STATE LEVEL HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION

PGE THREE LYNX VILLAGE

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC
MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST/FERC LICENSE NO. 2195
V. ESTACADA, CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OR

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FINAL SUBMITTAL

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PGE Three Lynx Village

Location: 55538 E Highway 244
T5S-R6E-S21 (Mt. Hood National Forest)
Lat. 45.12629
Long. -122.07148
Estacada, Clackamas County, Oregon, 97023

Owner: Portland General Electric
Portland, Oregon 97204

Year Built: 1924, 1929-1930, as modified
Designer: Portland Electric Power Company (PEPCO), Aladdin Reddi-Built Houses
Builder: PEPCO, W. G. Griffith

Three Lynx Village, originally designated as "Camp 8," was established by the Southern Pacific Rail Road as part of its development on the Oak Grove Fork of the Clackamas River and purchased by Portland Railway Light and Power Company (PRLP) in 1911. Camp 8 was used as a worker camp by the Portland Electric Power Company (PEPCO), a successor-entity, during the construction of the Oak Grove project. Later improved and transformed into permanent worker housing, Camp 8 became known as "Three Lynx," or "Three Lynx Village" and evolved to boast a public school and community amenities that served Portland General Electric (PGE, also a successor-entity) workers, their families, and residents of US Forest Service and private developments, providing a community focus in this remote area between 1924 and 2020. The built resources at Three Lynx, first evaluated as an element of PGE's FERC relicensing process, were formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by Oregon's State Historic Preservation Office in June 2003.

LOCATION

Three Lynx Village is located within the Mt. Hood National Forest on permitted land under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission License No. 2195, related to PGE's operation of the Clackamas Hydroelectric Project.[1] Three Lynx is accessed via Pipeline Road, a partially paved route between the Clackamas Highway (OR Hwy 224) and Timothy Lake Campground, roughly paralleling the large steel pipeline that diverts water from PGE's Frog Lake, a human-made water impoundment (45.092817, -122-043579), to PGE's Oak Grove Powerhouse (45.12204, -122.06987).

[1] This document describes Three Lynx as it existed in September 2020, when the property was still part of the FERC License boundary and PGE was in the process of addressing its future in light of changes in the operation of the Clackamas Hydroelectric Project, and before the damage caused by the Riverside Fire.

Three Lynx is about 20 miles southeast of the incorporated city of Estacada, Oregon, in an area often referred to as the "Upper Clackamas" or Oak Grove. Nearby locations in this heavily forested, sparsely settled, area have been almost entirely related to the power company, private logging firms, or United States Forest Service (USFS) development since the early 20th century. Major uses within the Upper Clackamas, in addition to Three Lynx itself, include PGE's Oak Grove Powerhouse, the Ripplebrook Ranger Station, and, along the Clackamas River and its major tributaries, a series of PGE and USFS recreational camping and fishing sites.

THREE *LYNX*, not Three Links

As noted, the area now known as Three Lynx was historically designated as Camp 8, but for much of its original development period it was called Three LINKS. Early newspaper and PGE predecessors[2] printed references to the area consistently refer to the area as *Three Links*, including a regular notes section in area newspapers. *Three Links Notes* described the people and events associated with the village, their comings and goings, and other information about area residents. References to Three Links were located as early as 1909, however the term "Camp 8" persisted at least into the late 1920s. *Oregon Geographic Names*, the definitive source on Oregon place names, states the following regarding Three Lynx Creek, the natural feature which gives the village its name:

> Three Lynx Creek, a tributary of the Clackamas River below Oak Grove Fork, bears a name that has provoked much controversy. Old maps show the name as Three Links, and there is a legend in eastern Clackamas County to the effect that this name was the result of loss, by a surveyor, of three links out of a surveying chain. Ernest P. Rands and William C. Elliot, of Portland, for many years' civil engineers in Oregon, both informed the complier that there was no truth in the three-links story. They were in the neighborhood of the stream at the time it was named. They are authority for the statement that one of the Austen family, early settlers nearby, named the stream Three Lynx Creek because he saw three bobcats on its banks. The United States Board of Geographic Names has adopted the name Three Lynx (McArthur & McArthur, 2003:951).

The Estacada quadrangle, as published by USGS in 1916, refers to the creek as Three Lynx Creek. Despite this imprint of official designation, the use of Three Links for both the residential area and the creek remained prevalent well into the 1950s. The history of PGE and predecessors, prepared by R. R. Robley who as an engineer was personally involved in the development of the Clackamas Project, consistently refers to the area as Three Links.

[2] For ease of reading and understanding, the power company, including all of its various predecessor entities will generally be referred to as "PGE. That corporate name was not formally adopted until 1930 when PEPCO was split into two independent companies, the Portland Traction Company and Portland General Electric.

Nevertheless, ***Three Lynx***, as recommended by the USGS and confirmed by Oregon Geographic Names, is considered correct and used uniformly here. In direct quotations the original usage will be retained verbatim.

Three Lynx: Development History 1909-1930

What is today the Mt. Hood National Forest, managed by the United States Forest Service, was first designated as the Bull Run Timberland Reserve by President Benjamin Harrison in 1892. In 1893 land was added to the reserve and the enlarged area was renamed the Cascade Range Forest Reserve. In 1908, after the creation of the United States Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture, the area was again renamed, as the Oregon National Forest. "Finally in 1924 the Oregon National Forest was renamed the Mount Hood National Forest."[3]

Earliest references to the area of Three Lynx village refer to it as "Camp 8," one of a series of camp sites that were established by Southern Pacific Rail Road crews mapping and logging the area for future development beginning around 1907-1908. "For several years...the Southern Pacific Company had been engaged in preliminary surveys and studies looking toward power development on the Upper Clackamas in the general vicinity of Oak Grove Fork and Three Links Creek." (Robley, 1936:136.). In early May 1911 Southern Pacific sold its rights to hydroelectric development in the Upper Clackamas to the Portland Railway Light and Power Company (PRLP), a major electrical producer and trolley/interurban railroad company that already had major generation facilities on the Clackamas River at Faraday. PRLP was also building a second powerhouse, at River Mill, downstream of Estacada, a city that was named and founded to support power company development.[4]

> The Portland Railway Light & Power company has purchased from the Southern Pacific company the immense Oak Grove and Three Links water power site on the tributaries to the Upper Clackamas river.... (*Oregon Journal,* 11-May-1911, 1:1).

"The PRLP Company did not accomplish much work on [Oak Grove] until June 1920, when a survey party was sent into the field to survey an access road alignment following the Southern Pacific Company's original plat, starting from a point opposite the North Fork dam site to Three Lynx (Griesser, 1982:40). Initially the road to Oak Grove and Three Lynx was just to be a graded truck route, but after a series of washouts and setbacks, the

[3] "History of the Mt. Hood National Forest, found at https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mthood/learning/history-culture, visited 24-February-2021.

[4] Estacada was platted and developed by the Oregon Water and Power Company, an independent predecessor that began development on the Clackamas and started the Faraday project and rail line to the area. OWP merged with other rail and power providers to create PRLP in 1906.

company determined to extend its rail line instead, assuring year round access. The line would begin from the public terminus at Cazadero, near the Faraday Powerhouse south of Estacada, and continue to the Three Lynx site, a distance of about 21 miles.

> This road, when completed, will give ready access to the proposed development to the Oak Grove Fork of the Clackamas river (*Oregonian*, 2-January-1922, 6:1-8).

Construction was challenging, through incredibly rough country, and the rail line did not reach Three Lynx until September 1922. Eventually the company would build more than 30 miles of railroad line above Cazadero, extending into the forest past Three Lynx, so as to allow railroad-based delivery of the huge sections of pipeline that would provide water to the Oak Grove powerhouse. The line above Faraday was not used, as near as can be determined, for any purpose other than construction and company-related traffic, with public service always ending at the Cazadero station. [5]

PEPCO built or revived a number of railroad construction camps, as many as thirteen, to support the huge workforce responsible for Oak Grove construction. Camp #8, developed at the Three Lynx site in late summer 1922, included a saw mill, various warehouses, and rudimentary canvas tents for workers (see Figure 6). The Camp's location was an important one, close to the Oak Grove Powerhouse site and easily accessible with the rail line nearby. As a result, Camp #8 was designated as the headquarters for construction and by February 1923 several frame dwellings and a bunkhouse had been erected there to provide more suitable housing and office space for the project engineer and other staff. An arc-shaped terminal building was built on the line and served as the trolley station.

By October 1923 Camp #8 had developed into a small community with numerous frame buildings and a series of shops and warehouses, supporting workers as they rushed to finish the Oak Grove Powerhouse. The first generation unit of the Oak Grove Powerhouse was completed and put into commercial service on August 4, 1924 (Robley, 1936:195).

Near the end of construction, the rough buildings at Camp #8 were removed and in late 1924 construction began on a series of seven "Traditional" 1-1/2 story cabins (Cabin Nos. 2-8), that were arrayed in a "ring" around a central open area. The buildings were framed or stick built on the site, under the direction of W. G. Griffith, per an agreement signed with PEPCO on May 10, 1924.

[5] PRLP operated two "stations" above Estacada on its trolley system, Faraday and Cazadero, the latter being the last public stop on the line during its operation (see Kramer, *Faraday Powerhouse*, April 2020)..

