

HISTORICAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

The Barn Theatre and the Barn Group
Located on the Campus of the University of California, Riverside
City of Riverside, Riverside County, California

Prepared for

Architects and Engineers
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OVERVIEW

The historic significance of the Barn Theatre is best understood in association with the assessment of two other early structures in the vicinity, the Barn and the Barn Stable. Collectively known as the Barn Group, these structures were built in 1916, and all three have since undergone major changes in function as well as appearance.

In the early years of the Citrus Experiment Station, the Barn Group formed the core of a separate cluster of buildings on the site, about a quarter of a mile from the main cluster consisting of the Laboratory Building and the director's and superintendent's residences (Figs. 1 and 2). Originally the Barn

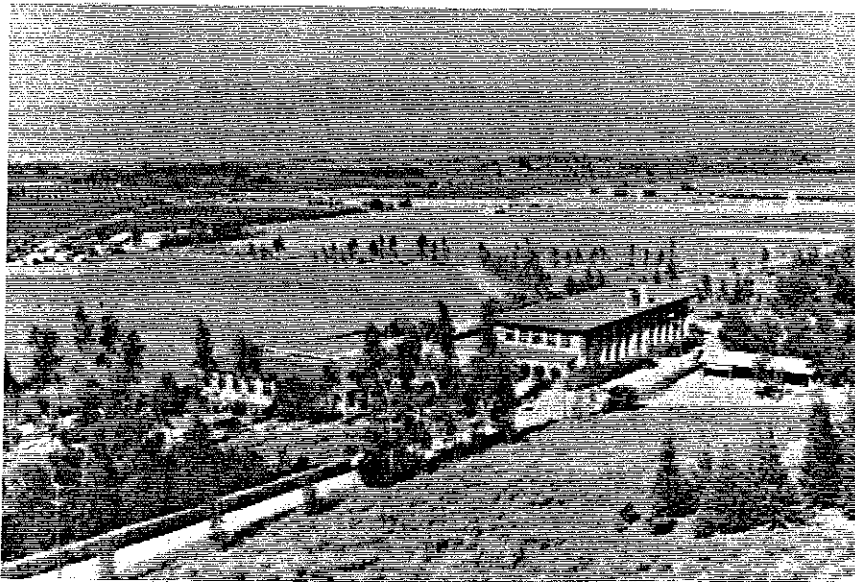


Figure 1. An early photo of the Citrus Experiment Station, apparently taken between 1918 and 1931. The Barn Group and cottages are seen on the right of the picture. (Source: Tartan 1962:18.)

Group included five structures: a horse stable, an office/carpenter shop, a hay barn, and two wagon sheds (Architects and Engineers Archives) (Figs. 3, 4, and 5). Together these structures served as the operational center of the Station's agricultural activities. Today the office/carpenter shop and the hay barn are

no longer in existence. The horse stable has found its reincarnation in the Barn, and wagon shed No. 1. has been converted into the Barn Theatre. Wagon shed No. 2, in the meantime, has become the Barn Stable.

A few dozen feet from the Barn Group stands another early structure on campus, the University Cottage. Constructed in 1917 as part of a group of three residential cottages, it was labeled in the blueprint as "Teamster's Cottage" (Architects and Engineers Archives). The simple but cozy design of the cottages

contrasted sharply with the naive and sometimes crude style of the Barn Group, but the two groups formed a functionally coherent unit, referred to in some of the early plot plans as "the Farm Group Buildings" (Architects and Engineers Archives).

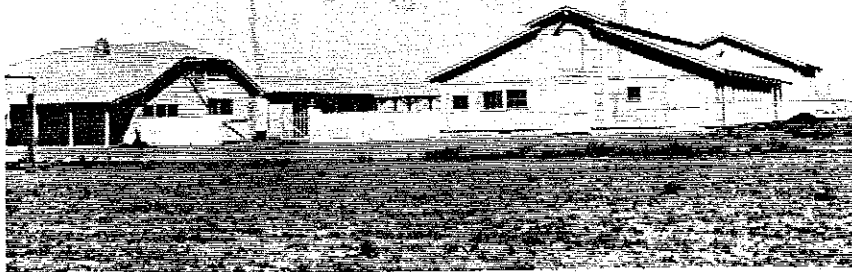


Figure 2. Early view of the Barn Group, probably before the construction of the cottages. (Source: Tartan 1962:25.)

Both the Barn Group and the University Cottage are among the oldest standing structures on the campus of the University of California, Riverside (UCR), and indeed the earliest buildings to be completed on this site of the Citrus Experiment Station. Authorized by the state legislature in 1905, the Station was first established in 1906 near Mount Rubidoux. In 1914, it was moved to the current site. Construction of the central and southern wings of the Laboratory Building began shortly afterwards, but was not completed until 1918 (Patterson 1971:333). Construction of the northern wing was postponed till 1931 (Patterson 1971:333). It was, of course, on this site that the Citrus Experiment Station later developed into the University of California, Riverside. The Station is now a state-designated Point of Historic Interest (Riv-028). The Barn Group and the University Cottage, obviously, should be considered an integral part of this historic site.

Unfortunately, the Barn Group's significance in this aspect suffers greatly from the loss of the compound's historical integrity. As mentioned above, the hay barn and the office/carpenter shop were demolished, probably in the late 1950s (based on plot plans in Architects and Engineers Archives and aerial photos published in the Tartan [1962:30-31]). Starting from 1954, the three remaining structures experienced heavy alterations with their gradual conversion into the current function as campus activity facilities.

