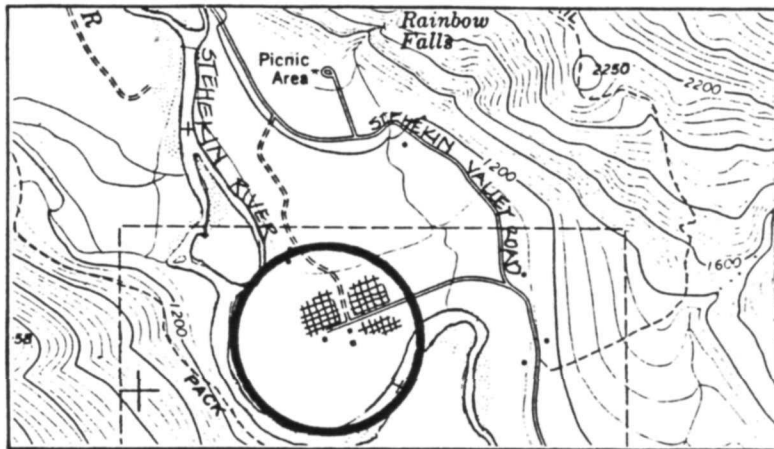
Stehekin T33N R17E, Section 26

ACCESS

☐ Yes:Unrestricted

☒ Yes:Restricted

☐ No access



OWNERSHIP

☒ Public

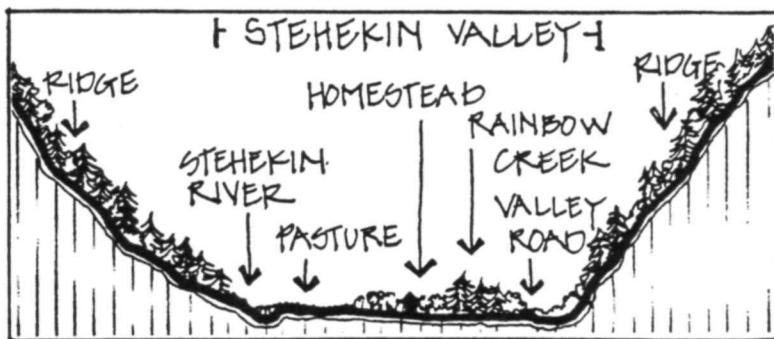
☐ Private

STATUS

☐ Safe

☐ Endangered

☒ Preservation action needed



CONTEXTURAL BOUNDARIES

■ Physiographic

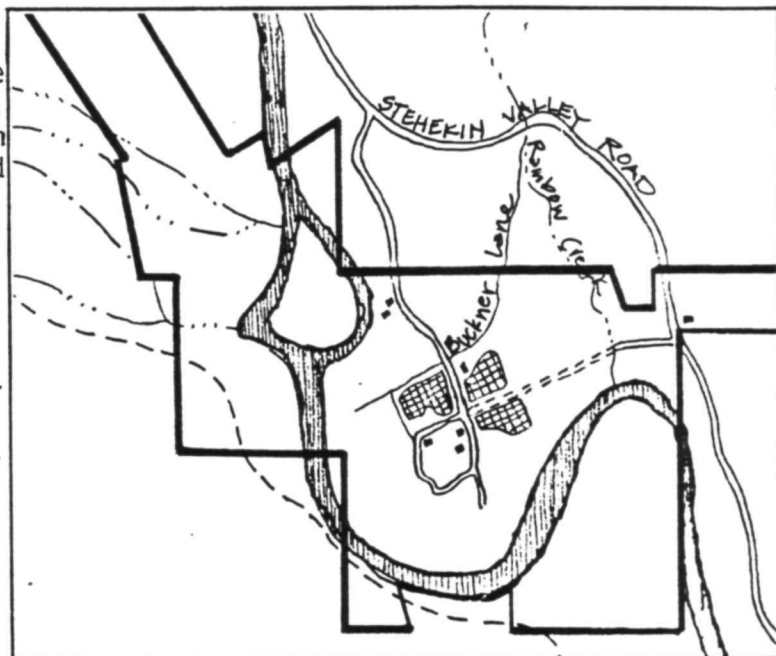
The homestead is located in the Stehekin River valley on a horseshoe bend on the north side of the river. The river wraps around the site from the northern edge along the west and south. Forests and rugged mountains physically and perceptually enclose the site, with Rainbow Falls and Creek to the east.

■ Cultural

Stehekin valley road forms the easternmost edge of the study area. Private land holdings abut the site.

■ Political

The historic structures, orchard and pasture lands that comprise the complex are currently under jurisdiction of North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