> The contractor covenants and agrees with the Company to make, erect, build and finish in a good, substantial, and workmanlike manner on the property of the Company at Three Links and Intake, on the Oak Grove Project, in Clackamas County, seven (7) cottages suitable as residences, agreeable to the plans and specifications hereto attached.... (PGE, 1924).[6]

Construction was expected to take 120 days and Griffith was paid the sum of $21,690 in total for the work. This was the beginning of the transformation of Camp #8 into permanent worker housing, what would become the Three Lynx village.

Three Lynx housed power company staff including powerhouse operators and maintenance personnel who worked daily in the Oak Grove region. By providing housing in the Upper Clackamas, workers could avoid the difficult and seasonally impassable road to Estacada, assuring that Oak Grove could operate in even the worst weather. Housing was provided for worker's families too. The power company paid for the construction of a school building facing the center of the community. Company children, as well as the children of area forest service staff and others, attended the Three Lynx School, housed in the bungalow-style building that was erected on a small knoll overlooking the residential area sometime prior to February 1926.

> Three Links is progressing. We have been known as just "Camp 8" but everyone in our little city has been so active that it is not a camp any longer. The first of the year Three Links was organized and has a community club house with a good dance floor and where we have the very best of times when we get together every two weeks. Then too, we have our little school, of which we are all justly proud (*Eastern Clackamas News*, 18-February-1926, 1:3).

> A two-room grade school with a second floor apartment for a teacher was constructed in the Three Lynx village area...by the grade school district. However, at that time, the only taxable property in the district was owned by the Company which, in effect, provided the school and paid all expenses until logging companies moved into the area in the early 1940s (Griesser, 1982:42).

A company "speeder," a small rail vehicle, provided easy transportation between Estacada and Three Lynx. But even that connection with the outside world wasn't reliable when there was a heavy snow. "The speeder from Camp 8 came down on Monday but has been unable to make the trip (back) since" (*Clackamas County News*, 1-February-1929, 1:4).

[6] Unfortunately, no plans "attached hereto" were located with the contract.

In 1930 work on expanding the Oak Grove Powerhouse to add a planned second generation unit was underway. "The powerhouse building was extended upstream to house the new unit and a new penstock was built from the three-way branch at the knoll to the water turbine" (Robley, 1936:223-24). Oak Grove Unit No. 2 went into commercial operation on March 5, 1931 (Griesser, 1982:43).

Related to the expansion at Oak Grove and work on the never-completed "Big Bottom" project,[7] the company needed additional housing, and so eight single-story bungalow-style dwellings were added to Three Lynx between 1929 and 1930 (Cabin Nos. 35-42). These new dwellings were "kit houses," manufactured by the Aladdin Reddi-Cut Homes company. The particular Aladdin model chosen was the "Victory," with several added-cost modifications (see Figure 14). PGE ordered the homes in two groups of four cabins each, with the contract for the first four cabins signed on June 1, 1929.

The Victory, like most Aladdin designs, came in multiple floorplans; however, PGE seems to have requested a customized model, Plan S. As built, the Victory model at Three Lynx was a two-bedroom house with a single bath, living and dining rooms, plus a kitchen. In addition to the optional front porch that Aladdin offered, PGE also ordered and paid for a rear porch too. "As an addition to the regular Victory Plan S, the Aladdin Company will furnish a small back porch with steps to grade line, also hand railing and roof over same" (PGE Contract, 1929).[8] The original finish for the cabins was mixed with ivory painted siding and light grey trim, or light grey siding, with ivory trim. All the cabins had "dark red" hexagonal butt asphalt strip shingle roofing." Aladdin charged PGE $1396.46 plus $18.75 for the rear porch, a total of $1415.21 per cabin.

In April 1930 PGE purchased a second group of four Aladdin cabins for installation at Three Lynx. All the details were the same as the previous contract, with a total cost of $1414.79 per unit.

PGE's in-house carpenters were slightly miffed to have been overlooked and replaced by factory-built housing. According to company legend, repeated by longtime PGE employee John Esler, then the licensing manager for PGE's Clackamas River Project, the final house built at Three Lynx was intended to prove a point.

[7] Big Bottom was to have been a large water impoundment above Oak Grove that would reserve additional water and allow for increased generation. The difficult construction, coupled with financial impacts, resulted in its abandonment. In the 1950s, as part of the development of the North Fork Powerhouse, the Frog Lake impoundment was enlarged, roughly serving the same function planned at Big Bottom.

[8] PGE's addition of the custom rear porch, which allowed the basement stairs to be relocated outside the standard floorplans, was likely the impetus for the Plan S design.

> "Just to show they could do the work every bit as well, they took one of the kits completely apart, reverse engineered it, and built a seventeenth house from scratch that matched the kit construction exactly," Esler said, laughing. "Clearly they weren't going be outdone" (*Oregonian,* 3-July-2016).

Cabin No. 44, the site-built seventeenth dwelling at Three Lynx, was completed in 1930 and was, for the most part, identical to the kit-built Aladdin structures that it is based upon, right down to the rear porch.

The Aladdin Company

Cabin Nos. 35-43 at Three Lynx were of pre-manufactured kit homes designed and manufactured by the Aladdin Company, headquartered in Bay City, Michigan. Aladdin, founded in 1906 by two brothers, was among the best known of a group of suppliers of pre-cut, conventional frame homes, made possible by the nationwide rail network and popular during the first half of the 20th century.[9] Aladdin made "pre-cut" houses, dwellings that "... were completely full-dimensioned balloon-type structures, with most or all of the boards pre-cut at the factory for assembly on site with hammer and nails," (Schweitzer and Davis, 1909:63). A pre-cut house kit saved costs in labor and were marketed as providing a degree of precision and standardization not typically available with traditional, site-built, construction.

"Catalog" or kit houses, often associated with Sears, Roebuck and Company, were incredibly popular, especially in the years before World War Two. They were promoted as low-cost, quality-built, housing through national magazine advertisements and offered in numerous beautifully illustrated color catalogs of home designs. While some kit houses could be quite elaborate and were geared to professionals and higher-income earners, kit houses also offered competitive options for "starter" homes, as well as traveler's accommodations such as "auto courts." Many of the modest designs were also suitable for company housing. Indeed, much of Aladdin's success came from sales to industries, which constructed company towns around new plants, mines, and mills.[10]

By 1920 the Aladdin Company had opened a factory in Portland, Oregon, to meet growing demand in the western United States while taking advantage of the region's massive lumber production. "This is their fourth factory and bids fair to be their largest branch" (*Oregonian*, 29-May-1922, 78:1-8). The Portland plant produced housing for the west coast as well as shipping fully cut house kits to the Hawaiian Islands, Asia, and elsewhere. The

[9] The so-called "Big Six, were Gordon Van-Tine, Aladdin, Lewis and Sterling, along with the huge mail order concerns Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward (Schweitzer and Davis, 1990:63).

[10] "The Aladdin Company,"www.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Aladdin_Company, visited April 2021.

eight Victory model cottages that PGE purchased for the expansion of Three Lynx were manufactured in Portland.

> One of the notable features of the big Aladdin plant in North Portland is the absence of waste, there being no odds and ends of lumber going out the rear door to the refuse pile. Every foot of a board is cut into sizable materials and sold. They are after every possible inch and figure to get the best out what materials they have (*Oregonian*, 29-May-1922, 78:1-8).

Aladdin's 1928 sales catalog, sub-titled the "The Golden Rule in Home Building," offered about 30 house designs, many with up to six floorplan options for each. Aladdin houses ranged from "The Sherbrooke," an attractive shingle-clad bungalow design for $1788, to "The Mayflower," a modest 324 s.f. cottage available for just $382, including freight costs.[11]

The Victory cabins for Three Lynx were loaded onto Portland Traction Company box cars and shipped by the company up the Springwater Line through Gresham to Cazadero and then beyond, to the rail siding at Three Lynx where they were off-loaded and assembled. "PGE was responsible for the materials and construction of the concrete foundation and basement walls, hot water tanks, and plumbing materials and fittings" (UO, 2001). The traction division, the trolley line, of the company billed the power division of the company for freight costs.[12] "Materials should be loaded in the car in a manner that will best facilitate unloading in the proper sequence" (PGE Files, PEPCO Contract, June 1, 1929:3).

The Aladdin Company continued to provide kit houses in a range of styles for decades, selling an estimated 75,000 houses worldwide. "The company remained solvent and family-owned until it shut its doors for the last time in 1981."[13]

Three Lynx: Development History 1931-2021

With the completion of the Second Unit at the Oak Grove Powerhouse, the seventeen housing units at Three Lynx, along with a bunkhouse, service yard, warehouses, and various support structures required by the maintenance crew, were largely complete by

[11] Aladdin's catalogs have been digitized and are available online from Central Michigan University (https://www.cmich.edu/library/clarke/ResearchResources/Michigan_Material_Local/Bay_City_Aladdin_Co/Catalogs/Pages/default.aspx, visited March 2021).

[12] The Portland Traction Company and PEPCO were jointly owned, formed by the reorganization of predecessor PRLP into two corporations, one focused on transportation and the other on power generation and distribution. The Traction Company itself would go through several reorganizations, eventually becoming a building block in today's Tri-Met system. In the 1990s the author located receipts for the Three Lynx delivery charges for "Victory" model cabins from the Aladdin factory to the site in PGE property records.

[13] "Aladdin Kit Homes," found at www.antiquehomestyle.com, visited March 2021. See also www.cmich.edu, for a collection of Aladdin sales catalogs.