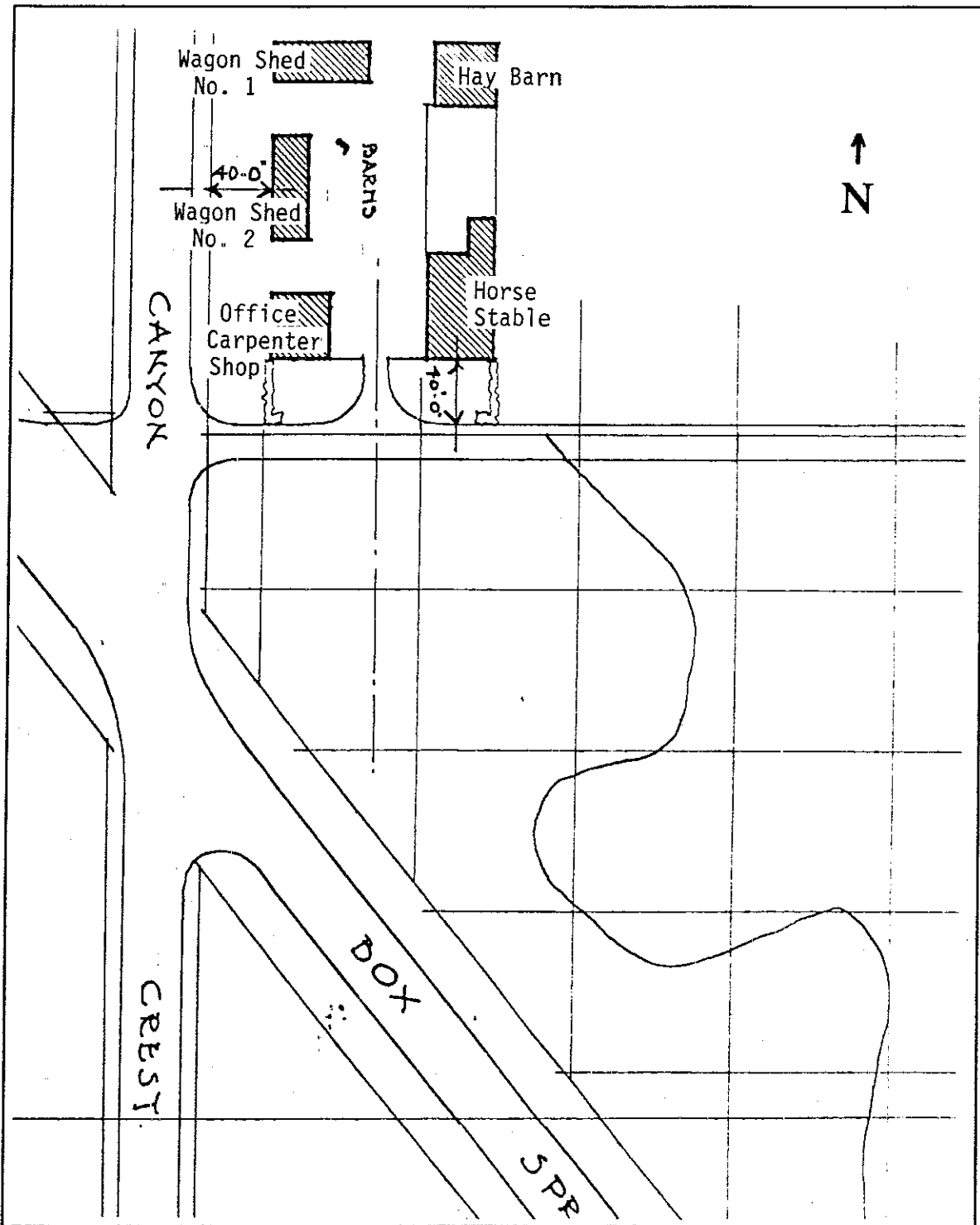


Figure 3. Project area in the 1916 plot plan. (Source: Architects and Engineers Archives.)

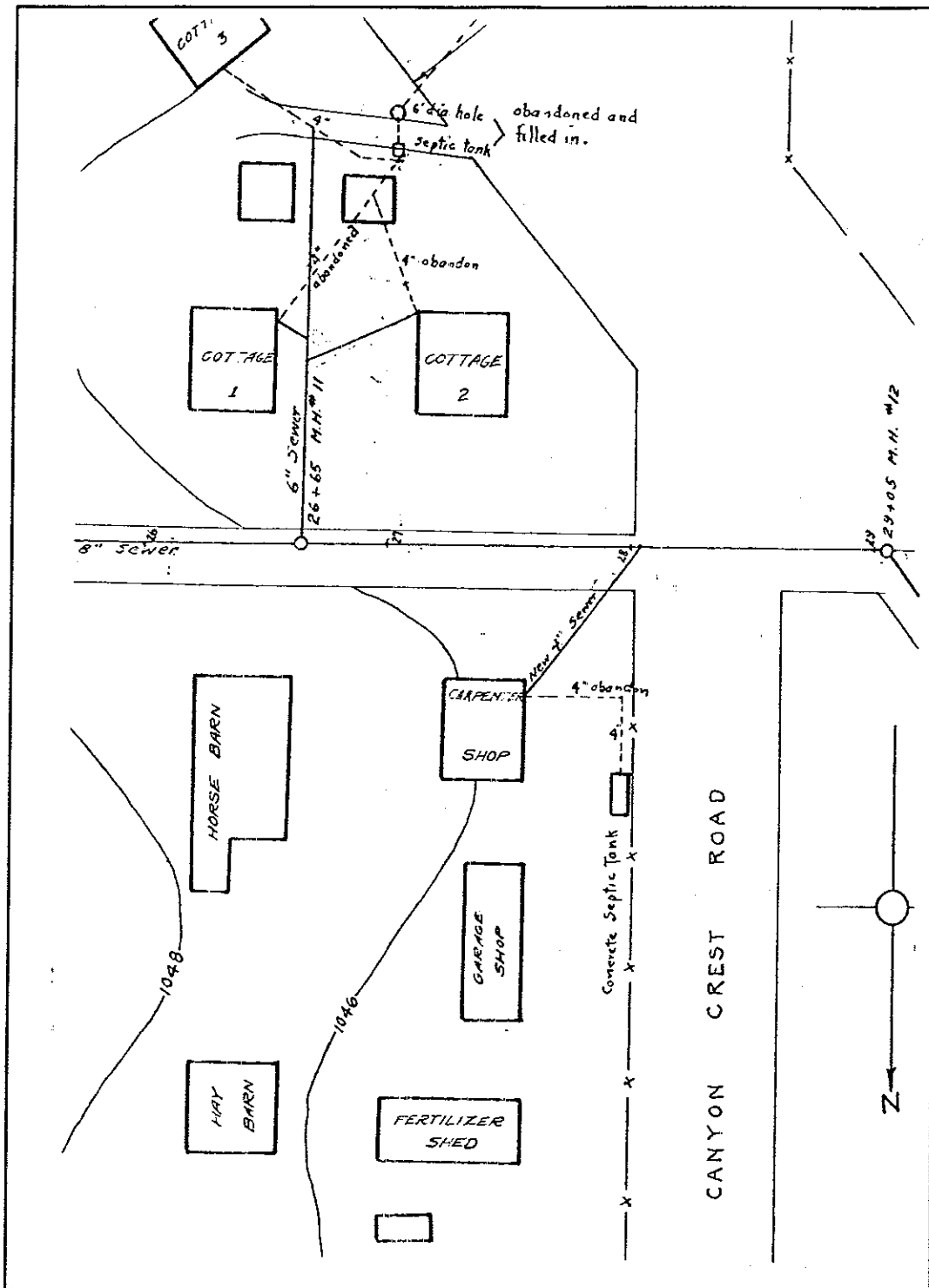


Figure 4. Project area in the 1931 plot plan. (Source: Architects and Engineers Archives.)