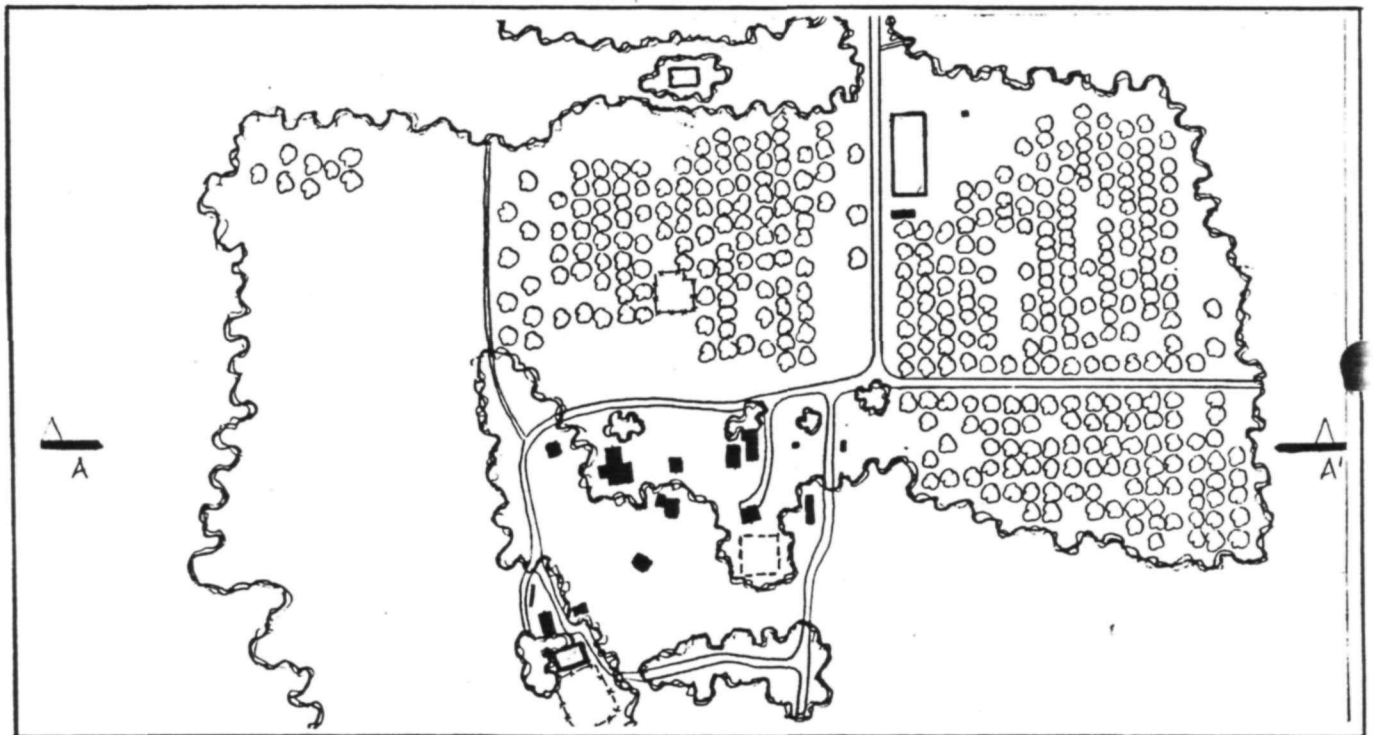


DESCRIPTION

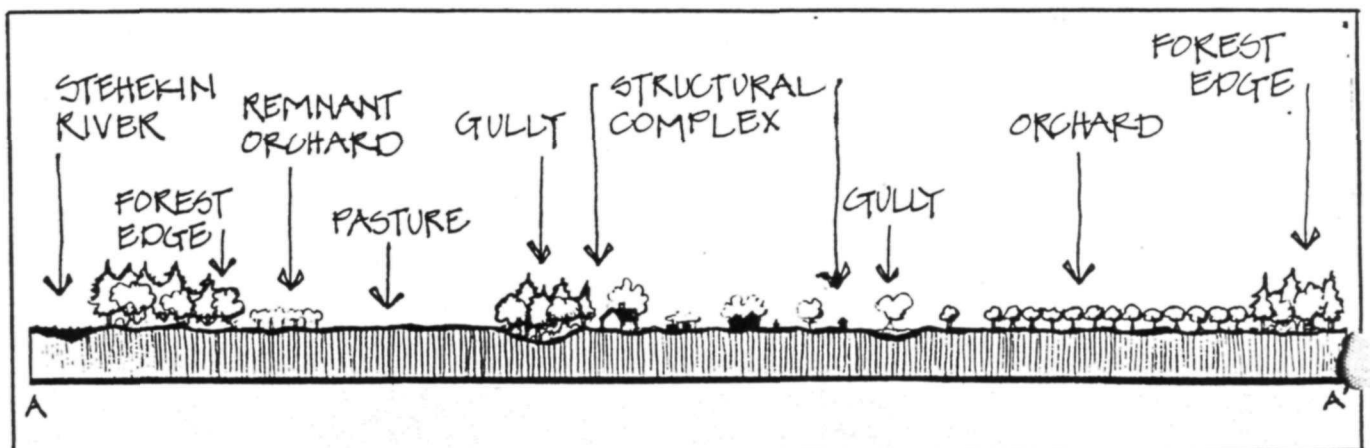
LANDSCAPE TYPE : PAST AND PRESENT

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Area | <input type="checkbox"/> District | <input type="checkbox"/> Streetscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Fortification | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resort | <input type="checkbox"/> Battlefield | <input type="checkbox"/> Botanical Garden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery | <input type="checkbox"/> Campground |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farm | <input type="checkbox"/> Monument | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Homestead/Orchard</u> |