1931. Three Lynx grew in its role as the company's focal point for the operation of its projects in the Upper Clackamas valley, with the Three Lynx School serving as a draw for other families in the region. The "Speeder Shed" served as a transportation connection, and company offices housed staff for the project's day-to-day management.

Although not specifically documented, as larger and more powerful automobiles became the norm, the railroad line to Three Lynx was eventually removed and replaced with a gravel route above Cazadero, improving access and significantly reducing the isolation of Three Lynx residents. Eventually many community residents built small wood-frame one-car garages to house their vehicles, nestled into the upper and lower housing rings. The Three Lynx School, especially the gymnasium and a successful boys' basketball team, remained a community focus. Clackamas County newspapers reported on activities and sports at Three Lynx.

> The Triple Links Club, formed by students of the Three Links School, gave an American Junior Red Cross benefit at the school gym..., [T]he club was organized last September.... (*Clackamas County News*, 21-March-1941, 1:2).

Still, as late as 1941, just as the United States was entering World War Two, Three Lynx remained a rural, "wild," location, where wild animals were frequently found amidst the cabins, including beaver, cougar, wild cats, rabbits, bear and "countless deer."

> All of the homes at Three Links are completely modernized and the residents of the community enjoy more conveniences and comforts than the majority of city dwellers.... Yet despite all this, it is remarkably wild and remote (*Clackamas County News*, 19-December-1941, 1:1).

In the mid-1950s Three Lynx residents banded together and using company equipment built a community pool in the middle of the compound, to provide for recreation. As private logging and government operations in the Upper Clackamas expanded, more families located in the area. This led the school district to expand the Three Lynx School building in 1964, when a large addition on the main elevation added four new classrooms, almost entirely obscuring the building's original bungalow design.[14] Other changes at Three Lynx included the installation of concrete walkways between some of the cabins and more, and larger, garages. In the late 1960s, the company removed the "speeder shed." The project office and shop was eventually replaced with metal-clad modern office and maintenance buildings.

[14] The Three Lynx School addition was probably built by Milwaukie-area contractor John Kinsman, who may have also served as its designer. The project is identified as Project No. 108 "Three Links School" in Kinsman's files.

Use of the Three Lynx School for educational purposes ended in 1988, although the district retained the upper floor as a residence.[15] In 2018 the Three Lynx School and gymnasium were removed at the direction of the US Forest Service since, without educational services, the building no longer met the requirements of the Special Use Permit that allowed its operation on Mt. Hood National Forest land.

Despite the beauty of the setting and the low $7.50 monthly cost (including utilities) for a Three Lynx cabin, company occupancy rates began to decline in the early 1970s. PGE employees, increasingly, chose to live closer to town, schools, and other opportunities. At the same time, improved technology and modernized operations reduced the need for on-site staff at the Oak Grove project. By 1992 six of the Three Lynx houses were vacant, a trend that never reversed. In 2003 PGE removed Cabin #37, one of the single-story Aladdin structures, which had major foundation issues that did not warrant repair due to lack of demand. Occupancy in the remaining cabins at Three Lynx continued to decline.

By 2019 site issues, most notably a failing septic system, presented huge financial demands on the continued operation of Three Lynx that, given its limited role in the company's power operation, could not be justified. After internal review, PGE made the corporate decision to end its involvement and occupancy at Three Lynx.

Because of the historic significance of the site, PGE attempted to locate a potential successor entity to take over the site, subject to USFS use restrictions. In Spring and Summer 2020, PGE funded outreach efforts targeted to local and national audiences that might have need for a facility like Three Lynx for outdoor recreational or education use. This included advertisements in *Outside Magazine*, targeted outreach to qualified entities and various social media sites. Despite those efforts, no qualified successor was located, and PGE began to evaluate its options and the future of the site.

On September 8, 2020, the Riverside Fire swept through the Upper Clackamas area, quickly spreading to more than 138,000 acres, destroying some fifty homes and 150 other structures.[16] The fire began in the Three Lynx vicinity and destroyed all but five of the cabins as it burned through the area.[17]

[15] "What Will Happen to the Three Lynx School Building," *Estacada News*, 25-July-2013 (online at https://pamplinmedia.com, visited April 2021).

[16] "Riverside Fire destroys at least 50 homes, 150 structures," found at https://www.koin.com/news/wildfires/riverside-fire-clackamas-county-tour-updates-09232020/, visited April 2021.

[17] "Riverside Fire near Estacada spans 40,000 acres," *Portland Tribune*, 9-September-2020, found at https://pamplinmedia.com/pt/9-news/479749-387455-riverside-fire-near-estacada-spans-40000-acres-pwoff, visited April 2021.

After the fire was extinguished, the damage to Three Lynx was significant. In order to protect surrounding streams from potentially hazardous run-off, PGE removed debris by the end of 2020, leaving the concrete foundations and five undamaged cabins and the office/shop in place. Without any future use, the remaining cabins and other structures at Three Lynx were razed, including removal of the road system, concrete foundations and all other elements in 2021 so as to return the site to a more natural state. Most of the former Three Lynx area, no longer needed for power operations, was removed from PGE's FERC licensed boundary and returned to Forest Service management.

Three Lynx – Traditional House Description

The traditional, site-built, dwellings at Three Lynx are of one and one-half story that rise from a board-formed concrete daylight basement used for utilities and storage. The structure is wood framed with horizontal lap siding above a modest projecting watertable. Four-inch-wide boards define the outside corners. Doors and windows have simple wooden trim. Gable roofs were reclad with metal sheeting in 2018, as part of a repair project that also removed the original projecting brick chimneys and replaced them with faux elements that maintained the course red-brick appearance but improved safety. Other exterior detailing includes wooden brackets (knee braces) at the eaves, exposed rafter tails, and wooden skirting on the porch. An enclosed rear porch, below a hipped roof, serves a rear entry/mud room. Windows are 1/1 double-hung wood sash.

The primary entrance, on the gable end, is located below a projecting wood-frame gable porch, supported by 4x4 corner columns, with a porch soffit of 4" wide beadboard, with 4" wide painted tongue and groove wood flooring. A simple wooden porch railing with a balustrade of 2x2s is present on most buildings.

The interiors of the Three Lynx Traditional houses are of generally simple, functional design reliant upon standard materials typical of the era. Clear finished Douglas Fir flooring was framed by 6" tall painted baseboards with 6x6" door side casings of plain painted boards with slightly extended (less than ½") head casings. Windows are of matching painted board trim, with projecting sills and narrow apron. Wall surfaces throughout are of painted lath and plaster. Some spaces have been modified, with acoustic tile ceilings or wood sheet paneling, and wall-to-wall carpeting applied over the original finishes. Most interior doors are five-panel painted wood with mortise lock sets. Kitchens and restrooms, as is typical, are more modified and less uniform although many kitchens retain original or early appearing painted wood cabinetry. Little if any early-appearing lighting remains. The rear entry porch has a straight stair flight leading to the main floor level, with a second straight flight leading to the basement.

A narrow straight stair flight leads to the upper floor bedroom areas, simply detailed with mixed wood treads and risers (originally all exposed Douglas Fir). Basement levels, with a concrete slab floor and poured in place concrete walls, are generally unfinished, with exposed floor joists and mechanical systems. Basements are typically divided into multiple spaces, devoted to storage, utilities, or small workshops.

Three Lynx – Aladdin Houses Description

The single-story Aladdin houses, constructed on board-formed concrete daylight basements, are of wood framed construction with horizontal painted wood-lap siding. Exteriors are trimmed with 4" wide cornerboards below the gable roof. The projecting hipped front porches, sheltering the main entry, have brick bases and large (8x8") wood column supports. Porch railings are varied, likely the result of reconstruction at some locations. Additional construction details and floorplans are shown in Figures 15 and 16.

Exterior windows are simply framed with wood casings, windows are generally 1/1 double hung wood sash, although some multi-pane windows are used in some locations (perhaps not original). A rear, shed-roofed, porch provides secondary entry/mud room.

Interior finishes in the Aladdin Homes (and in the site built house that mimics them) are of simple painted lath and plaster walls with painted board trim. Door and window surrounds include an exterior raised "frame" as shown in Figure 55. Flooring is 4" wide Douglas Fir, covered in some situations with later wall-to-wall carpeting. As with the traditional homes, kitchens and baths exhibit the most modification although some kitchens retain original or early appearing wood cabinetry. Basements have concrete floors and walls, with open ceilings, primarily used for storage and utilities.

Three Lynx – Garages

Over time, most of the cabins at Three Lynx had detached garages built to house resident's personal vehicles. These were not original, and the earliest examples are believed to have been added beginning in the 1930s. All single story, most with dirt floors, these simple wood-frame gable structures are of mixed design. At least two were removed in the 1980s, likely due to poor condition and substandard construction, including a "double garage" that was shared by Cottages 40 and 41 (Kramer, 2003:35).

In 2003 twelve garages remained of mixed design and construction, including T1-11-type sheet siding, horizontal siding, and mixed roofing materials. Garages were painted in colors to coordinate with the associated housing unit.

Three Lynx – Swimming Pool

As noted above, in the 1950s Three Lynx residents, with the support of the company, built a large community swimming pool at the south end of the central area in the community. The pool included a small equipment room for the filter and heater, and a little changing area and restroom, all within a wood-fenced area. As the community declined in population, especially as families and children moved into town, the use of the pool declined. Prone to leakage, it ceased being used by the early 2000s and was planned for removal before the September 2020 fire.