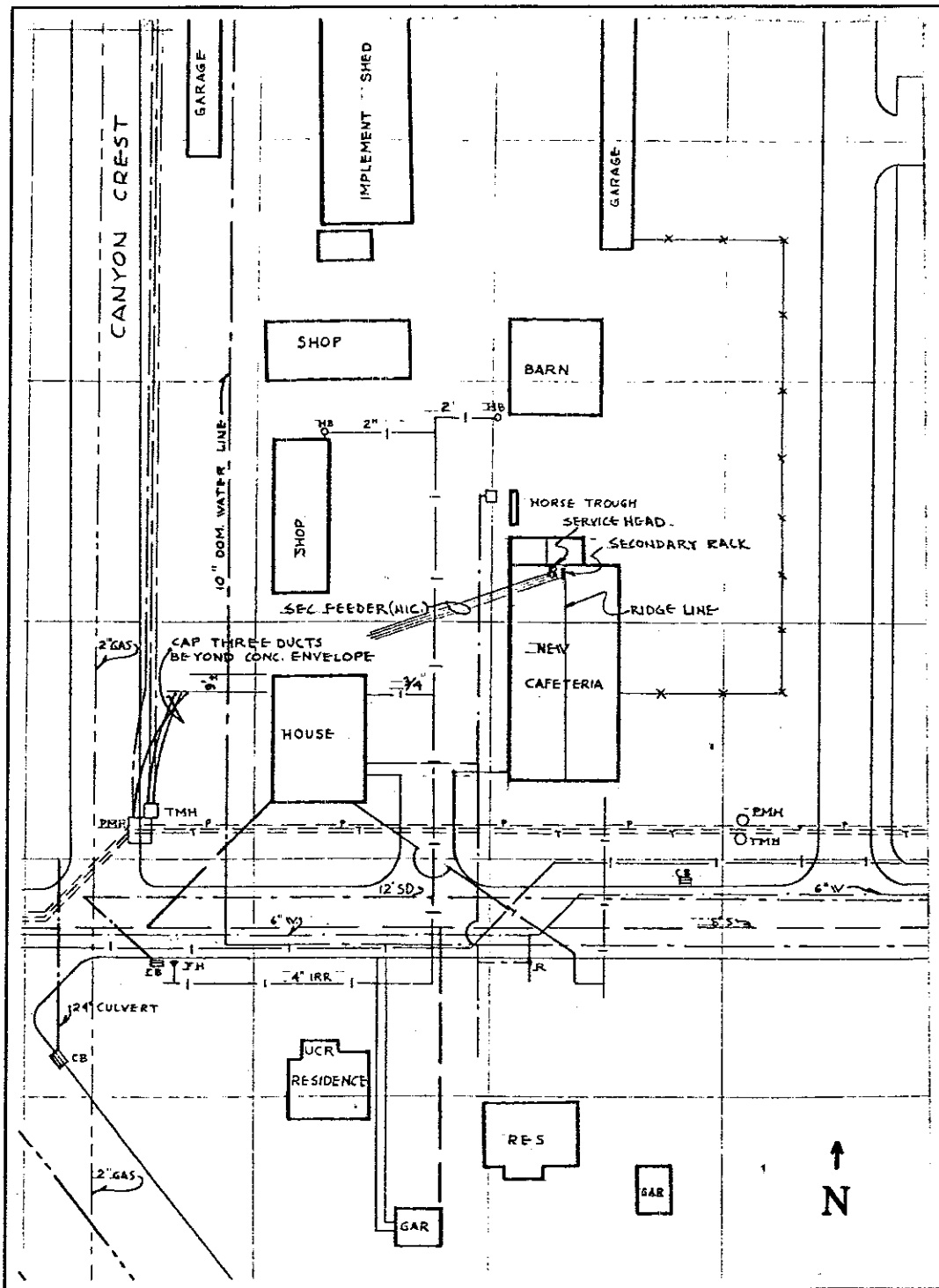


Figure 5. Project area in the 1956 plot plan. (Source: Architects and Engineers Archives.)

HISTORICAL CHANGES AFFECTING THE EXISTING STRUCTURES

HORSE STABLE

The horse stable was apparently the first structure in the group to be remodeled for the new function. Originally a iron-roofed, rectangular structure that was open on the west (Figs. 6 and 7), it was converted to the Barn cafeteria between 1954 and 1955, almost as soon as the newly dedicated UCR campus opened its doors to students (Architects and Engineers Archives). It was perhaps at this time that the structure was fully enclosed, and the old corrugated iron roof replaced with composition shingles. On the interior, the horse stalls were converted into dining booths, the floors were paved, and the walls were sandblasted during the project (Tartan 1962:25). In 1957, a small wing was added to the western side of the structure, giving the Barn its present look (Architects and Engineers Archives). In December 1970, the structure was destroyed in a fire (Fig. 8), and had to be rebuilt completely in 1971 (Architects and Engineers Archives).

BARN THEATRE

The Barn Theatre, formerly wagon shed No. 1, perhaps still retains its original iron roof, but most of the other exterior as well as interior features are evidently the results of later alterations. The 1916 blueprint shows the structure to be open for wagon access on both sides, except a small portion at the eastern end (Fig. 9). Later in the 1930s, it served as a fertilizer shed (see Fig. 4). At an unknown time, the shed was enclosed with wooden walls and large sliding doors. In 1972, it was assigned to the University's Theater Facilities Unit as a theater workshop, and subsequently went through extensive remodeling to adapt to the new role (Architects and Engineers Archives). All of the Barn Theatre's existing entrances were created at this time. The appearance of the structure was significantly altered by the remodeling.

