

Renovation Plans – WR Program Building  
- Jim Goldthwaite, Project Leader

Depending on your age, you may know this building as “The Old Staff Quarters”, “The Nature Eco Building”, “The Program Building”, “The Cooks Cabin”, “The BRCT Office”, “The Directors Cabin” or “The Honeymoon Suite”. In the history of this building, which was built during Oscan Bilger’s term as camp ranger, it has gone through several reincarnations.

The building, which is located behind Landreth Lodge, was originally constructed by Oscar Bilger as the camp staff living quarters. It was built from scrap tent-ridge-poles (an Oscar Bilger signature construction system) and set up to house approximately 24 staff members on bunk beds in a large screened room. There was a restroom with two sinks; two toilets and a two-head shower plus a staff lounge on the East end. The staff never embraced the building because it suffered from a lack of ventilation, frequent flooding and mud incursions. Plus noise from the crowded conditions made it very difficult to sleep. The staff moved from here to “Water Tower Hill”.

During Jeff Robinson’s term as ranger, with Dan Garland’s help, the storage rooms were added and the lounge converted into living quarters. This arrangement left the new fiberglass shower (installed above the old shower drain) open to the main living area with the toilet and sink in another area. The attic installed 5 gallon water heater supplied the shower with almost enough hot water for one shower. The screened area was reduced by half and used for nature class instruction. During Allen Johnson’s tenure the living quarters were renovated to make the room livable as the camp director’s quarters. Jim Gidley enjoyed these separate quarters during his term as Camp Director. Troy Langston, who later served as camp director, literally spent his honeymoon there during summer camp, hence the name “Honeymoon Suite”. It has also served as housing for the cook when required. One camp director (nameless in his impact on the history of WR) flatly refused to stay here citing the holes in the leaking roof and rodent infestation in the building. He took over a spare bedroom in the ranger’s house that summer with Mike Watts. Terry Test fixed the holes in the drywall ceiling and Bryan Bogle repaired the roof.

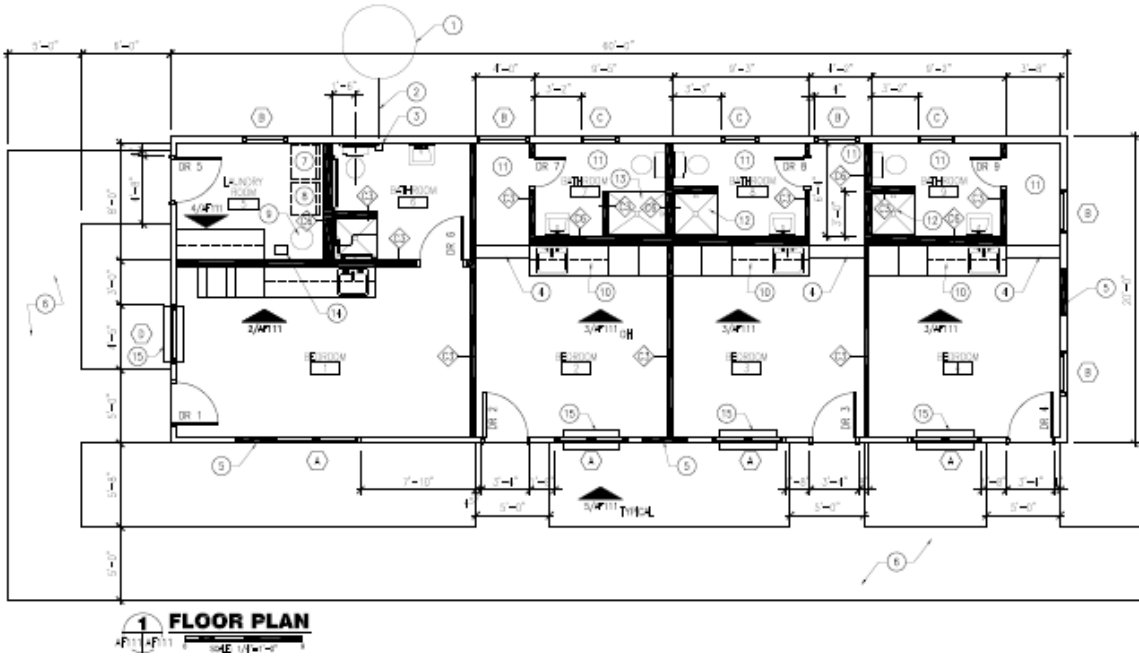
By any name, this “rose of a building” will “smell sweeter” when the current renovation plan is completed. The plan divides the building into four bedrooms opening to the North side, each with a private shower bath. In addition there will be a laundry tucked in to the corner of the building. This will permit the soiled laundry from the health lodge and the table wiping towels from the dining hall to be laundered without traveling to the Laundromat in Mineral Wells.

The project kicks off November 4<sup>th</sup> and is projected to take 5 years to complete. Funding is being provided under the LHC’s Maintenance Budget, supervised by LHC Facilities Director, Bryan Richardson. This time line can be expedited with volunteers working more than 3 Saturdays a year. If you are interested in helping with the physical labor, donation of materials or cash for “extras”, contact Jim Goldthwaite, (Podunk@worthranch.com)

I need lots of help on this big adventure, let me know if you can help. – Jim

P.S. We need a full size back-hoe or skid steer loader to move the dirt away from the building on the North side. Contact me if you have access to this equipment and can help.

Architectural Plan



Exterior "Before"