Three Lynx – Storage and Operations

PGE operations staff occupied a large steel-frame, steel clad, shop and office building that is located at the south end of the housing area, adjacent to Pipeline Road. This two-level building contained office and meeting spaces on the upper floor and then, taking advantage of grade, garage and equipment storage below. A small metal building was located in the paved parking area and served multiple uses.

South of Pipeline Road a group of warehouse and equipment storage buildings of varied age and construction, some of which may date to the Camp 8, construction, era, continue to provide equipment and shop space. A fuel filling station, with an above ground tank is located in the center of this compound. A large open pole building is located at the east end, providing storage for road equipment.

Three Lynx – Landscape and Site Features

As originally developed and documented in available photographs, the Three Lynx Village site was largely dirt and scrub as the result of cutting the trees for construction of necessary facilities, logging, and road building. PGE arrayed the permanent cabins in the inner and outer "rings," the latter taking advantage of topography, both the natural "bowl" of the area, portion of which were likely graded to create building space during the Camp 8 occupancy or later. The central area was seeded and over time mature trees grew to create an attractive village linked internally by gravel and later paved roads. Company facilities, the office/shop building and the equipment yard, were placed at the south, some across Pipeline Road, and the school building was located at the north, overlooking the central area, flanked by the gymnasium and outdoor play yards.[18] A continuing visible element in the landscape are the bright red, pole-mounted, fire houses located in front of many of the cabins. A pole mounted warning siren is located near the swimming pole.

[18] The district also owned a separate residence located downslope from the main Three Lynx area, used to house school staff. Little information about this house, which no longer survives, is known and it was not typically considered part of the Three Lynx Village development history.

Over time residents of Three Lynx added their own casual elements to the landscape adjacent to their homes, including painted rocks, small concrete elements with scribed inscriptions or dates, and similar works.

CONCLUSION

Transitioning from its original, construction-centric development as Camp 8, the Three Lynx Village developed as a permanent worker community beginning in 1924 and continued to provide housing, education, and social activities for residents of the isolated upper Clackamas drainage for nearly eighty years. The simple wood frame houses and related features of the community served Portland General Electric, its workers, and their families until improvements in transportation, communication and operations reduced the demand for housing in the remote area, causing the community population to decline. Residency at Three Lynx Village ended in January 2020.

After more than two-thirds of the housing units were destroyed by the Riverside Fire in September 2020, PGE, in cooperation with the Mt. Hood National Forest, removed the five remaining housing units and returned the Three Lynx Village area to a more natural condition.

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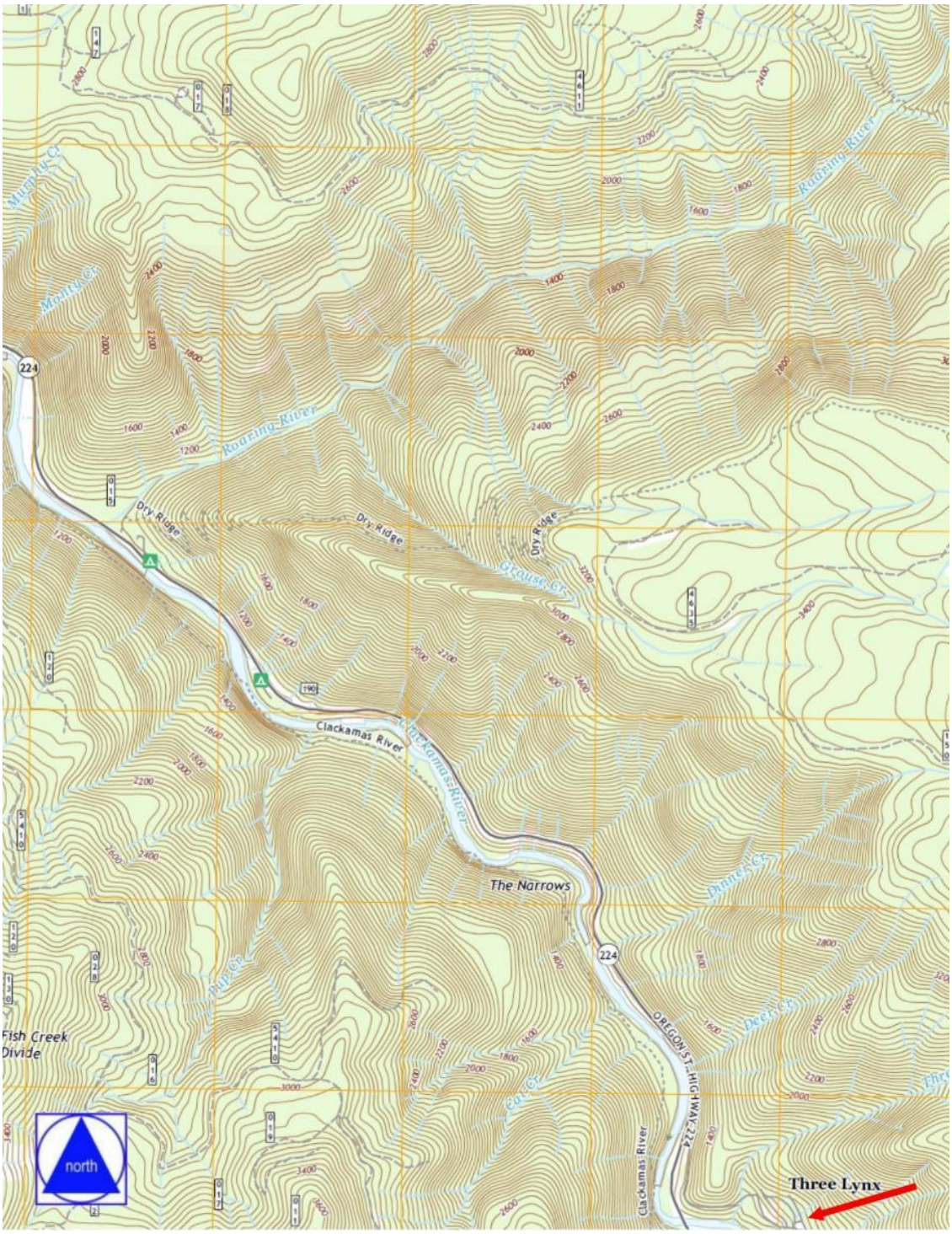


Figure 1. Three Lynx Village
(USGS Three Lynx 7.5 Min. Quadrangle, 2020)

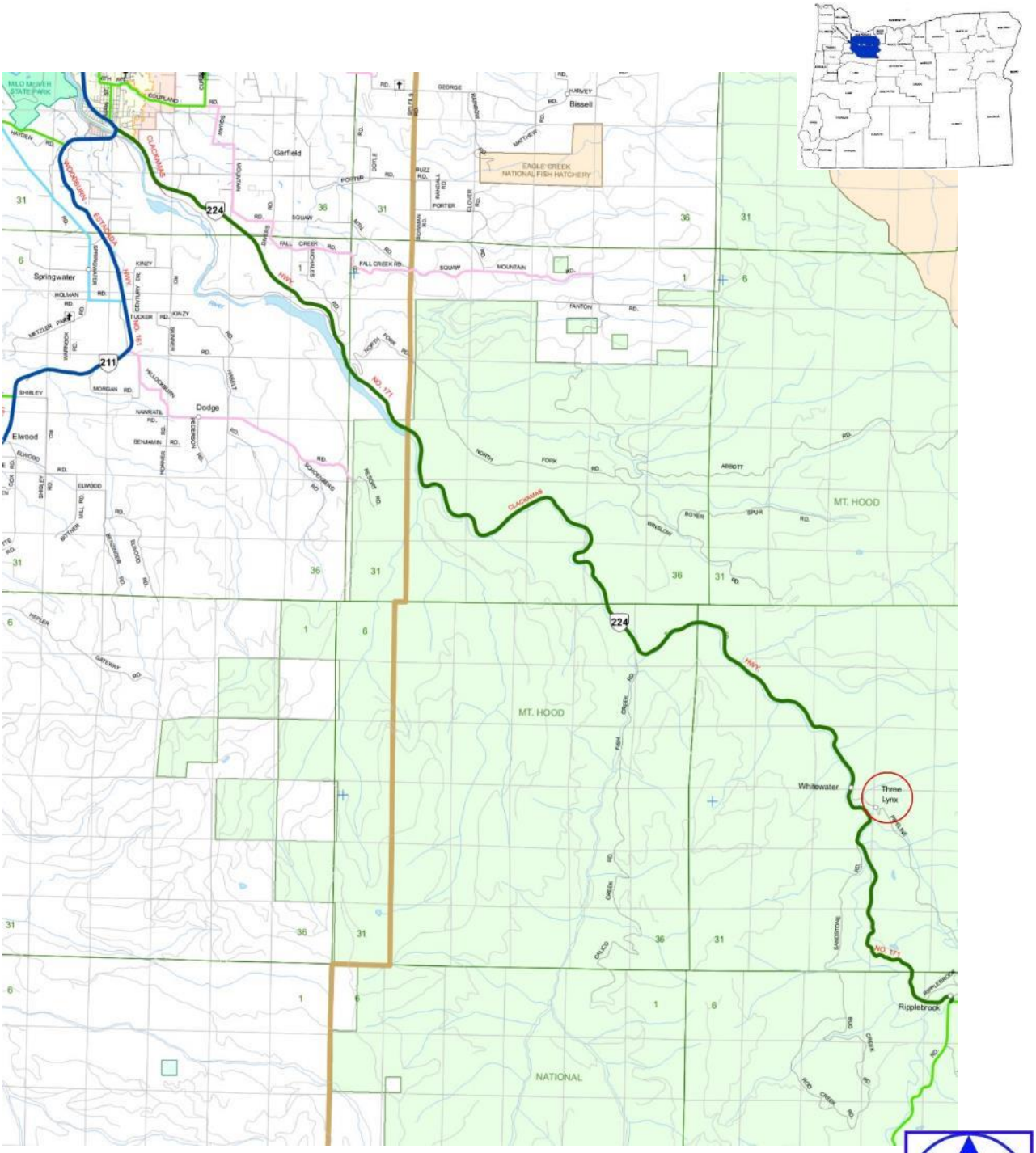


Figure 2. Three Lynx Village, Vicinity Map
(ODOT Clackamas County Map, annotated)