BARN STABLE

In comparison to the Barn and the Barn Theatre, the Barn Stable has kept more of its original look. The two wagon sheds were constructed of very similar design. This one was initially also open on both sides, except where the blacksmith shop was located at the southern end (Figs. 10 and 11). As in the

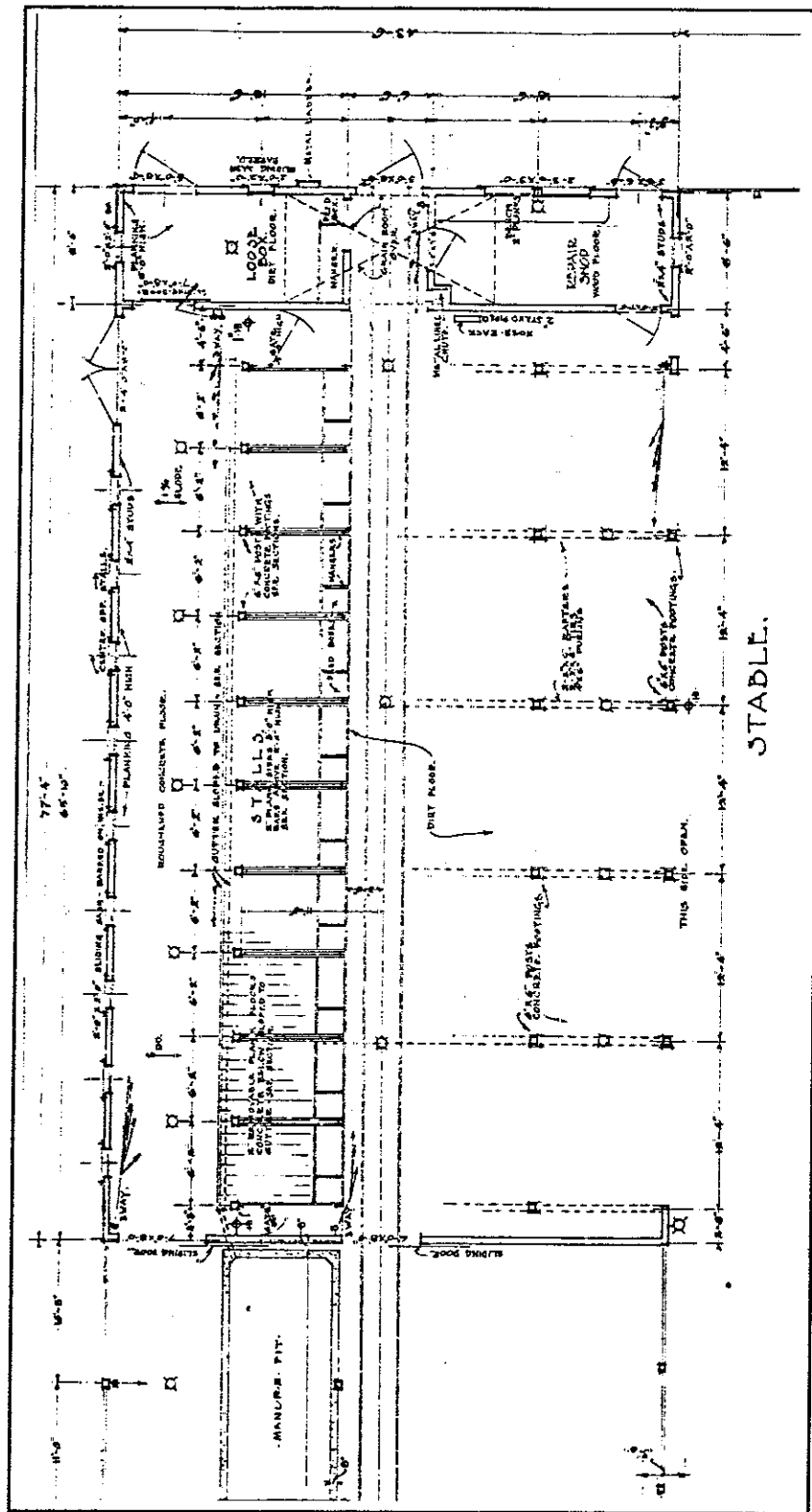


Figure 6. Floor plan of the horse stable, 1916. (Source: Architects and Engineers Archives.)