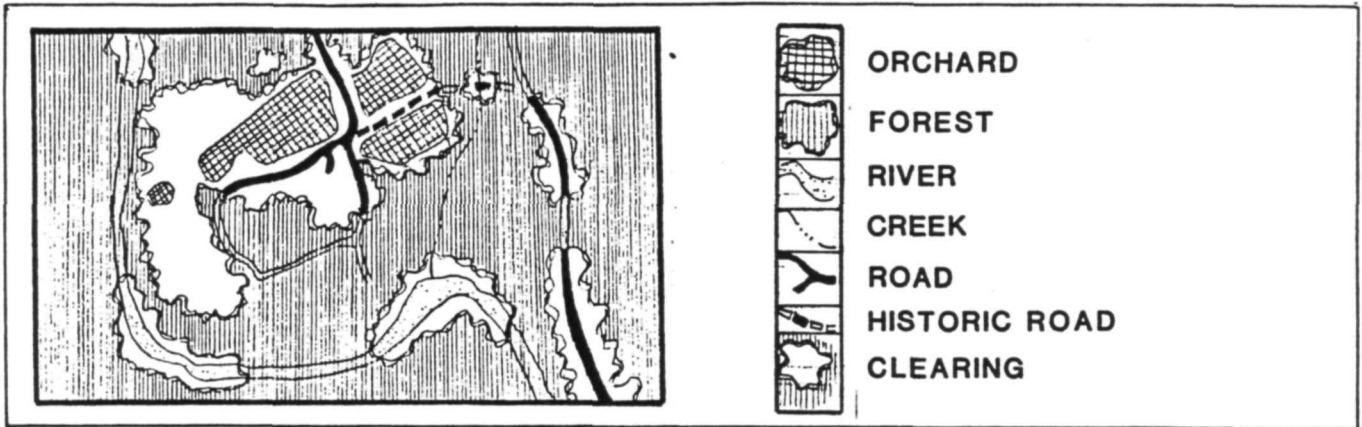
SITE MAP



SECTION



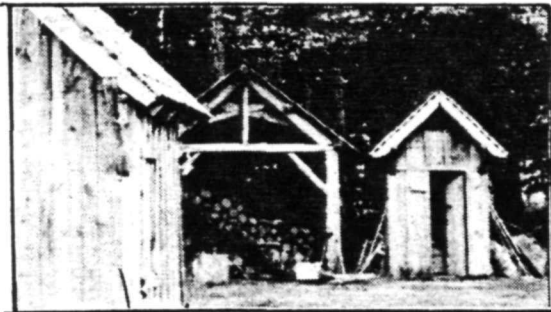
LANDSCAPE ORGANIZATION



SITE BOUNDARIES

- Topographic:** Gullies through the east and south portions of the property create barriers between developed areas and natural areas within the complex. A rock outcrop along the NW edge of the site creates a barrier.
- Vegetation:** Orchard grid rims the site on the north and east. Natural vegetation creates edge along the south and west portion of the site.
- Circulation:** Gravel entry road bisects orchard N-S and the old wagon road bisects on E-W axis dividing the site into quadrants.
- Water:** The Stehekin River forms an edge along the west, south, and east.
- Structures:** Wood post and wire fence in west pasture and historic wood fence along portions of the east and south site.
- Other:** Irrigation/diversion ditch along north and west edges of orchard.

PRIMARY LANDSCAPE FEATURES



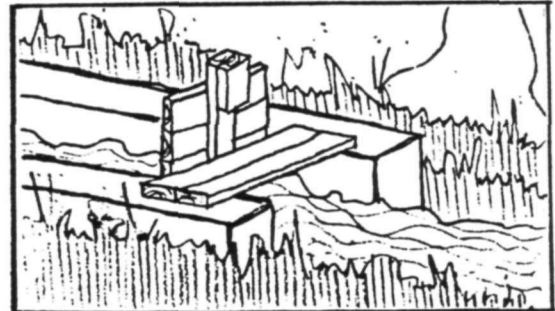
BUILDINGS



ORCHARD



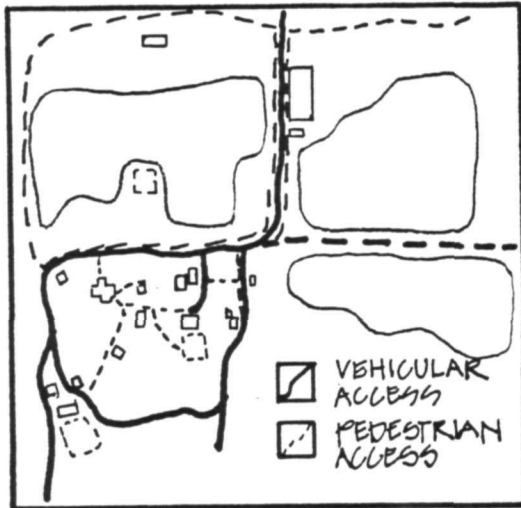
PASTURE



IRRIGATION

DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE SYSTEMS



CIRCULATION

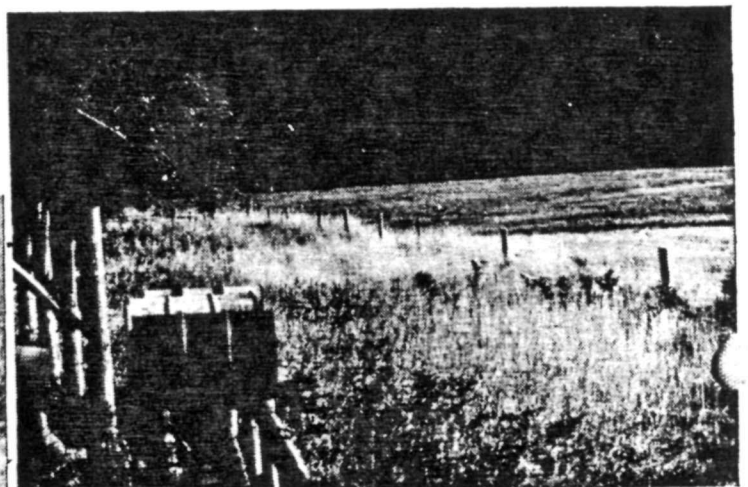
Primary vehicular access to the site is along a gravel entry road running N-S from Stehekin valley road, through a mix of cleared and forested land. The road enters the site bisecting the orchard and then jogs west, connecting with the historic wagon road. Within the site a gravel road loops around the structural complex of the homestead joining the entry road near the brooder house.