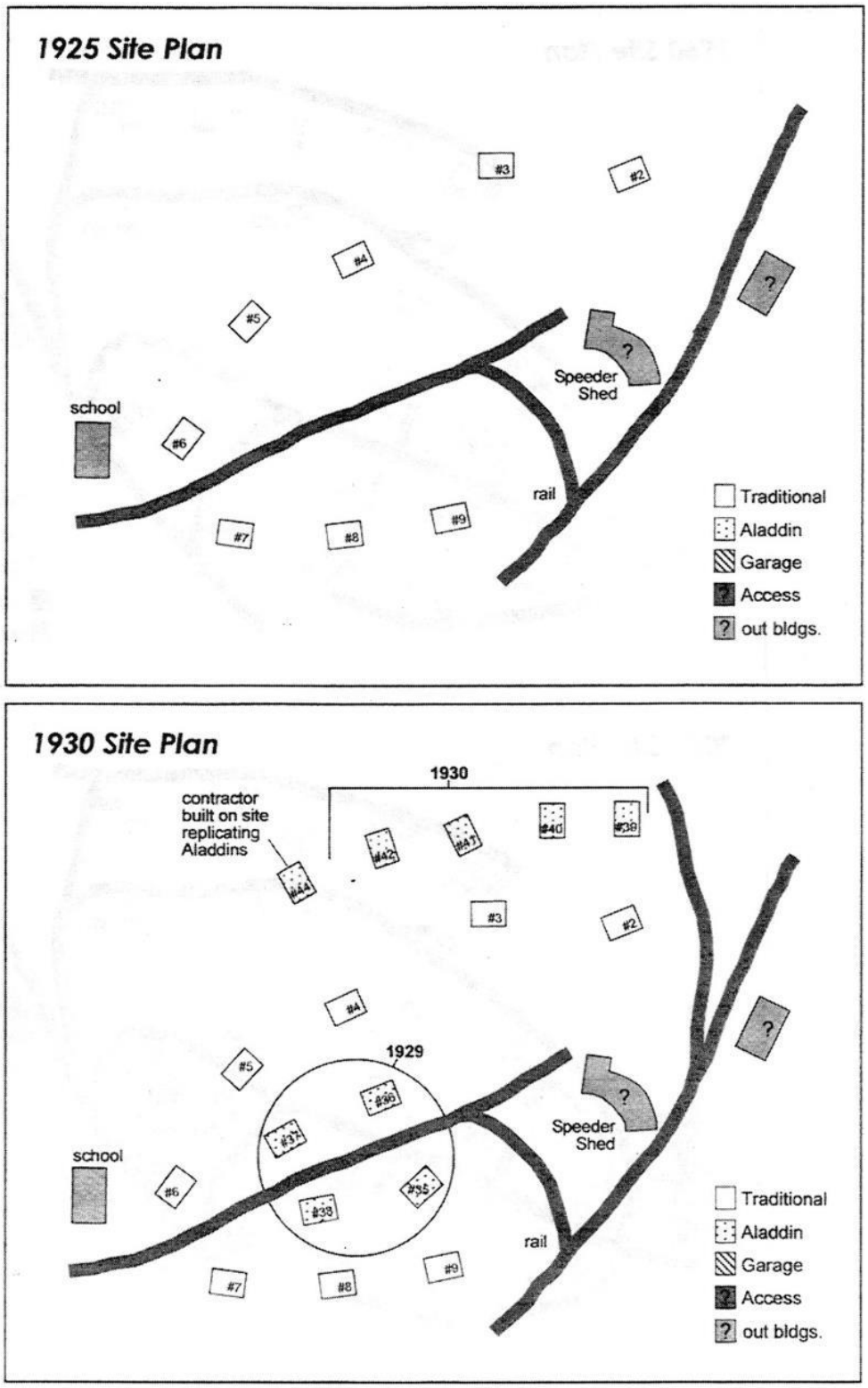


Figure 3. Three Lynx Village, Historic Site Plans 1925-1930
(University of Oregon, Historic Preservation Program Fall 2001)

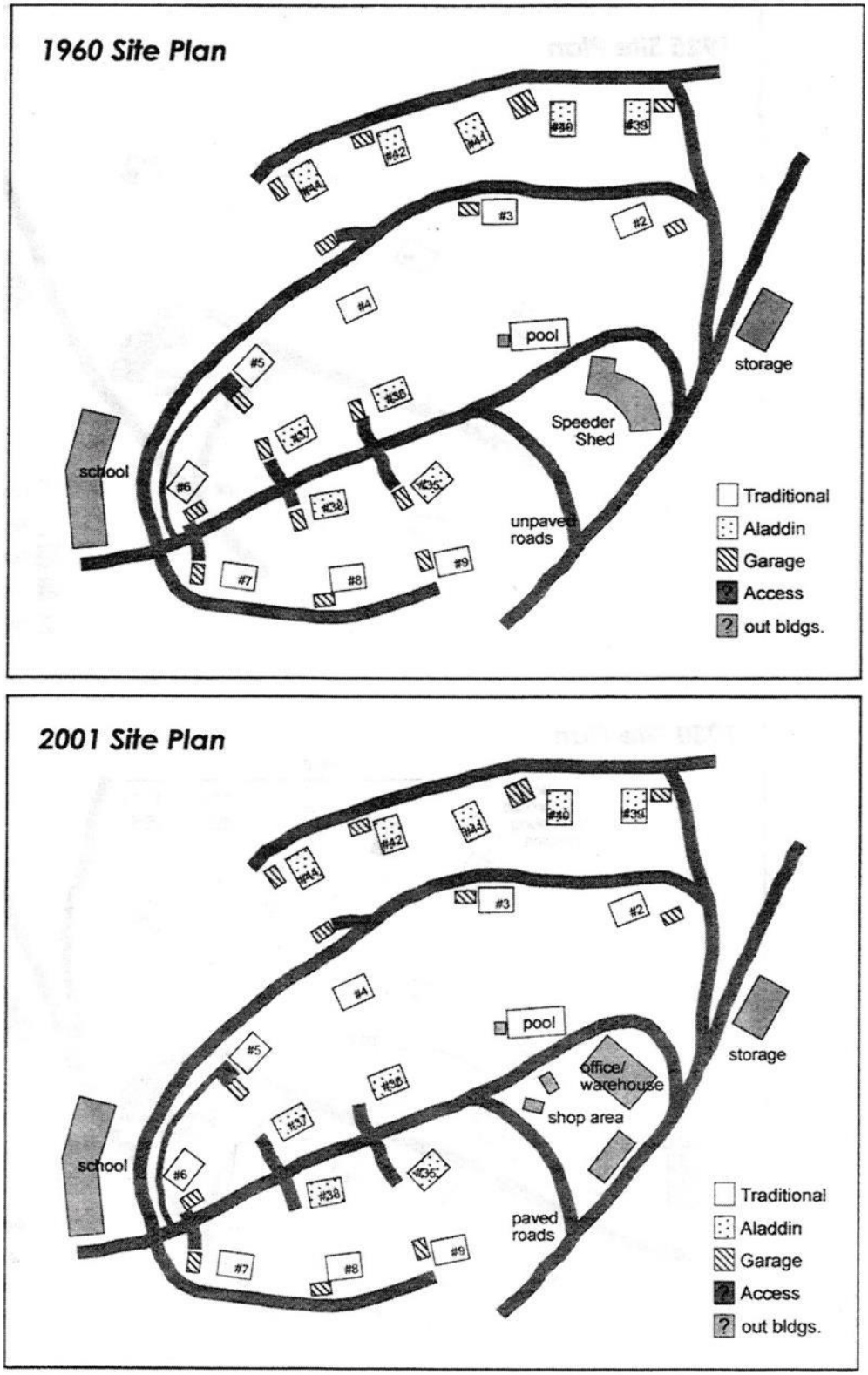


Figure 4. Three Lynx Village, Historic Site Plans 1960-2001
(University of Oregon, Historic Preservation Program Fall 2001)

Figure 5. Three Lynx Village, Aerial View
(GoogleEarth, image dated 2019)

Figure 6. Historic Photo- Camp 8, Looking North, February 1923 (PGE Archives)

Figure 7. Historic Photo- Camp 8, From Across the Clackamas River, March 1923 (PGE Archives)