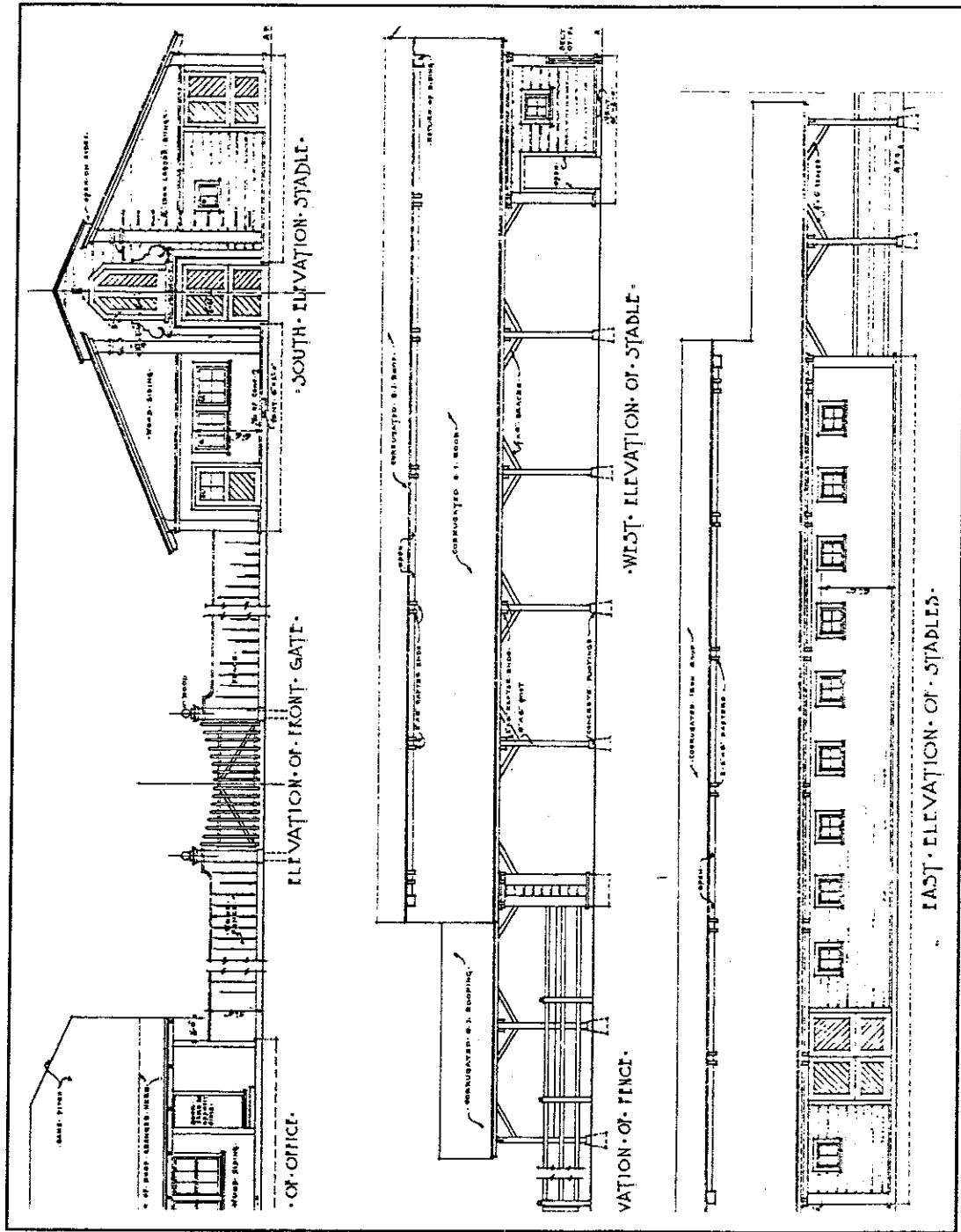
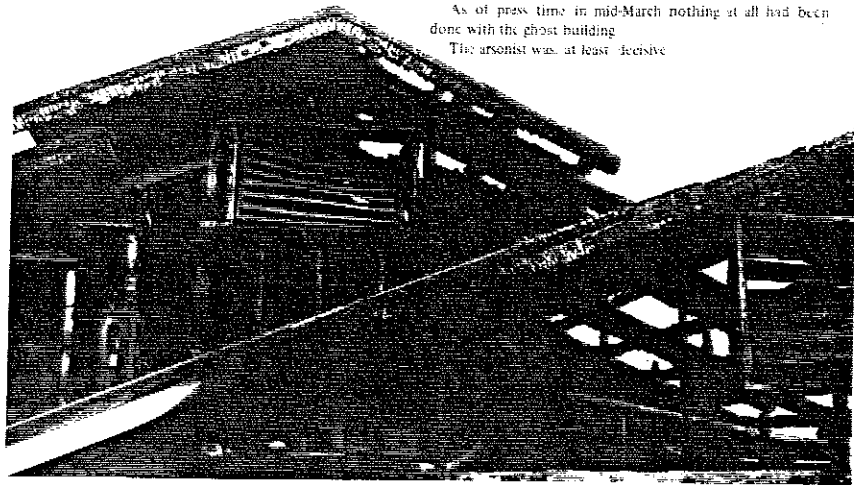


Figure 7. Elevations of the horse stable, 1916. (Source: Architects and Engineers Archives.)

case of the Barn Theatre, it is not clear when this structure was enclosed with walls and sliding doors. But this appears to be the only alteration that the Barn Stable has undergone over the years.

... by the unknown arsonist... matches early on the morning of December 19...
 As of press time in mid-March nothing at all had been done with the ghost building.
 The arsonist was, at least, decisive.



UNIVERSITY COTTAGE

Figure 8. The Barn after the 1970 fire. (Source: Tartan 1970:27.)

The cottage group also lost some of its components during the same period. In the late 1950s, two of the three cottages were moved to another location (Tartan 1962:40). The remaining one, in the meantime, was expanded into a small group of its own: a detached garage had been added to its east by 1956, and a smaller storage shed was constructed behind the garage at a later time (Architects and Engineers Archives). The University Cottage itself, however, largely retained its structural integrity, although it has housed a variety of different offices since the dedication of the campus in 1954. Except for the enclosure of a small terrace on the back, the cottage still looks very much as it did in 1917, as shown in the elevation drawing (Fig. 12). Aside from the much publicized Laboratory Building, the University Cottage is the only original structure of the Citrus Experiment Station that has escaped demolition and major alteration over the last few decades of UCR's rapid expansion.

SETTING

A second factor that affected the historical integrity of these structures is the drastic change in their environment. Since 1954, the expansion of the campus has fundamentally transformed their original agricultural setting, which significantly undermined the structures' eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The Barn Group, in particular, appears no longer eligible for the National Register due to both factors.