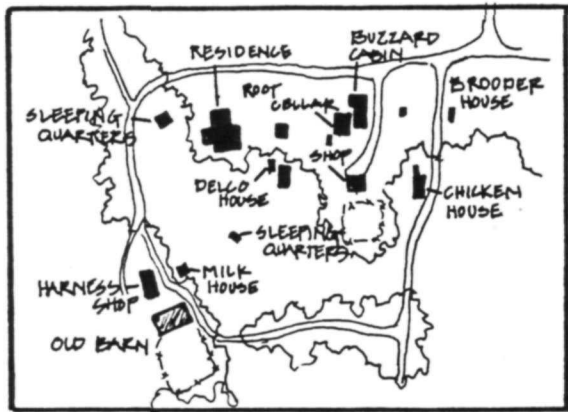
Primary pedestrian access is along a dirt path following the diversion ditch from Rainbow Creek to the northeast.



VEGETATION

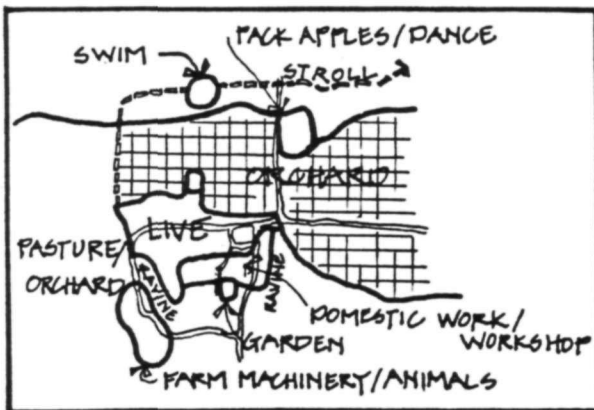
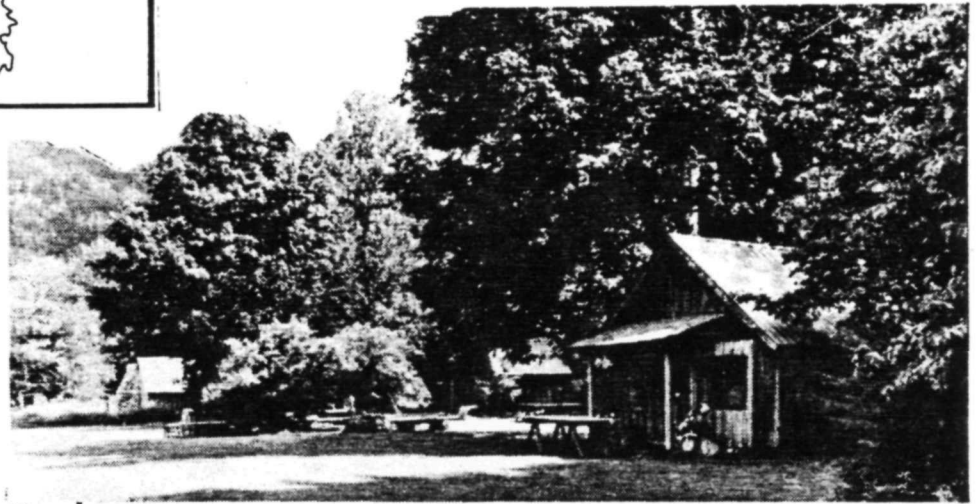
The site is primarily impacted by the grid pattern of the orchard. Open pasture extends west to the river and a greater forest cover surrounds and encloses the site.





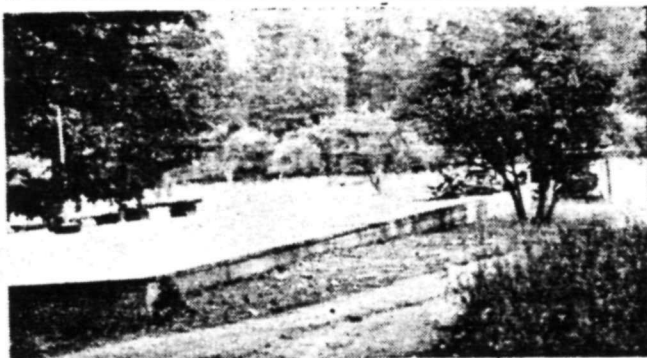
CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT

The structural complex of the homestead itself includes 13 buildings sited in a clearing of mixed coniferous and deciduous forests. Several of the buildings are oriented on a N-S axis and to a degree are sited in functional relationship to each other and surrounding landscape features.

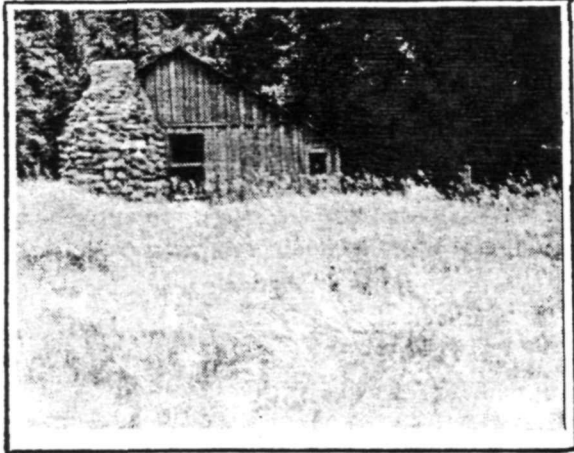


LAND USES AND FUNCTIONS

The landscape functionally is divided into orchard and farm-related work areas, service areas, circulation, and living environments.