Figure 8. Historic Photo- Camp 8, Laying Track, March 1923 (PGE Archives)

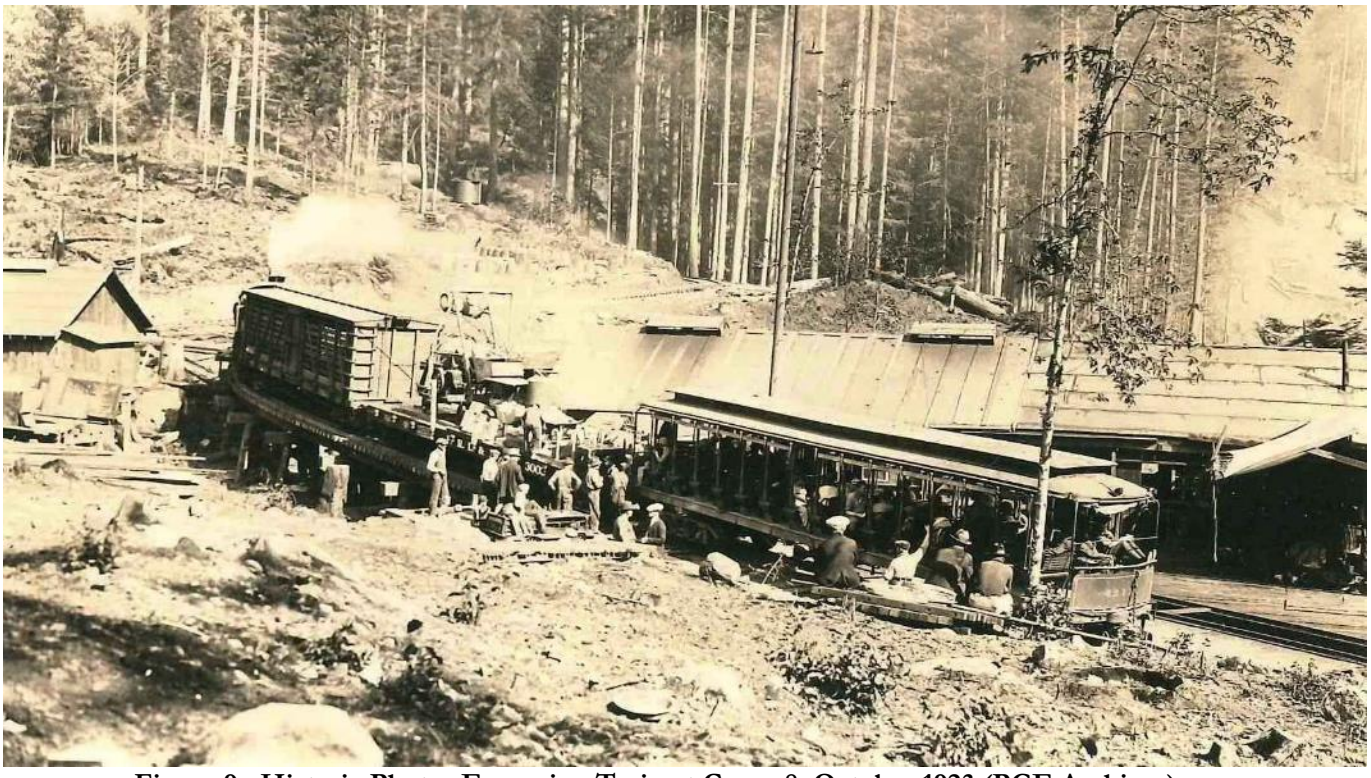


Figure 9. Historic Photo- Excursion Train at Camp 8, October 1923 (PGE Archives)

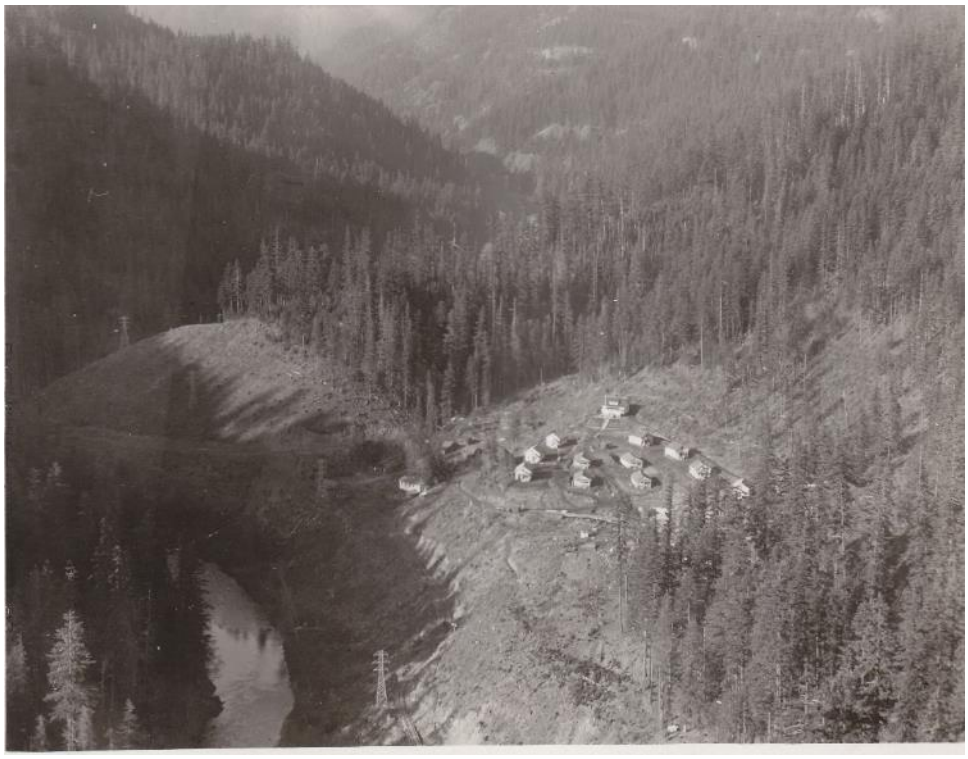


Figure 10. Historic Photo- Three Lynx, October 1927 (PGE Archives)

Figure 11. Historic Photo- Three Lynx, October 1927 (PGE Archives)

Figure 12. Historic Photo- Three Lynx, Looking Downstream
2nd Powerhouse Unit under construction, June 4, 1930 (PGE Archives)

Figure 13. Historic Photo- "Cottages at Three Links"
Note School in background, April 30, 1930 (PGE Archives)

Here Are Five Other Fine Plans of the Victory to Choose From. They Are All Priced the Same—$949., and We Pay the Freight.

THE five plans on this page, any one of which may be had at the above quoted price, are all tested plans, having been built many times. There are valuable features included in each, yet each offers a particular arrangement for a particular need. If you desire to stucco the outside of your home, we will furnish sheathing and lath for the outside walls at the price quoted above. Price in single construction **$949** as described in specifications below. Price of Victory in double construction is **$1098** and specifications are same as below except that following materials are added: Sub-floor sheathing under finished floor, with building paper to be placed between the two floors; outside wall sheathing under bevel siding with building paper to be placed between; sash weights, cords, pulleys and sash locks for all double sliding windows; additional nails for above extra materials.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ALL VICTORY TYPES

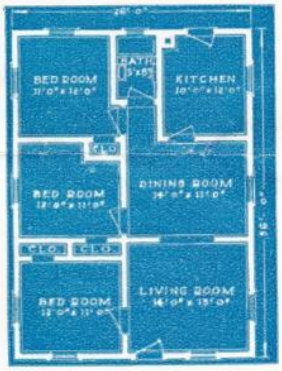
Victory—(Single Construction.) Size 26x36. 6x6 inch built up sill. 2x8 inch joists on 16 inch centers. Clear 2¼ inch face tongued and grooved flooring. 2x4 inch wall and partition studding on 16 inch centers. Lath for lining all walls and ceilings. Clear A redwood bevel siding for outside walls. Clear outside finish. 2x4 inch ceiling joists on 16 inch centers. 2x6 inch rafters on 24 inch centers. Roof sheathing laid tight. Best quality green slate-surfaced roofing. Check rail windows and frames, size of glass in each sash 26x24 inches, sash glazed ready to hang. Bathroom supplied with check rail window, size of glass in each sash, 26x16 inches. Clear interior trim. Clear 6 inch two member baseboard of attractive design. Door frames and doors size 2 feet 8 inches by 6 feet 8 inches, highest quality fir. Front and rear doors glazed upper half. Cellar stairs furnished where shown in plans. Two coats of paint for exterior. Stain and varnish for interior trim and doors. All nails, mortised locksets, hinges, double acting floor hinges and spring window bolts to complete house. Size of house 26x36 feet. Height of ceiling 8 feet. Roof ¼ pitch. Exposed eaves 1 foot projection.

Picture of Victory Showing Big Porch

The front porch shown in illustration above is size 24x8 feet and will be furnished at an extra cost of **$148.** It is designed for use on side or front of any of these plans and the photo above gives a splendid idea of the appearance of the Victory with this attractive porch.