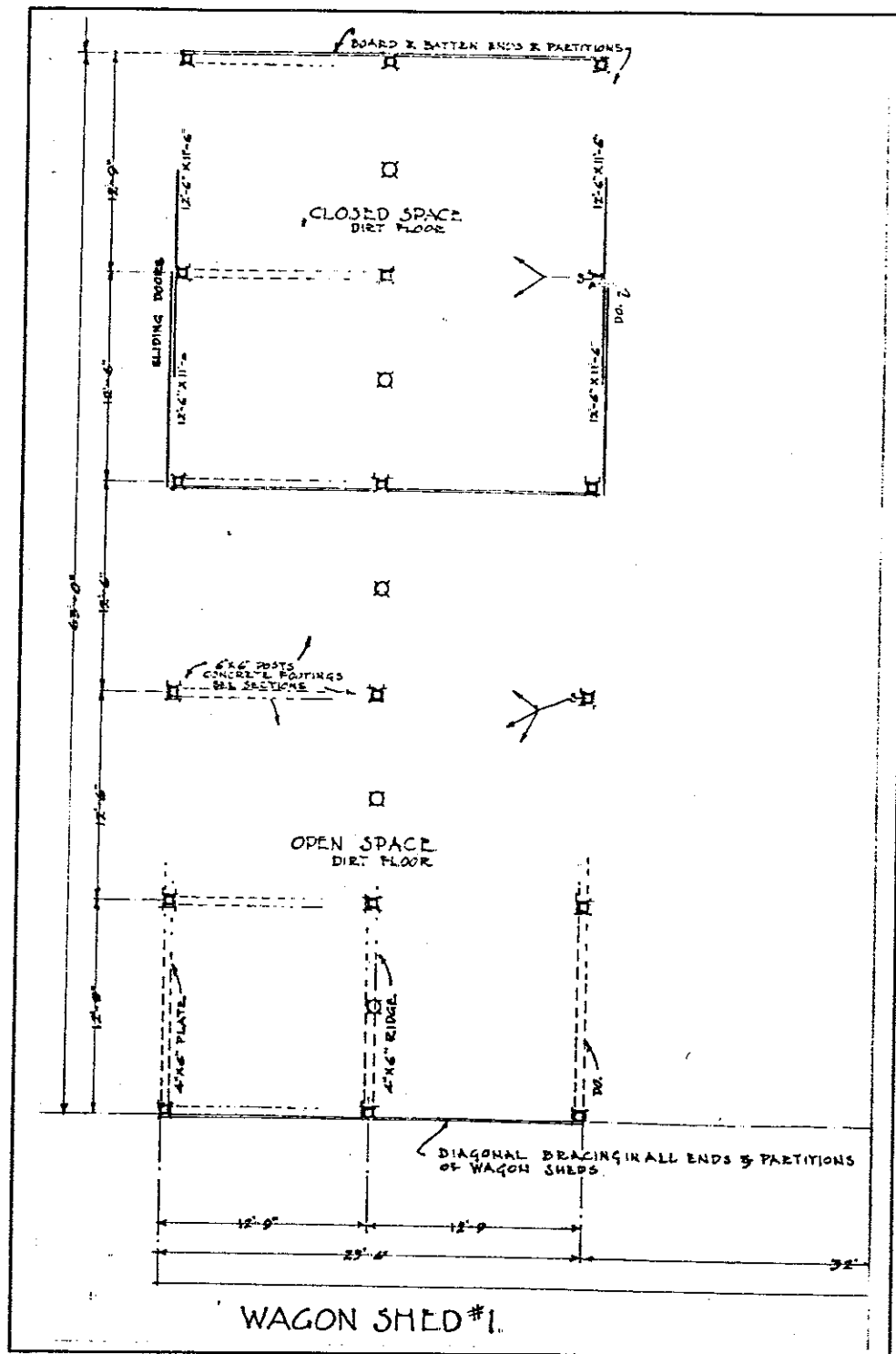


Figure 9. Floor plan of wagon shed No. 1, 1916. (Source: Architects and Engineers Archives.)

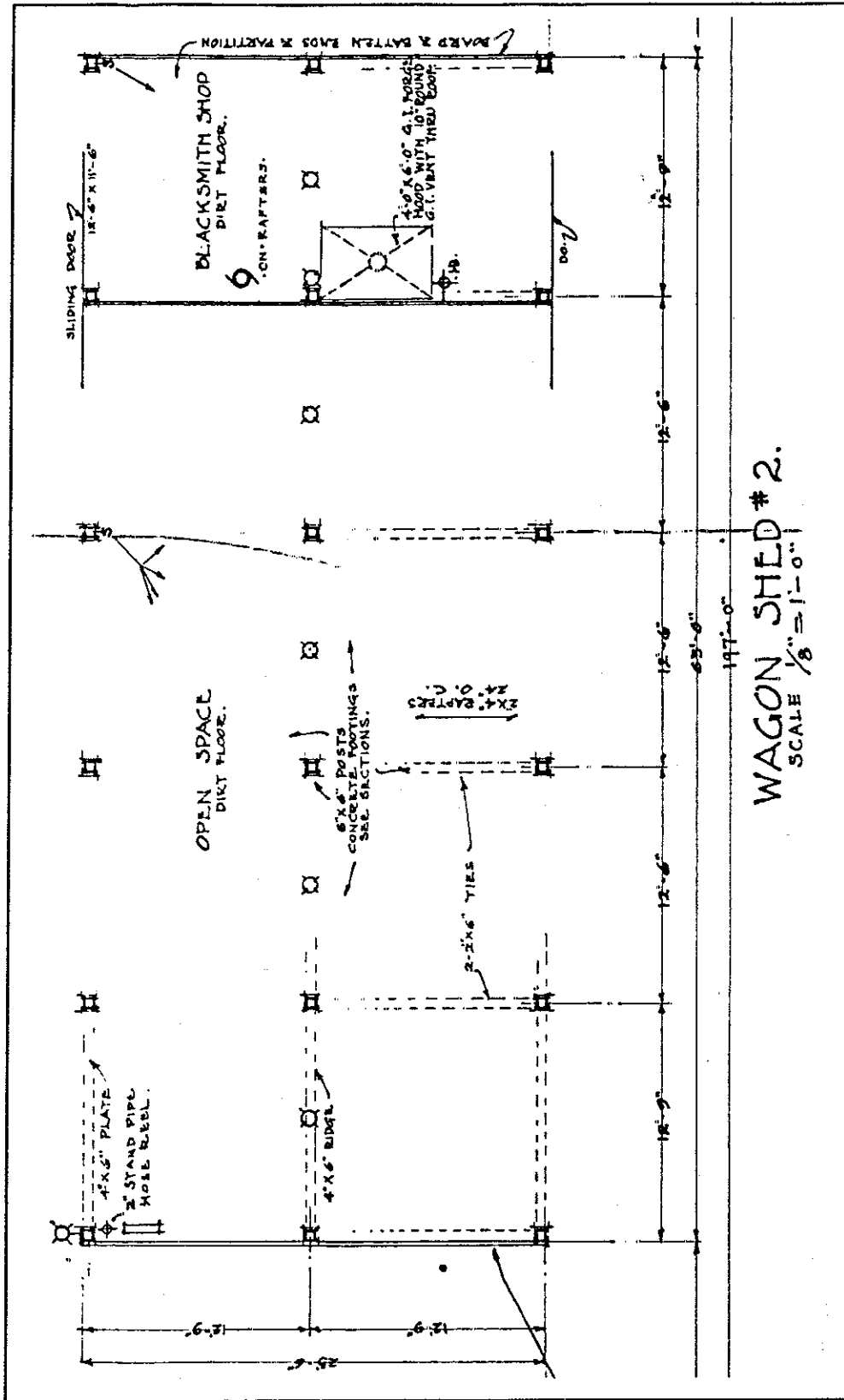


Figure 10. Floor plan of wagon shed No. 2, 1916. (Source: Architects and Engineers Archives.)