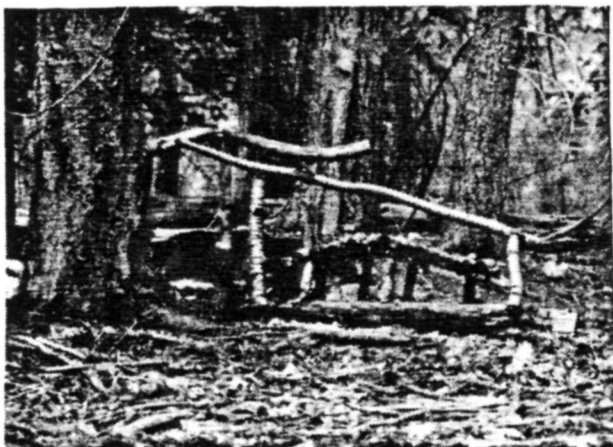
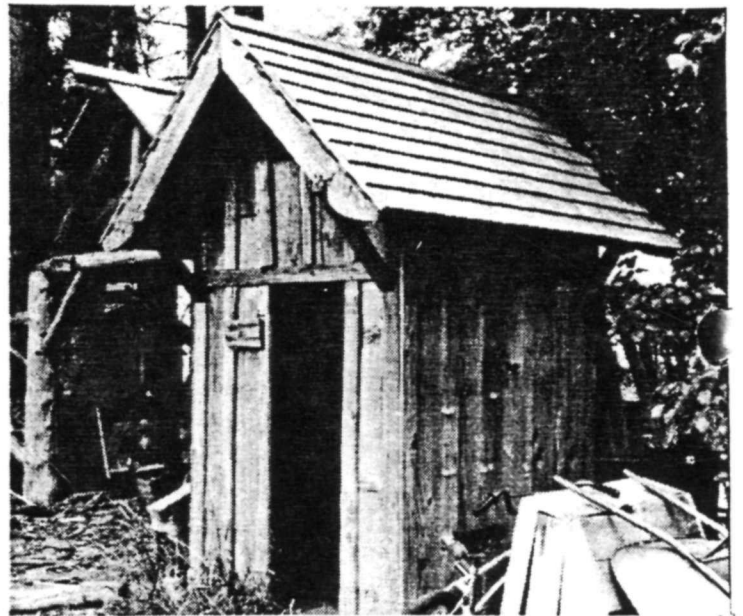


DESCRIPTION



MATERIALS

The buildings on the site are of wood frame, board and batten construction, with the exception of the original Buzzard cabin, which is log. Stone features including fireplaces, troughs, and garden ornament reflect the use of surrounding and available materials.





DESCRIPTION

LANDSCAPE DETAILS AND HISTORIC REMNANTS



SUNDIAL

The sundial(1920) is located directly east of the Buzzard cabin. It has a river rock base and copper dial.



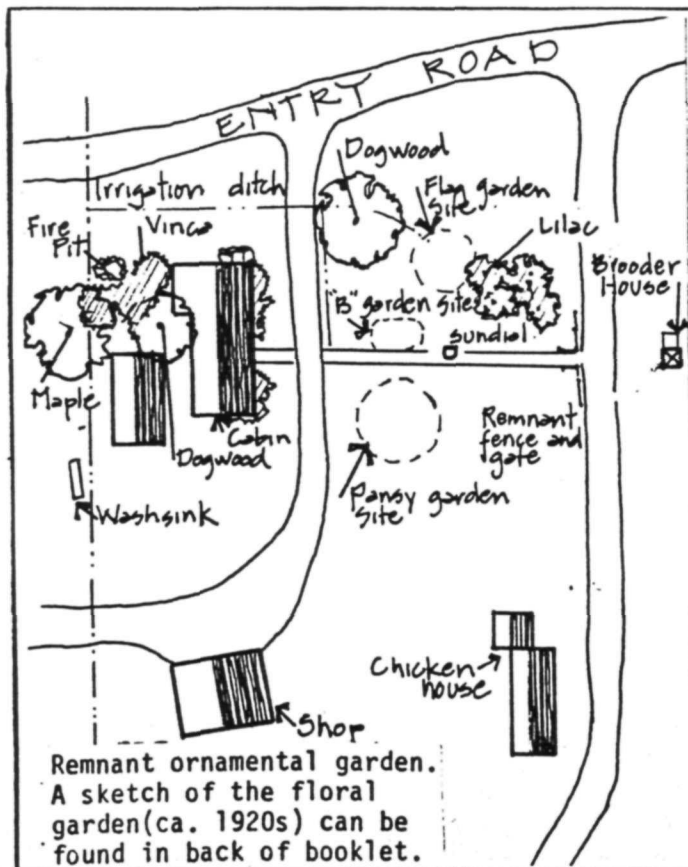
WASH SINK

The wash sink and copper drum washing machine are west of the root cellar. The water was channeled from the main irrigation system.