The Victory Plan A

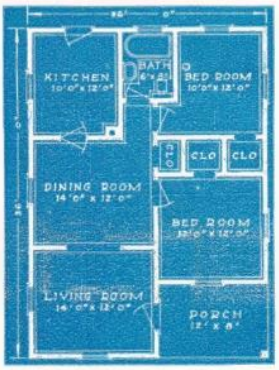
Complete conveniences for a family of six are represented in the interior arrangements of the Victory Plan A. The living room has unusual wall space, and opening as it does through an arch to the dining room there is an impression of spaciousness which is the result of a depth of 24 feet. The bath is well detached, a desirable feature. Note especially the three large bedrooms, each with closet. A study of the window placements will reveal excellent light and airiness. Plan A shown at the right.



All designs shown in this catalog are priced in both single and double construction and the porches are quoted separately. We have found from our nineteen years experience in the manufacture of readi-cut houses that a great many people desire to erect the house first and then build the porch on at some future date. We have also found that some desire single construction and some double construction. Closet doors are not shown, or included in our plans as a great majority request the doors omitted, but the cased openings left so they can use a curtain on the closet. If closet doors are desired they can be supplied at $6.00 each, complete with mortised lock set and hinges.

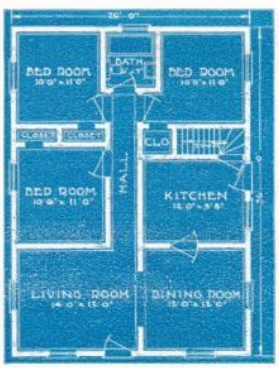
The Victory—Plan E

In the Victory Plan E within the compass of 26x36 feet there is included a 12x8 foot porch, generous sized living room and dining room, two bedrooms with unusually large closets, a cloak closet, fine kitchen and good bath room. The location and arrangement of the several rooms are ideal.



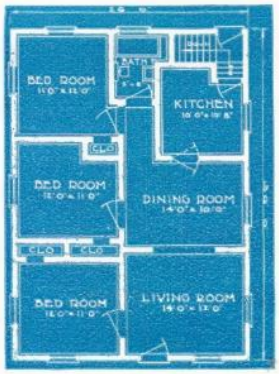
The Victory—Plan X

Here is a new type Victory which includes a central hall separating the rooms into two groups of three on each side. The bath room is located at end of this hall. A big living room, dining room, three bedrooms, kitchen, bath, closets and inside cellar entrance make a home complete to the last detail.



The Victory—Plan Y

Here is a three bedroom Victory with grade cellar entrance. Each bedroom has closet, the big living room is separated from dining room with an arch while hall leads to bath room. This is a fine type of complete home that will give the best of satisfaction to all owners.



The Victory—Plan F

Here is a design especially presented for those who demand a spacious living room. Light and air enter from three sides as it extends for 26 feet across the entire house—big enough for a dance. This plan has been a popular one for the family of three or four and will be much admired.

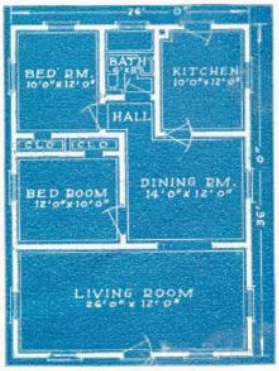


Figure 14. Aladdin "Victory" House, Aladdin Reddi-Cut House Company, 1928 (Author Collection)

How an ALADDIN House Looks in Course of Construction

Above is a photograph showing just how the materials look when piled up on the building site ready to start the erection. The length is marked in plain figures on every piece. It is an easy matter for any one to select the proper lengths for the various steps in the erection. The complete and easily understood drawings sent with each house show each step of erection.

This photograph was taken at the end of the first day's work, two men ten hours each. The above photograph shows clearly that Aladdin Readi-Cut houses are not portable, not sectional, but are built the same as any well constructed frame building.

Showing construction with rafters and gable studding in place, siding to top plates and one-half of roof sheathed. Total working time, two men 18½ hours each. This erection time is made possible only by the fact that with our readi-cut system there was no sawing or fitting to be done. It is simply a question of driving nails.

Erection completed—Total carpenter labor 196 hours. This time includes setting foundation posts, erecting house and porch, placing wainscoting, hanging all doors and windows, and all interior trim and hardware in place.

Please bear in mind that the two men who erected this house were not professional carpenters. Their accomplishment was made possible by our readi-cut system.

Of course, The Aladdin Readi-cut System receives adverse criticism from some contractors, lumber dealers, and others. This criticism comes chiefly from those who have had no experience with, or knowledge of, Aladdin houses. Self-interest, prompted by loss of profit, begets the antagonism. One of the most amusing remarks is that the builder of an Aladdin house will lose as much time hunting out his material and finding the right piece as he will save by the Readi-cut System. Of course this remark on the face of it is an admission that time is saved by the Aladdin System. However, any thought about time lost in hunting for pieces is immediately dispelled when you see the simple system of laying out materials that accompanies the instructions for every house, and when you understand that the length is marked on each piece of material, and that all pieces of the same length are interchangeable.

Aladdin Achievements What Aladdin has done for others is important to you as indicating what we can do for you. Aladdin has built six cities. Aladdin houses received highest awards at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (World's Fair) and Michigan State Agricultural Exposition. Selected by the United States Government to co-operate in the production of an ideal workman's cottage. Selected by State of Michigan to furnish homes for State officials. Furnished houses for the British Government. Furnished a house for the president of the Republic of Liberia, East Africa. We have furnished from one to three hundred and fifty Aladdin houses to each of the following great industrial concerns: A. D. Julliard & Co., Aetna Chemical Co., Aetna Explosive Co., Alan Wood Iron & Steel Co., Atlantic Mills, Inc., Atlas Powder Co., Bristol Brass Co., Calumet and Heela Mining Co., Cudahy Refining Co., Dominion Coal Co., Dow Chemical Co., Dupont Powder Co., Ford Colliers Co., H. E. Bell & W. G. Zoller, H. L. Barber & Co., Hercules Powder Co., Kent Mfg. Co., The Lukens Iron & Steel Co., M. A. Hanna Mining Co., Manhasset Mfg. Co., Mark Mfg. Co., National Acme Mfg. Co., Pennsylvania Coal & Coke Corp., Pennsylvania R. R. Co., Pere Marquette R. R. Co., Pittsburg Plate Glass Co., Rich Creek Coal Co., Standard Oil Co., Standard Silk Co., The Tide Water Pipe Co., Ltd., Valley Mould & Iron Co.

Attractive—Yes, this is the same house after grading and planting a few flowers and shrubs. Just think, this 5 room house including all readi-cut materials, freight paid, masonry materials, plastering, electric wiring and fixtures and all labor, only cost the owner $1236.00 completed. You can do equally as well by buying an Aladdin.

What a Carpenter Says About ALADDIN

THE ALADDIN CO.,
Bay City, Mich.

Chalk Hill, Pa.
May 18, 1924.

Dear Sirs:—

In reply to your letter of the 13th inst.

I am a carpenter and contractor by trade, and last summer I wanted a house of my own, a short ways out of town.

I am quite familiar with the different building materials, such as brick, frame and stucco, and where I could do the best for the price.

I always have price lists of materials and catalogs of local concerns on hand, and also several house catalogs from various concerns of the ready-cut system.

After due deliberation and inquiry and seeing some of the houses of the different concerns' ready-cut houses, I decided to build an Aladdin house, and now I am glad that I did.

And the whole thing is, when you build an Aladdin house you will have a house, and not an imitation.

All of the material that I got was of the best grade throughout, and fitted in place, as good as any carpenter can fit it by cutting the material at the place of erection. I am proud of my bungalow and all of my friends also think that it is a beautiful house and such nice arrangements, for the price that I had to pay.

I consider that I saved at least $600, and have a better house to boot, and if I care to sell it at any time I can realize a thousand dollars profit which I think is not so bad, a good deal depends on the location where it is built.

All of the material reached me in perfect condition, and I didn't get any of it wet before it was put up.

I am figuring on building another Aladdin house in the near future for my brother. I generally build the other kind for my friends, as they provide more work and more profit. I am,

Most sincerely yours, CHAS. KAMPMILLER.

Figure 15. "How an Aladdin House Looks in Course of Construction," Aladdin Reddi-Cut House Company, 1924 (Author Collection)