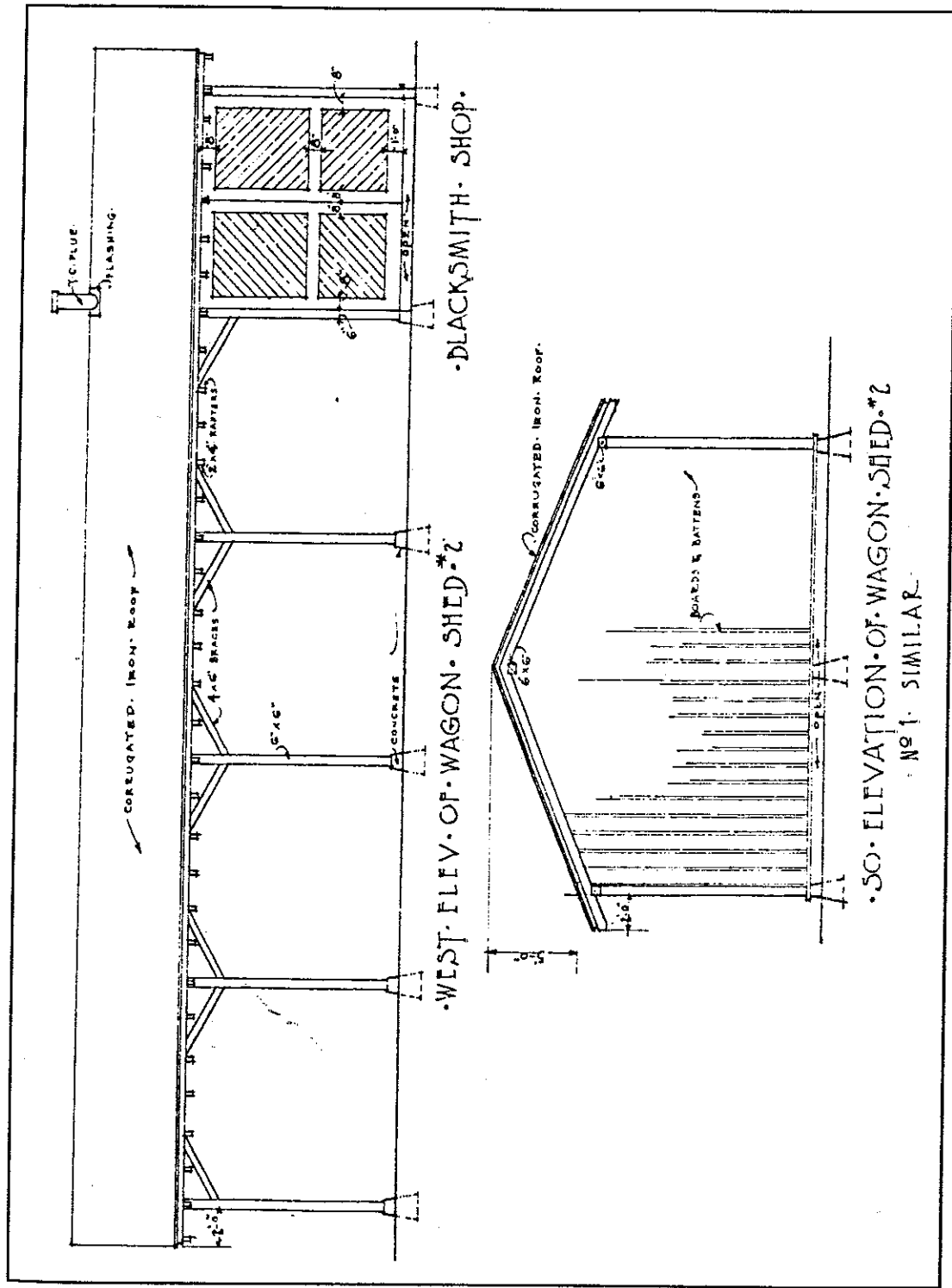


Figure 11. Elevations of wagon shed No. 2, 1916. (Wagon shed No. 1 was of similar design.) (Source: Architects and Engineers Archives.)