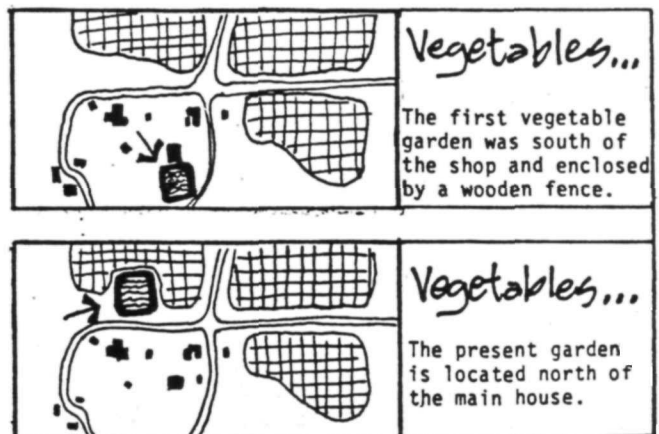
SWIMMING POOL

The swimming pool(1920) is north of the current orchard and was filled with water from the main irrigation system.



GARDENS

Mae Buckner planted a rather elaborate floral garden north and east of Buzzard's cabin. Several unique garden features included a "flag bed", a flag pole, sundial, a flower pattern delineating the letter "B", and a small water pool. A variety of ornamentals were grown including dogwood, lily, poppy, vinca, pansy, and rose.





MACHINERY

A large collection of old farm machinery can be seen throughout the site including tractors, plows, hand tools, and orcharding equipment.



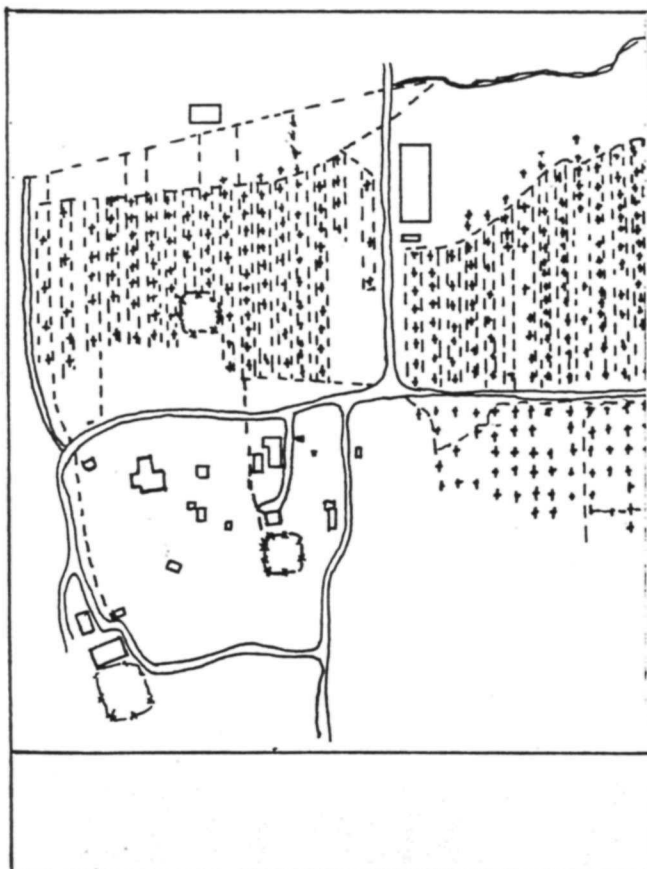
RUINS

A few ruins remain on the grounds including the barn(1915) located by the pasture and a large portion of the original fence.



BUCKNER LANE

A footpath following the diversion channel from Rainbow Creek to the orchard became a primary strolling lane with footbridges and flowers along the water bank.



THE ORCHARD

The apple orchard was planted in phases, beginning in 1912 just after the irrigation channel was dug and tree stumps pulled. Approximately 700 trees were planted in the 20 acres of what is now open pasture along the river, southwest of the house. By 1917 the west and north fields were planted. The final 30 acres were planted across the north clearing and down the east portion of the site, both of which remain today. The orchard itself is a horticultural archive. In addition to several Jonathon and Rome varieties, the orchard is largely comprised of a variety of Delicious Apple no longer grown commercially, produced, grafted, or sold in this country.



HISTORY

BUZZARD ERA (1889 - 1910)



twenty year period of occupancy, Buzzard logged nearly 100 acres of his claim before selling 147 acres, including the cabin, to the William Van Buckner family in 1910.

William Buzzard, one of the first residents in the Stehekin valley, took claim to a 160-acre tract along the Stehekin River near Rainbow Falls, and built a log cabin there in 1889. Taking advantage of available resources Buzzard logged much of the forest surrounding his cabin, selling cords of wood to the boat company operating steamers on Lake Chelan. Buzzard lived in his cabin for several years, enlarged the building, planted vegetables and some fruit trees nearby. Eventually, over a

BUCKNER ERA (1911 - 1970)



planted approximately 20 acres of apple trees. By 1917, 52 acres had been cleared with the help of a stump puller, and more trees planted. the work continued up until 1924 when the final 30 acres of apple orchard were planted.

William and Mae Buckner lived in Buzzard's cabin with their family seasonally beginning in 1911. The first year of residence was spent clearing tree stumps (remaining from Buzzard's logging enterprise) and preparing the land for a crop. One of the initial tasks involved the ambitious job of hand-digging a diversion ditch from Rainbow Creek to the fields so a crop could be irrigated and grown. A rock dam across the creek was built and nearly 4 miles of irrigation ditch was dug that summer (1911). In 1912 the family

Outbuildings on the property were built as needed by the Buckners from 1911 to the 1950s. The earliest structures, including pickers cabins, a barn, chicken house and brooder house, were all similar in appearance and built with wood from a local sawmill. Most of the remaining structures, including the smokehouse/Delco house, root cellar, milk house and apple packing shed, were built during the 1920s. The family's large vegetable garden was enclosed by a wood fence and sited directly south of the work shop.