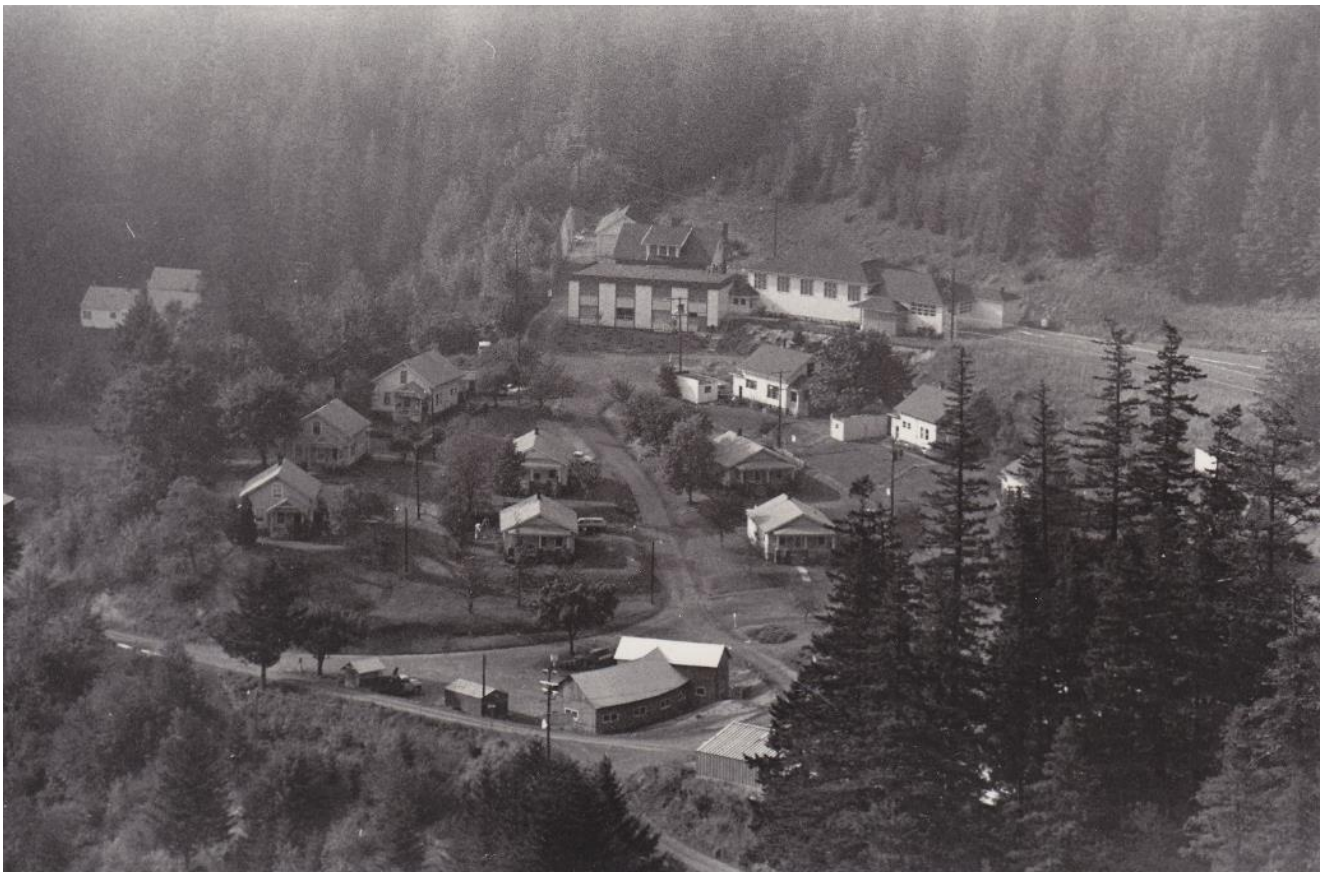


Figure 16. Historic Photo- Three Lynx Village, c1965
Note school addition in background, Speeder shed in foreground
(PGE Archives)

Figure 17. Historic Photo- Three Lynx Village, July 1997 (Author Photo)

Figure 18. Historic Photo- Aladdin House (Typical), July 1997, (Author Photo)

Figure 19. Historic Photo- Three Lynx Village, Looking North
Note community pool, October 2001 (Author Photo)

Figure 20. Historic Photo- Three Lynx Village, Looking North, Feb 2004 (Author Photo)

Figure 21. Historic Photo- Three Lynx Village, Looking South, 2018 (Author Photo)

Figure 22. Historic Photo- Three Lynx Village, Looking South, 2018 (Author Photo)

Figure 23. Historic Photo, Three Lynx Village, Fire Damage, Looking North, Oct 2020(Author Photo)

Figure 24. Historic Photo, Three Lynx Village, Fire Damage, Pool Building, Oct 2020(Author Photo)

Figure 25. Historic Photo, Three Lynx Village, Fire Damage, Oct 2020(Author Photo)

Figure 26. Historic Photo, Three Lynx Village, Fire Damage, Oct 2020(Author Photo)

Figure 27. Historic Photo, Three Lynx Village, Fire Damage, Oct 2020(Author Photo)

Figure 28. Historic Photo, Three Lynx Village, Fire Damage, Looking West, Oct 2020(Author Photo)

Figure 29. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 30. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House & Garage, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 31. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 32. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 33. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, Rear Porch, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 34. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, Kitchen, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 35. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, Living Room, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 36. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, 1st Floor Bedroom, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 37. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, Stairwell, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 38. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, 2nd Floor Bedroom, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 39. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, 2nd Floor Bedroom, July 2021 (Author Photo)

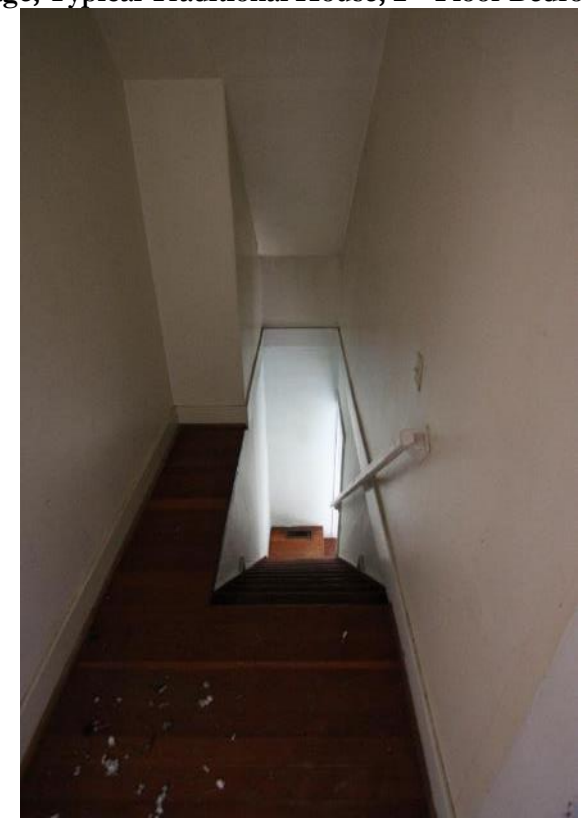


Figure 40. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, Stairway, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 41. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, Basement, July 2021 (Author Photo)

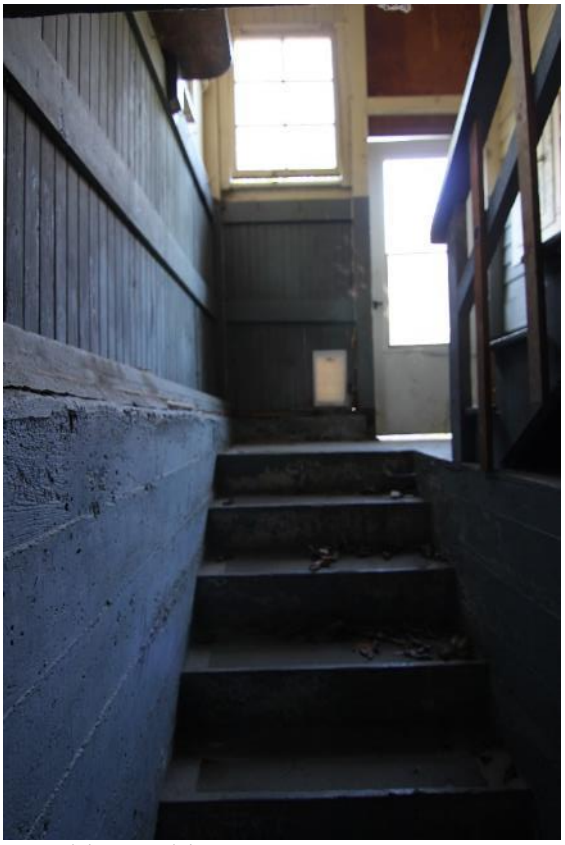


Figure 42. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, Rear Porch, July 2021 (Author Photo))

Figure 43. Three Lynx Village, Typical Traditional House, Looking NW, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 44. Three Lynx Village, General View, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 45. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 46. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 47. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 48. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 49. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 50. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 51. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, Living Room, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 52. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, Dining & Living Rooms, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 53. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, Kitchen, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 54. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, Bathroom, July 2021 (Author Photo)

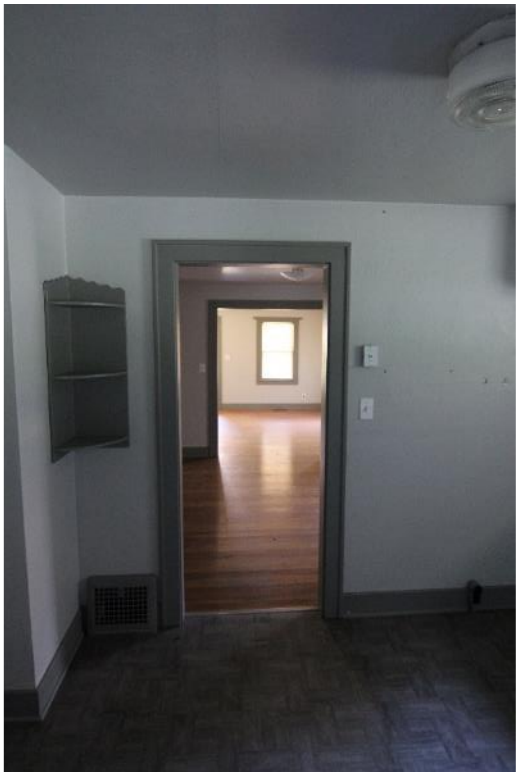


Figure 55. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, Trim and Details, July 2021 (Author Photo)

Figure 56. Three Lynx Village, Typical Aladdin House, Details, July 2021 (Author Photo)