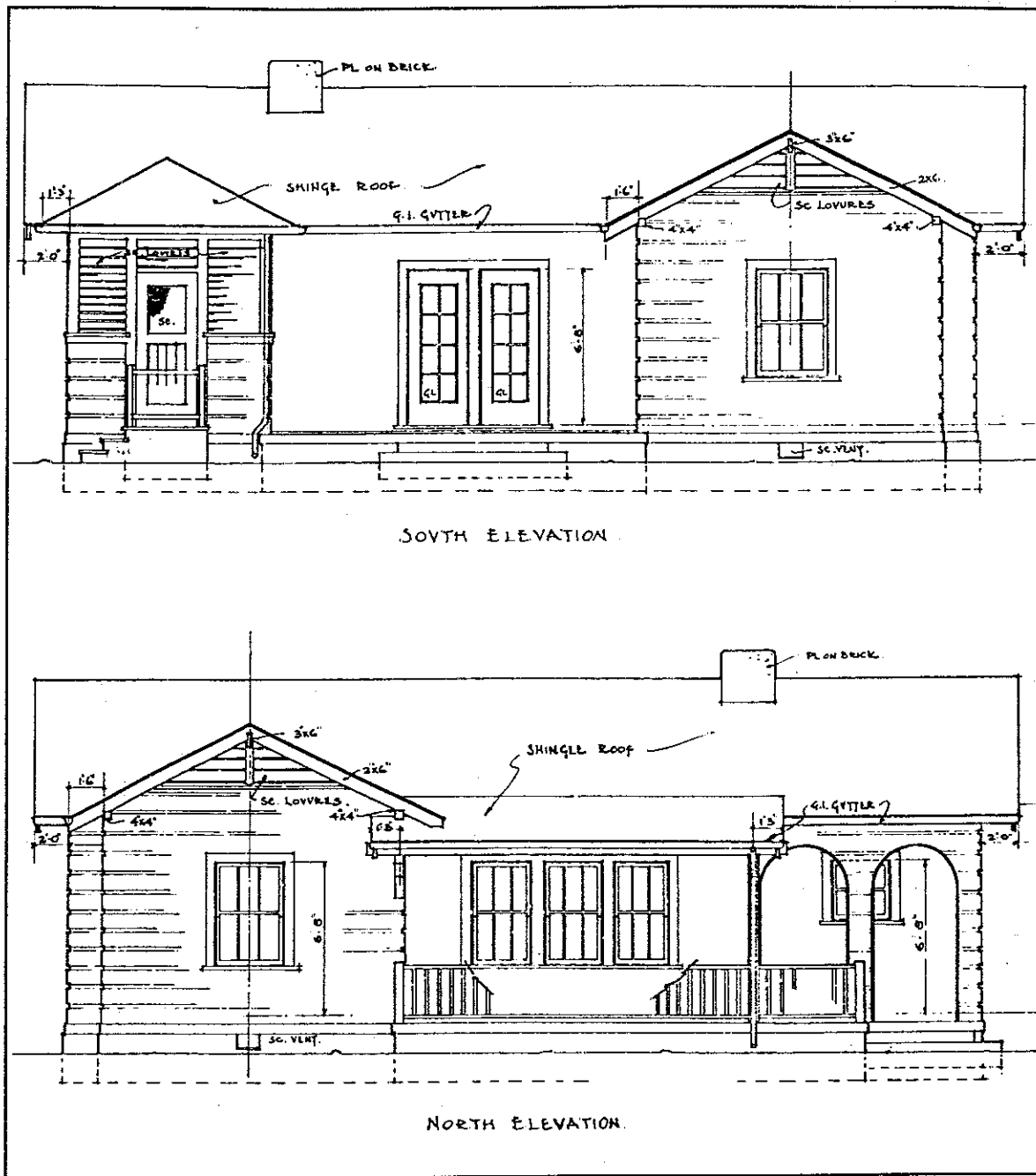


Figure 12. Elevations of teamster's cottage, 1917. (Source: Architects and Engineers Archives.)

Nevertheless, the Barn Group has acquired a new significance to the UCR community over the past decades. As an article in the student newspaper, the Highlander, summarizes:

"From the start, the Barn became the social heart of UCR. It was a place where students and faculty gather informally to talk about anything under the sun. It was the birthplace of many campus ideas and traditions" (Park 1991:B-1).

Similar remarks also echo throughout the pages of the Tartan, the UCR yearbook, from the very first issue published in 1954. As a favorite campus hangout and center of afterhours leisure activities, the Barn Group's popularity has persisted to this date.

CONCLUSIONS

The foregoing discussion has established for the Barn Group two distinctive historic qualities, independent of each other:

- A. As an integral part of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station, which played an important role in the growth of southern California's citrus industry in early 20th century;
- B. As a symbolic heritage from the early history of UCR, and a center of campus life since the creation of the campus.

The presence of Quality A, in particular, would have justified the Barn Group's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, which encompasses "properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history" (The National Register Criteria for Evaluation, developed by the National Park Service per provision of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended).

Unfortunately, the significance of Quality A is greatly reduced by the extensive alterations on the structures in the Barn Group and the drastic changes in its surroundings since its period of significance. The loss of its historic integrity, as defined in the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, effectively deems the Barn Group ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Nevertheless, the presence of Quality B is sufficient to validate the Barn Group as a point of local historical interest under Code 5S2, as specified by the California State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP): Instructions for Completing the California Historic Resources Inventory Form:

"[A property] not eligible for the National Register but of local interest because the property is likely to become eligible for separate listing or designation under a local ordinance that has not yet been written."

Furthermore, the State OHP instructions specifically calls for the inclusion in local listings "properties that have irreversibly lost their integrity but still have historic significance" (California State OHP: The California Historic Resources Inventory Survey Workbook, 1989:18), thereby bringing Quality A back into the scope of consideration.

Based on these facts and reasons, it is our conclusion that the proposed project, which requires the Barn Theatre to be moved a short distance to a new location within the compound, will not significantly affect the existing historic qualities of the compound. A finding of no adverse effect, therefore, can be declared.

SOURCES

- Architects and Engineers Archives
Elevation drawings and plot plans. On file at the Architects and Engineers, University of California, Riverside.
- Park, Paul
1991 UCR's 'Symbolic' Heritage. Riverside: University of California Highlander, September 24:B-1.
- Patterson, Tom
1971 A Colony for California: Riverside's First Hundred Years. Riverside: Press-Enterprise Company.
- Tartan
1954-
1970 Tartan Yearbook. Riverside: University of California.

APPENDIX I - Personnel

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Current Position	Director: Archaeological Research Unit, UCR.
Past Positions 1987-1990	Owner, Pyramid Archaeology, a CRM company, Palmdale, CA. Coordinator, UCLA Archaeological Information Center.
Education	Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles; Anthropology, 1986. M.A. University of California, Los Angeles; Anthropology, 1981. B.A. University of California, Los Angeles; Anthropology, 1976.
Research Field	California archaeology, cultural resource management. Twelve years experience in Southern California.
Memberships	Society of Professional Archaeologists, Certified. American Anthropological Association. Society for American Archaeology. Society for California Archaeology.
Publications	Over 125 Cultural Resource Management Reports. 1988 "The Antelope of Antelope Valley." <i>The Journal of the West Antelope Valley Historical Society</i> , 1:1. 1990 Archaeological Testing of a portion of LAn-618, the Escondido Canyon Site, near Agua Dulce, Los Angeles County. <i>Antelope Valley Archaeological Society Occasional Papers</i> , II. 1990 <i>Antelope Valley Archaeological Society Occasional Papers</i> , II. General Editor. 1991 "Archaeology and History, North Edwards, Antelope Valley." <i>Proceedings of the Society of California Archaeology</i> , Vol. 4.
Teaching Experience	1991 Field Methods in Archaeology. U.C. Riverside. 1990 Field Methods in Archaeology. UCLA Extension. 1989 Field Methods in Archaeology. Cerro Coso College. 1986 Cultural Anthropology. Teaching Assistant, UCLA. 1986 Physical Anthropology (genetics of evolution). Teaching Assistant, UCLA. 1985 Physical Anthropology (fossil record). Teaching Assistant, UCLA.

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Research Assistant - 1985-1988
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Teaching Assistant - 1985-1986
Modern History of China, Yale University

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Computer-Assisted Research in Social History, University of
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California Archaeological Inventory and Historical Resources
Inventory Project, California State Office of Historic
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History of Modern World, University of California, Riverside

Staff Historian - June 1991-present
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