In addition to a functional and working homestead, the Buckners added a variety of gardens and structures for pure enjoyment. A swimming pool (1920) was built in a sunny clearing north of the orchard. Using river rock and concrete, it was filled with water diverted from an irrigation channel feeding the orchard, and had a "patch" of grass at one end for sunbathing. A playhouse (1923) was built for the Buckner grandchildren similar in style to other structures. A rather elaborate ornamental garden surrounded the old Buzzard cabin highlighting the main entry on the east. A wood portico/trellis near the front door was flanked on either side by flowers and a climbing vine covered the chimney on the north end. Extending

cut from the cabin the remaining garden was quite formal with floral beds, "flag garden", sun dial, a flag pole, and a bed of red, white, and blue flowers nearby. One area of the garden included a flower pattern delineating the letter "B" on the ground plane personalizing the garden and giving it a very unique character. Some trees and shrubs remain from these gardens including dogwood, lilac, rose, and Oregon grape, along with herbacious plants such as poppy, lily, violet, and vinca (which is abundant around a stone pool north of the cabin).

In 1929 the homestead, including the orchard, was given to William Van Buckner's son Harry who years earlier had made the place his permanent home. As Harry's family grew additions were made to a picker's cabin which grew to become the main residence. They continued to farm and work the orchard into the 1940s, with mechanized processing at the packing house helping to pack up to 6000 boxes of apples annually. Over the years the Buckner home also became a popular community gathering place with dances frequently held at the packing shed. The trail along the diversion ditch from Rainbow Creek became a favorite strolling path with foot bridges and violets along the bank.

Over the next twenty years portions of the orchard were removed, cut, or let go for various reasons including poor and rocky soils in the north field. The packing house roof collapsed in the early 1950s and because of his other responsibilities Harry devoted less time to the maintenance of the orchard. Finally in 1970 the Buckners sold 108 acres of land to the National Park Service.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE / GARFOOT ERA (1970 - PRESENT)



In 1971 the Phil Garfoot family moved onto the homestead. Over the years efforts to stabilize the orchard and historic structures has resulted in the preservation of many original site features. Overgrown irrigation ditches were re-dug in 1972 and in 1980, 57 new apple trees were planted. Youth Conservation Corps crews and other seasonal park employees work in the orchard clearing ditches removing debris and occasionally pruning. The Stehekin community frequently helps out and celebrates the harvest and gathers as a community to share a potluck or special occasion.

SIGNIFICANCE

TYPE OF SIGNIFICANCE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic association
with group person, event | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unique expression:
local, regional, national |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work of recognized master | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important landmark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Important artistic statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Example of a particular style |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Example of fine craftsmanship | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Example of a particular era |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of unique materials | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rugged mountains and dense forests greatly restricted early settlement of the Stehekin River valley. Permanent settlement in the last decade of the nineteenth century was punctuated with hardy individuals who relied on immediate resources and ingenuity to survive, build homes, and establish a presence. One of the first settlers to accomplish this was William Buzzard. Buzzard's original homestead along the Stehekin River was typical of the river valley with a dense cover of coniferous and deciduous forest. Buzzard built a cabin (1889), grew crops, and made a living by selectively harvesting the timber surrounding his home. By the time he sold his land in 1911 he had cleared a substantial area.

Buzzard sold his land to William Van Buckner and over the next 60 years, the Buckner family continued on Buzzard's foundation. They adapted resources and developed a structural complex based on a lifestyle of self-sufficiency, enterprise, and land stewardship.

When the Stehekin area became part of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex the Buckners sold their land to the federal government which retains ownership today. The homestead has full-time residents who maintain the complex and significantly make the site their home.

Altogether the homestead remains remarkably intact with few deletions and intrusions. It reflects nearly a century of land use and cultural adaptations by several generations in the Stehekin valley. Many historic landscape features remain including the irrigation system--dam, weirs, troughs, and ditches--the orchard, buildings, pasture, swimming pool, garden ornaments, and other remnants.

The homestead as a complex possesses historic landscape significance on a local and regional level according to National Register criteria A, C, and D:

Under Criterion A: The Buckner homestead is closely associated with early homesteading efforts in the Stehekin River valley at the turn of the century. The complex as a whole, including the buildings, orchard, cleared fields, and irrigation system, together reflect land use activities, adaptations, and horticultural practices over several generations.

Under Criterion C: The Buckner homestead embodies a distinct type and method of building construction and site organization within the valley through site design, materials, setting, feeling, and association. The homestead as a whole complex retains a character which differentiates it from the surrounding area.

Under Criterion D: The Buckner homestead yields important information about settlement patterns in the Stehekin valley and illustrates a way of life in a wilderness environment. The site also yields important information about small-scale commercial apple orchard development and production at the turn of the century.

INTEGRITY

TYPE OF INTEGRITY



The Buckner Homestead retains historic landscape integrity in the following areas:

- LOCATION:** All primary (historic) structures including the buildings, irrigation system, site features, and orchard are sited in their original location.
- DESIGN:** The essential spatial organization of the entire homestead is intact.
- SETTING:** The homestead is still located in the physical environment of the Stehekin River valley.
- MATERIALS:** Primary structures retain original materials and new materials reflect a similar use of indigenous elements. Many plants used as ornamental material remain as remnants.
- WORKMANSHIP:** The buildings, hand-crafted tools, irrigation system -- including gates, bridges, and troughs -- as well as the layout and organization of the orchard, reflect the skilled working of the land and its resources.
- FEELING:** The site possesses a distinct and separate presence from the greater landscape context, evoking a feeling of remoteness in time.
- ASSOCIATION:** The buildings and grounds retain direct association with their original uses and activities.

REFERENCES

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Buckner file. Stehekin District, NOCA NPS Complex, Stehekin, Washington.

Field documentation, summer 1985. N. Thompson, R. Niedzweicka, C. Gilbert, G. Luxenberg.

Hovland, Donald E. Historic Structure Report, Buckner Cabin and Homestead, Courtney Cabin and Gilbert's Cabin. North Cascades National Park. Denver Service Center, Colorado, 1979.

Luxenberg, Gretchen A. Historic Structures Inventory: North Cascades National Park Service Complex. National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Seattle, Washington, 1984.

Maps collection 1902-1985. On file, Stehekin District, NOCA NPS Complex, Stehekin, Washington.

Photographic collection. On file, Stehekin District, NOCA NPS Complex, Stehekin, Washington.

NOTES

DATE OF INVENTORY: SUMMER 1985

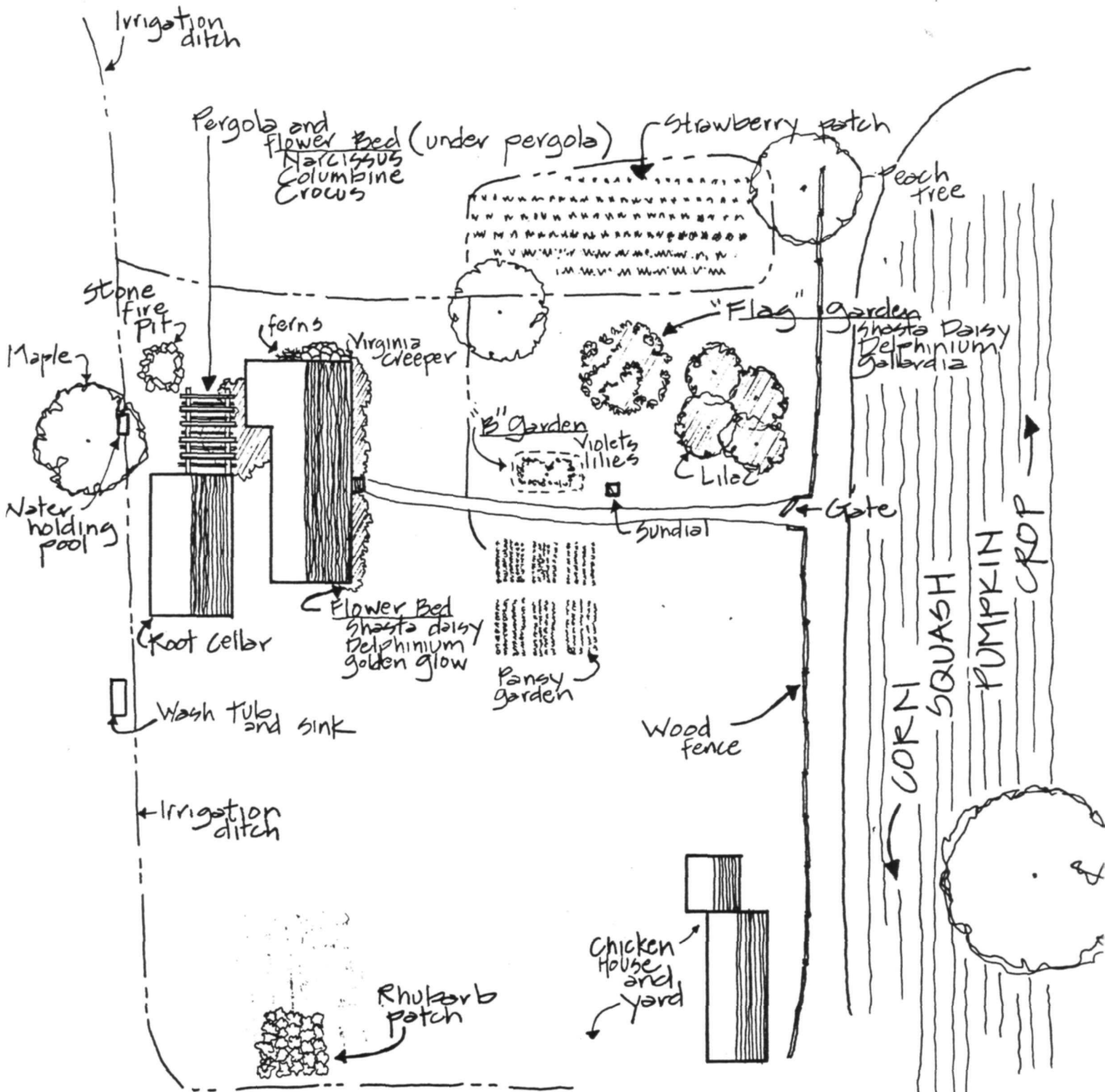
INVENTORIED BY: GILBERT, LUXENBERG, NIEDZWIECKA.

ASSOCIATION: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

NOTES AND OTHER INFORMATION:

Construction dates for historic buildings differ among several sources. Dates used in this report are from transcribed oral histories with Harry Buckner, Historic Structure Report: North Cascades National Park Service Complex, and the Buckner file (Stehekin District)(see references).

Site maps in this report have been compiled from several sources including direct field observation (summer 1985), Denver Service Center reports, and oral histories. The maps do not reflect measured drawings but are intended to show accurate site relationships, building scale and orientation.



BUCKNER HOMESTEAD

Detail: Ornamental
garden
ca. 1920's